

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY**  
**Wildfire Mitigation Plans**  
**Rulemaking 18-10-007**  
**Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_042-Q04		
PG&E File Name:	WildfireMitigationPlans_DR_CalAdvocates_042-Q04		
Request Date:	February 21, 2021	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2021WMP-08
Date Sent:	February 25, 2021	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Henry Burton

**SUBJECT: TRANSMISSION RIGHT-OF-WAY (ROW) EXPANSION PROGRAM**

The following questions related to PG&E's 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Update.

**QUESTION 04**

P. 634 of PG&E's 2021 WMP states,

“At a minimum, [transmission] ROW expansion establishes a 20' corridor (10' on either side of centerline). Greater ROW widths are obtained where land rights (easements) allow; or where property owners are willing to partner.”

In PG&E's December 2020 Quarterly Report, on p. 26, PG&E stated with regards to Transmission ROW Expansion,

“Trees and woody vegetation are removed in 60-70 kilovolt (kV) transmission corridors to widen the corridor out to 80 feet, and 115 kV corridors are widened out to 100 feet.”

- a. Please explain the apparent discrepancy regarding corridor size, between the two referenced passages above. What is PG&E's range of clearances for transmission ROW expansion?
- b. Transmission corridors of 80 feet for 60-70 kV lines and 100 ft for 115 kV lines are greatly in excess of the requirements listed in General Order 95, Appendix E. For locations where PG&E is expanding the ROW to 80 feet or wider, please explain the justification.
- c. What is the projected cost of the transmission ROW expansion program for 2021?

**ANSWER 04**

a. The 20-foot stated corridor is a minimum clearing width to reduce fuels and provide maintenance access below the lines, even in areas with minimal easement rights. In many areas, PG&E has more substantial easement rights where corridors can be cleared out to the full easement width, which is commonly 50 feet on a 60 kV line. Any additional corridor expansion beyond the stated easement is only by landowner permission, or if the trees have been determined to be hazard trees.

b. GO95 only lists the minimum clearance distances that must be maintained at all times. PG&E has maintained these clearance distances for many years but has still experienced outages and fire ignitions from limbs and trees falling into or contacting the lines. In fact, the majority of vegetation line contacts originate from outside the Right of Way (ROW). PG&E did a pilot project in 2017 to widen one of the corridors with a history of vegetation-caused outages. Following completion of the corridor widening project, the line experienced a substantial drop in outages in the following years.

c. \$67,808,000