

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2022
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_013-Q09		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_CalAdvocates_013-Q09		
Request Date:	March 4, 2022	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2022WMP-13
Date Sent:	March 9, 2022	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Miles Gordon

The following questions relate to your 2022 WMP Update submission.

Note: if the report requested in question 1(a) contains a full response to any of the other questions or sub-parts, your responses thereto may consist of a citation to specific pages of the report.

QUESTION 09

PG&E's Test Year 2023 General Rate Case Testimony, Exhibit PG&E-4, states the following regarding the REFCL program:¹

Based on our initial testing and the successful implementation in Australia, PG&E has developed a short-term strategy to install REFCLs in HFTD areas. PG&E forecasts deploying REFCLs at an additional two substations each year, but these plans could change pending pilot results and integration with other enhanced automation and wildfire mitigation efforts described in this chapter. In coordination with deployments of other technologies, future REFCL deployments will utilize PG&E's 2021 Wildfire Distribution Risk Model in combination with feasibility screens to help prioritize highest-risk locations for installations.²

- a) Is the REFCL program above the same as 2022 WMP Initiative #7.3.3.17.4—Updates to grid topology to minimize risk of ignition in HFTDs, Rapid Earth Current Fault Limiter?
- b) How does PG&E define “short-term” in terms of the number of years involved?
- c) According to this “short-term strategy,” at how many substations will have REFCL installed and by what date?
- d) According to this “short-term strategy,” how many circuit-miles in the HFTD areas will be served by REFCLs?
- e) Please provide the “pilot results.”

¹ MAT Code 49R, Mitigation WLDFR-10C. As of the date of this data request. Cal Advocates assumes this is analogous to WMP Initiative 7.3.3.17.4-“Updates to grid topology to minimize risk of ignition in HFTDs, Rapid Earth Current Fault Limiter”.

² A.21-06-021, PG&E 2023 General Rate Case Testimony, Exhibit 4, p. 4.3-41.

- f) What does “integration with other enhanced automation and wildfire mitigation efforts described in this chapter” mean?
- g) What does PG&E mean by “in coordination with deployments of other technologies”?
- h) Which technologies constitute the “other technologies” as used in the passage quoted?
- i) How will PG&E utilize the 2021 Wildfire Risk Model to “help prioritize highest-risk locations for installations”?
- j) How does PG&E’s 2021 Wildfire Distribution Risk Model determine the use of REFCL as opposed to other wildfire mitigations (such as covered conductor and undergrounding)?
- k) Please describe the “feasibility screens” referred to in the above paragraph.

ANSWER 09

- a) Yes
- b) 2-3 years
- c) Our short-term strategy for REFCL was impacted by the pilot equipment failure at Calistoga in 2021. Accordingly, we do not currently plan to install any additional REFCL systems. If we are able to successfully operationalize the REFCL technology for the Calistoga demonstration project this year, we will look for opportunities to place REFCL into full service as well as evaluate whether any additional sites are appropriate for future installations. The timing of this future work will ultimately depend on the 2022 field testing that takes place.
- d) See the response to Question 9(c) above regarding our short-term strategy. The circuit miles will ultimately depend on the specific sites selected. However, we expect that each new REFCL system will serve approximately 125 circuit miles.
- e) The pilot results to date are in the report provided in Attachment “WMP-Discovery2022_DR_CalAdvocates_013-Q01Atrch01.pdf” in response to Question 1(a). Further results are expected after the additional evaluation in 2022 after the design changes and testing are completed at Calistoga.
- f) PG&E is evaluating interactions between REFCL and other wildfire mitigation efforts such as EPSS, undergrounding, and overhead hardening.
- g) PG&E is evaluating efficiencies in risk reduction by coordinating different technologies or mitigation efforts on the same circuit.
- h) Other technologies include line monitoring and EPSS.
- i) Assuming PG&E is able to successfully operationalize the REFCL technology for the Calistoga demonstration project, PG&E anticipates considering circuit risk rankings from the 2021 Wildfire Distribution Risk Model, along with substation construction feasibility, when evaluating future sites for REFCL installation.

- j) Given the pilot equipment failure at Calistoga in 2021, PG&E has not yet developed a criteria for deciding between REFCL installation vs other wildfire mitigation programs in the future.
- k) Please refer to the report at page(s) 6-11 for the discussion of Demonstration Site Selection.