

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	OEIS_008-Q07		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_OEIS_008-Q07		
Request Date:	April 1, 2022	Requester DR No.:	OEIS-P&GE-22-008
Date Sent:	April 6, 2022	Requesting Party:	Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Kevin Miller

SUBJECT: MATURITY SURVEY

QUESTION 07

In response to Data Request OEIS-PG&E-2022-001, Question 5a, PG&E states that it re-evaluated its 2021 [Maturity Survey] response related to communications tools (Question F.VI.b). PG&E also states, “because of the communications challenges in certain parts of our service territory, the current and future state [maturity] scores were reduced back to (iii).”

- a. What “communications challenges”, specifically, is PG&E having that resulted in its reduced maturity score?
- b. Which portions of PG&E’s service territory do these communications challenges apply?
- c. What is PG&E doing to remediate these challenges?

ANSWER 07

- a. The reduced maturity score for question F.VI.b was not the result of newly discovered communication challenges. As noted in WMP-Discovery2022_DR_OEIS_001-Q05, the 2021 score of “v” was incorrectly assigned. The score of “iii” reported in 2020 and 2022 reflects radio and cell phone communication limitations posed by the terrain and topography of California combined with a lack of adequate cell towers by communication service providers.
- b. Radio and cell phone communications are inhibited predominantly in mountain areas and along the coastline in PG&E’s service territory.
- c. PG&E’s communication system is sufficient for our normal business operations. To combat the communication challenges described in response to Questions 7a and b above, PG&E radios use very high frequency (VHF) signals. VHF signals are needed in PG&E’s large service territory because they are less impacted by topography and terrain than the ultra-high frequency (UHF) signals used by other utilities (e.g. 800 MHz and/or 900 MHz radio systems), which often require additional mountain-top repeaters. However, VHF signals cannot eliminate all communication challenges resulting from the lack of adequate cell towers by communication service providers in PG&E’s service territory.