

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigations Plans Discovery 2026-2028
Data Response

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Requester DR No.:	TURN-PG&E-2
Requesting Party:	The Utility Reform Network
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SUBJECT: 2026-2028 BASE WMP

QUESTION 007

The microgrids discussed in 8.2.7 are said to not impact reliability because they are not dependent on upstream lines. Do they increase reliability in areas where they have been installed and can they be deployed in conjunction with other hardening mitigations to minimize reliability concerns?

Answer 007

Section 8.2.7 addresses three microgrid related initiatives.

Remote Grids

Remote grids are not connected to the distribution system, as they place generation assets right at the customer locations and the upstream distribution line to that location is removed. Therefore, any reliability concerns due to outages from the upstream distribution system are eliminated in the Remote Grid system architecture.

Temporary Distribution Microgrids

These microgrids are not set to ‘automatically’ energize upon an outage condition; they are manually operated to isolate and energize the microgrid footprint once the PSPS event has de-energized the area, in a pre-planned, pre-staged, pre-resourced manner due to its inherent design. While it is possible that they could be utilized during unplanned or planned outages, it would be highly dependent upon whether the temporary generators are pre-staged at the location, whether the location is safe to actually energize in that outage, and whether the actual process of energizing the microgrid (and subsequently restoring back to source), is actually beneficial from an outage duration standpoint versus simply patrolling, repairing, and restoring the outage condition. Since these temporary distribution microgrids utilize reciprocating engine generating assets, the ability to ‘automatically’ energize these locations is not available.

Community Microgrid Enablement Program and Microgrid Incentive Program

These microgrids are community driven and could increase reliability in areas where they are installed, but are dependent upon the condition and nature of the outages and the grid design of the microgrid footprint that determine its conditions for safe operations. Each microgrid being requested to be designed by these communities through these funds are unique and therefore their impact on reliability is dependent upon their design, operational capabilities, and the communities desired objectives.