Working Together to Protect Our Communities from Wildfires
We are working every day to improve the safety of our electric system and reduce wildfire risks. As part of these efforts, we may need to turn off power during severe weather for public safety to prevent fires; this is a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS).

Minimizing PSPS Impacts in Humboldt County
While PSPS is an important wildfire safety tool, we know that losing power disrupts lives, especially for those with medical needs and customers sheltering-at-home in response to novel coronavirus (COVID-19). We are working to improve our PSPS Program by making events smaller in size, shorter in length and smarter for our customers.

One of the steps we have taken to do this on the North Coast is to reconfigure the Humboldt Bay Generating Station (HBGS) to allow for “islanding,” which will allow portions of Humboldt, Mendocino and Trinity Counties to be separated from the larger electric grid and energized exclusively from the HBGS. This means that the HBGS will be able to provide power to up to 67,000 customers across approximately 20 cities and towns primarily within Humboldt County [including Eureka, Arcata, McKinleyville, Fortuna and some tribal communities] during a PSPS event or emergency outside of the area that impacts transmission lines serving the North Coast. The size of the energized area is scalable to the scope of the potential PSPS event and other conditions that could be impacting the larger grid at that time.

A map of the area potentially energized by the HBGS during a PSPS event or emergency is available on the reverse side of this fact sheet.

About Humboldt Bay Generating Station
Operating since 2010, the 163-megawatt power plant uses 10 reciprocating engines that run on natural gas to generate electricity, with diesel fuel as a backup. The HBGS employs 17 full-time workers in Humboldt County and approximately 70 additional people from PG&E’s Power Generation, Electric Operations and Customer Care departments have worked over the past six months to allow for islanding.

Learn More
For more information about all of PG&E’s wildfire safety efforts visit pge.com/wildfiresafety. Please direct questions specific to HBGS to wildfiresafety@pge.com.
This map is approximate and for illustrative purposes only. Weather conditions and other operational considerations prevent PG&E from guaranteeing electricity to all customers potentially served by HBGS during all PSPS/emergency conditions or scenarios.