



Working Together to Recoat Our Towers

As part of our mission to become the safest energy provider, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proactively improving its Electric Tower Maintenance Program in an effort to help maintain and upgrade the safety of the electric grid. Through this effort, PG&E is ending the use of lead-based paint on our electric transmission towers and will recoat our towers with new non-lead-based paint.

As part of our commitment to using safer materials, over 46,000 transmission towers across our service area have been inspected, and approximately 6,000 towers were identified to have lead-based paint, which, in many cases, is peeling.

The initial phase of this maintenance program will prioritize towers that are located near homes, schools and parks.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Q: What are you doing?

A: The Electric Tower Maintenance Program is one part of PG&E's efforts to create a safer and more environmentally responsible infrastructure. As part of our commitment to using safer materials, over 46,000 transmission towers across our service area have been inspected, and approximately 6,000 towers were identified to have lead-based paint, which, in many cases, is peeling. That is why we are recoating any electric tower that has lead-based paint.

Q: Have other utilities done this already?

A: Lead based paint was used in the utility industry throughout the 20th century, and is still allowed and available for use today in commercial and industrial settings. There has not been a consistent approach to addressing lead based paint across the industry, which is why we are proud to improve our maintenance program to include addressing lead-based paint to help create a safer and more environmentally responsible electric infrastructure.

Q: How long will this program take?

A: The initial phase of the work is expected to be completed within the next 12-18 months. All towers within the program are expected to be completed in the next 3-5 years.

Q: Can you go faster?

A: We're committed to conducting our maintenance work in a safe and timely manner with no interruptions in service and minimal disruption to our customers. The first phase of this maintenance program is focused on those towers located nearest to people — including towers near homes, daycares, schools and parks. We would like to address every tower right way, but with approximately 6,000 towers to recoat across our service area, the maintenance schedule reflects our commitment to conducting our work safely and partnering with our customers and communities. This includes:

- Partnering with property owners and the surrounding community in advance to be sure they are fully informed about the planned work and we can address any issues or concerns.
- De-energizing the transmission line so workers can safely and efficiently paint the tower from top-to-bottom.
- Ensuring that we continue to provide customers with reliable electric service while we conduct our maintenance work.
- Adapting to weather-related issues such as wind, rain or extreme heat which could interfere with painting efforts. For example:
 - For the safety of our workers and the surrounding environment, we will not paint in high winds or extreme heat.
 - In order to ensure that the paint bonds with the surface of the tower, we cannot paint in the rain or when the tower is wet.
- Recoating of the tower (typically 3-5 days) and any restoration work.

The maintenance schedule provides flexibility to be responsive to our customers and communities. We will look for every opportunity to improve on our schedule, provided it can be done safely and with our customers and communities in mind.



Q: What is a clearance?

A: Similar to a road closure that allows workers to safely make repairs and maintain roadways, a clearance is a controlled and temporary action to de-energize a transmission line. Clearances help ensure transmission tower work is performed safely and quickly while workers are in close proximity to high voltage transmission lines.

There is a step-by-step process to secure a line clearance that must be coordinated well in advance with other transmission work and must be approved by the California Independent System Operator (CAISO), the external entity responsible for electric transmission planning in California.

Transmission line clearances must also be planned and requested within a pre-defined time period known as the “clearance window.” Clearance windows are defined by geographic location, customer energy load demands and local energy grid dynamics such as seasonal generation and environmental factors such as heat, rain or snow. For example, summertime is NOT an optimal clearance window for the Fresno area given the seasonally hot weather.

Additionally, in order to maintain overall grid stability and electric reliability, a limited number of clearances can be taken at one time. Over the course of the program, we expect to take clearances on more than 25 percent of the transmission system, with most transmission lines requiring multiple clearances.

Q: What will the recoating work involve?

A: Recoating work involves trained workers using specialized equipment climbing the towers, using hand-held tools and vacuums to remove old paint and then recoating the tower using a non-lead-based paint. Prior to painting, vegetation on or near the tower may need to be trimmed or removed to safely conduct our work. Soils at the base of the tower will also be sampled and may be removed and replaced. The entire recoating process for each tower is expected to take between 3-5 days.

As we recoat towers, we will be taking all appropriate steps and precautions to protect the health of our customers, workers and the environment. Safety measures will include:

- Removing peeling paint and using vacuums to catch debris immediately as it is removed from the tower.
- Laying down a plastic tarp to capture any loose paint or debris.
- Cleaning and inspecting the work area at the end of each day, removing the tarp and ensuring that it is sent to an appropriate disposal facility.

Q: How are you protecting your employees?

A: Our top priority is the safety of our customers, employees and the environment. Safety measures will be in place at all times and this work is being completed by trained contractors using specialized equipment, including vacuums and ground covering to capture any debris. We will also shut down work if there are weather conditions such as high winds or rain that prevent us from working safely.

Q: Does PG&E still use lead-based paint on transmission towers?

A: No. PG&E no longer paints electric transmission towers with lead based paint.

Q: What type of paint are you using to recoat your towers?

A: We are recoating our transmission towers using non-lead-based acrylic paint.