

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans
Rulemaking 18-10-007
Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_048-Q05		
PG&E File Name:	WildfireMitigationPlans_DR_CalAdvocates_048-Q05		
Request Date:	March 2, 2021	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2021WMP-14
Date Sent:	March 8, 2021	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Henry Burton

The following questions relate to PG&E’s 2021 wildfire mitigation plan (WMP) and follow up on PG&E’s responses to data request CalAdvocates-PGE-2021WMP-04.

QUESTION 05

Regarding CalAdvocates-PGE-2021WMP-04, Question 8:

- a) Please clarify your response to question 8(a). Is Downed Conductor Detection the same as modifying time-current curves on existing protection devices?
- b) Please clarify or correct your response to question 8(b), which appears to be unresponsive to a yes/no question. Is PG&E considering changes to time-current curves generally?
- c) Regarding PG&E’s responses to question 8(c), please identify the timeframe for the work described. When is the distribution automation group expected to reach conclusions?
- d) Regarding PG&E’s responses to question 8(c), as of the first quarter of 2021, how many PG&E employees or contractors are working to evaluate potential changes to recloser and relay settings?
- e) Regarding PG&E’s responses to question 8(c), please provide specifics of the protection schemes that PG&E’s distribution automation group is continuing to evaluate.

ANSWER 05

- a) No
- b) The answer to question 8b as stated is “No”. PG&E does not see significant risk reduction in adjusting the TCC to trip faster for a fault condition. Instead, PG&E shared information about two pilot projects that we believe mitigate risk better than more sensitive time curves. The Fast Tripping Schemes (“FTS”) are specific settings that remove the TCC and trip instantaneously once the minimum to trip is exceeded that will target line to line faults. REFCL uses a coil and power electronics to “choke” the fault current to below ignition thresholds for line to ground faults. Combining the FTS and REFCL technology could significantly reduce fire ignition from power lines.

- c) The evaluation of new protections elements is an ongoing effort with no specific end date at this point in time. However, we expect to have the final pilot report on REFCL by September 1, 2021.
- d) 3
- e) PG&E will be testing the “ArcSense” element of the SEL protective relays at our ATS lab later in 2021.