

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2023
Data Response

| | | | |
|------------------------|--|-------------------|-----------------------------|
| PG&E Data Request No.: | CalAdvocates_003-Q005 | | |
| PG&E File Name: | WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_003-Q005 | | |
| Request Date: | February 7, 2023 | Requester DR No.: | CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-03 |
| Date Sent: | March 10, 2023 | Requesting Party: | Public Advocates Office |
| DRU Index #: | DRU11413 | Requester: | Holly Wehrman |

QUESTION 005

For each WMP initiative listed below, please state how the modeled Wildfire Risk Scores for each circuit or circuit-segment influenced where you performed work in 2022.

- a. EVM
- b. Covered conductor installation
- c. Undergrounding
- d. Distribution pole replacement
- e. Grid sectionalization
- f. Detailed inspections of distribution assets
- g. Detailed inspections of transmission assets
- h. Aerial inspections of distribution assets
- i. Aerial inspections of transmission assets
- j. LiDAR inspections of distribution assets
- k. LiDAR inspections of transmission assets

ANSWER 005

- a. EVM work in 2022 was informed by a modification of the 2021 Wildfire Distribution Risk Model (WDRM). The refined output from the 2021 WDRM is referred to as the EVM Tree-Weighted Prioritization. The EVM Tree-Weighted Prioritization prioritized the high risk CPZs with the associated miles and estimated tree work to produce the 2022 EVM Scope of Work as described in the 2022 WMP Section 7.1.B. In 2022, the goals for the EVM program were: (1) to perform at least 80% of our 2022 EVM work on the highest 20% of the risk-ranked miles; and (2) to perform approximately 1,800 miles of EVM work by the end of the year.
- b. As described in the 2022 WMP Section 7.3.3.17.1 "System Hardening – Distribution," PG&E targeted the highest wildfire risk miles and applied various mitigations such as line removal, conversion from overhead to underground, application of remote grid alternatives, mitigation of exposure through relocation of overhead facilities, and **in-place overhead system hardening** (emphasis added). For 2022, the highest wildfire risk miles were separated into four categories:

1. The top 20 percent of circuit segments as defined by PG&E's 2021 WDRM v2 for System Hardening,
2. Fire and Major Emergency rebuild within HFTD,
3. PSPS mitigation projects; and
4. Locations identified by PG&E's Public Safety Specialist (PSS) team as presenting elevated wildfire risk.

The primary approach used for selecting and prioritizing circuit segments for covered conductor installation was based on the 2021 WDRM v2.

- c. As described in the 2022 WMP Section 7.3.3.17.1 "System Hardening – Distribution," PG&E targeted the highest wildfire risk miles and applied various mitigations such as line removal, **conversion from overhead to underground** (emphasis added), application of remote grid alternatives, mitigation of exposure through relocation of overhead facilities, and in-place overhead system hardening. For 2022, the highest wildfire risk miles are separated into four categories:

1. The top 20 percent of circuit segments as defined by PG&E's 2021 WDRM v2 for System Hardening,
2. Fire and Major Emergency rebuild within HFTD,
3. PSPS mitigation projects; and
4. Locations identified by PG&E's Public Safety Specialist (PSS) team as presenting elevated wildfire risk.

The primary approach used for selecting and prioritizing circuit segments for converting overhead to underground was based on the 2021 WDRM v2. As described in the 2022 WMP Section 7.3.3.17.6 "Butte County Rebuild Program," PG&E did not identify these circuit segments using a risk model.

- d. As described in the 2022 WMP Section 7.3.3.6, "Distribution Pole Replacement and Reinforcement, Including with Composite Poles," PG&E leveraged the Wildfire Distribution Risk Model (WRDM) v2 to determine what pole replacement work was performed in 2022. Pole replacements are driven primarily by asset condition, namely maintenance tags found through enhanced inspections and intrusive inspections (Pole Test and Treat). These tags are then prioritized using the WRDM, which considers both wildfire ignition likelihood and consequence. In addition, pole replacements were also prioritized based on CPUC commitments, self-reports and other regulatory conditions.
- e. For transmission and distribution grid sectionalization, Wildfire Risk scores were not factors in determining what grid sectionalizing work was performed. Sectionalizing device prioritization in 2022 was based on circuit HFTD location, likelihood of potential de-energization during future PSPS events (based on a study of 10-years of weather data), and/or potential customer impact.
- f. In 2022, wildfire risk scores were not factors in determining where work was performed for detailed ground inspections on distribution facilities. Detailed ground inspections were performed on all Tier 3 assets and roughly one-third of Tier 2 assets. This was the final third of a three-year program to inspect Tier 2 distribution structures.

- g. In 2022, wildfire risk and wildfire consequence informed annual overhead transmission asset detailed inspection scope (in addition to other considerations such as inspection trends and a baseline frequency of every three years for HFTD/HFRA assets). Specifically, highest wildfire risk and wildfire consequence locations were included in the 2022 scope.
- h. In 2022, wildfire risk scores for were not factors in determining where work was performed for the pilot of aerial inspections. The pilot targeted problematic circuits already included in the ground inspection plan where aerial inspections would likely deliver the most benefit.
- i. In 2022, wildfire risk and wildfire consequence informed annual overhead transmission asset detailed inspection scope (in addition to other considerations such as inspection trends and a baseline frequency of every three years for HFTD/HFRA assets). Specifically, highest wildfire risk and wildfire consequence locations were included in the 2022 scope.
- j. PG&E does not have a stand-alone LiDAR distribution inspection program, but collects LiDAR data on distribution to support various needs, including flight planning for aerial inspections and engineering analyses, such as pole loading calculations. PG&E did not use the wildfire risk model in 2022 or 2023 to select locations or sequence LiDAR collection activities.
- k. PG&E does not use risk-informed prioritization for Transmission LiDAR inspections, rather, it inspects 100 percent of the system annually using LiDAR. The Transmission Routine NERC and Non-NERC Inspection cycle consists of a LiDAR inspection followed by a ground patrol based on LiDAR findings. The LiDAR inspection provides an inventory of potential vegetation for ground patrol, and the results of the ground patrol prescribe the forecasted tree work to comply with state and federal regulations.