

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
Wildfire Mitigation Plans Discovery 2022
Data Response**

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| PG&E Data Request No.: | CalAdvocates_010-Q04 | | |
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| Request Date: | February 15, 2022 | Requester DR No.: | CalAdvocates-PGE-2022WMP-10 |
| Date Sent: | March 7, 2022 | Requesting Party: | Public Advocates Office |
| PG&E Witness: | | Requester: | Holly Wehrman |

The following questions relate to your 2022 WMP Update submission. If a full response to a given question will be included in your WMP submission, your response to that question of this data request may consist of a citation to the specific page(s) or table(s) of the WMP where the information may be found, a written response to the question, or both.

QUESTION 04

When PG&E performs undergrounding in the HFTD for wildfire mitigation purposes, in places where other utilities (such as telecommunications providers) share PG&E's poles:

- a) Please describe PG&E's current policy regarding undergrounding the other utilities' equipment.
- b) Please describe PG&E's current policy regarding removal of the shared poles.
- c) Please describe PG&E's current policy regarding ownership of the shared poles after electric conductors have been placed underground.
- d) Please describe PG&E's approach to co-trenching with utilities that share PG&E's poles, if any.
- e) What is PG&E's current regarding undergrounding other utilities' equipment in locations with limited ingress and egress, such as evacuation corridors from rural communities?
- f) What is PG&E's current policy regarding removal of shared poles in locations with limited ingress and egress, such as evacuation corridors from rural communities?

ANSWER 04

- a) Where PG&E plans to convert existing overhead facilities underground, we coordinate with other utilities with facilities located on the pole line to determine whether they intend to participate in a joint trench. Whether other utilities choose to participate in a joint trench is elective and memorialized in an agreement. The other utilities electing to participate in the joint trench are requested to provide details relating to the facilities to be installed in the joint trench in order to prepare the design of the joint trench. The joint trench occupants will mutually agree on a single company that will perform the role as the trench design coordinator who is responsible for preparing the trench layout, sending out the notifications to other utilities, preparing the trench drawing, and allocating the costs between the

participating utilities. The joint trench occupants will also mutually agree on the company that will perform the role of a trench construction coordinator, who is responsible for constructing the trench, installing conduits, splice boxes and service pedestals, equipment and equipment pads, backfilling, constructing scheduling and job coordination, and billing trench occupants for their respective share of the work in accordance with the allocation agreed upon in advance of the work.

- b) Poles may be either solely-owned by PG&E or jointly-owned with one or more other utilities. In both cases, there may be multiple utilities present on the pole. In the case of solely-owned poles, PG&E may license space to other utilities for attachments within the communication zone. In the case of jointly-owned poles, the telephone company would have exclusive use of the communication zone, and may license a portion of the space in the communication zone to other communication companies, such as Cable TV companies. PG&E would be solely responsible for the removal of the solely-owned poles after our facilities have been converted underground. In the case of jointly-owned poles, the joint owners would designate the member responsible for removal of the pole. In the typical case, PG&E would first remove our electric facilities from the pole, and the other joint owner would subsequently remove its communication facilities and be designated as the member responsible to remove the pole.
- c) In the case of solely-owned poles, PG&E would notify any licensees with communication attachments on the pole of the plans to convert the overhead facilities underground and inquire whether they wish to participate in a joint trench. In the alternative, PG&E would inquire if the licensee is interested in acquiring PG&E's interest in the pole, which would be transferred to the licensee upon reaching agreement on compensation for the value of the pole. This notification process is described in the response to Question 4a. In the case of jointly-owned poles, PG&E would notify the other joint owner of the plans to convert our electric facilities underground and inquire whether the joint owner elects to participate in a joint trench. Should the other joint owner decline to participate in an underground conversion, we would remove our electric facilities, physically cut or "top" the pole to remove the electric zone of the pole, and relinquish our interest in the jointly-owned pole to the remaining joint pole owner(s).
- d) This process is largely described in the response to question 4a. As noted there the utilities participating in a joint trench may designate different companies to perform the role of the trench construction coordinator for different segments of the underground project.
- e) The undergrounding work would generally follow the procedures described in the response to Question 4a, though the trench occupants may vary these procedures to address any unusual site conditions.
- f) The removal of poles would follow the procedures described in the response to Question 4b. A single utility would be responsible for the removal of the pole.