

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_014-Q013		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_014-Q013		
Request Date:	April 11, 2023	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-14
Date Sent:	April 17, 2023	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
DRU Index #:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

The following questions relate to your 2023-2025 WMP submission.

QUESTION 013

P. 463 of PG&E's WMP states, "EPSS does not cause a power outage." Given that EPSS settings can de-energize a line without prior warning, and without an apparent cause, please explain what is meant by the above quote.

ANSWER 013

Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) enable capable protective devices on a circuit to operate in 0.1 seconds or less in order to de-energize and isolate affected portion(s) of our distribution system when a fault or abnormal condition is detected that could generate a spark and subsequent wildfire ignition as well as detecting higher impedance faults. Outages that occur when EPSS settings are enabled on protection devices are unplanned and only occur when an external event occurs on the distribution line causing a fault on the circuit. Stated another way, EPSS does not cause outages but rather outages may result from a line being quickly de-energized when a tree, vegetation or other foreign debris makes contact with the EPSS-enabled line. Unknown cause outages – or "outages without an apparent cause" – also occur without EPSS enabled. This does not mean there was not an actual fault condition present.

Note that in 2022 PG&E reported 106 of 2,375 EPSS outages as 'Company Initiated'. In these limited instances, devices can trip as a result of switching, in-rush current (e.g., a pump or heavy machinery starting up), or other utility operations while EPSS is enabled. In these instances the outage is reported as 'Company Initiated' and our protection engineers will review the EPSS settings, coordinate with customers, and / or coordinate with the Distribution Control Center to identify design setting adjustments or other corrective actions as appropriate and technically feasible.