

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	CalAdvocates_029-Q006		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2023_DR_CalAdvocates_029-Q006		
Request Date:	September 7, 2023	Requester DR No.:	CalAdvocates-PGE-2023WMP-29
Date Sent:	September 27, 2023	Requesting Party:	Public Advocates Office
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Holly Wehrman

This data request relates to PG&E's 2023 WMP Revision Notice Response (henceforth referred to as "PG&E's response"), filed August 7, 2023, in response to Energy Safety's Revision Notice for PG&E's 2023 WMP, and PG&E's subsequent Reply Comments filed on September 1, 2023.

QUESTION 006

Page 107 of PG&E's response states, "Detection of partial voltage conditions allows Control Center Operators to dispatch field personnel to locations where equipment may be in a condition that increases wildfire risk. This technology helps PG&E detect and locate a wire down condition within minutes that may reduce the amount of time a line is energized while down (where it can cause an ignition) and allow first responders to extinguish wire-down related ignitions more quickly if they occur."

- a) Has PG&E performed a study to determine whether detection of partial voltage conditions has reduced the amount of time a line is energized while down? Please provide the results of this study if yes.
- b) If the answer to part (a) is no, does PG&E plan to perform such a study? Please provide the approximate date the study will be completed if yes.
- c) If the answer to part (b) is no, please explain why.
- d) Since January 2022, how many wires down events has PG&E experienced in its HFTD/HFRA areas on lines that have partial voltage detection enabled?
- e) For the events in part (d), what was the average time the lines remained energized while down?⁴

ANSWER 006

- a) The Partial Voltage Force Out protocol has been utilized for a short time, having been operationalized in PG&E control centers in mid-2022. No formal study has been conducted to determine whether detection of partial voltage conditions has reduced the amount of time a line is energized while down.

⁴ If PG&E maintains data relevant to wires down and partial voltage detection in a manner that would make answering this question as-posed time-consuming, please contact Cal Advocates to discuss alternate response formats.

- b) We will evaluate the history of response to wire down conditions in the HFRA/HFTD, occurring during the traditional peak wildfire season of May 1 and November 1, going back to 2020. We can complete that analysis by December 31, 2023.
- c) See a).
- d) See a) and b). Data for wire down conditions in the HFRA/HFTD will be included as part of the formal study. While EPSS protection settings have been enabled, Distribution Control Center operators initiated a Partial Voltage Force Out 36 times in 2022 and 17 times, through September 25, 2023.
- e) The average response time for a control center operator to initiate PVFO was 11 minutes in 2022 and 14 minutes on average, year to date in 2023.