

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	WilliamBAbrams_002-Q27		
PG&E File Name:	WMP-Discovery2022_DR_WilliamBAbrams_002-Q27		
Request Date:	April 13, 2022	Requester DR No.:	Email Transmittal – 2022WMP DR-02
Date Sent:	April 25, 2022	Requesting Party:	William B. Abrams
PG&E Witness:		Requester:	Will Abrams

SUBJECT: PG&E WMP GAP ANALYSIS GIVEN KINCADE FIRE TESTIMONY AND SAFETY IMPLICATIONS

Expert Testimony: Mr. Gary Uboldi, Fire Captain Specialist Peace Officer with the California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection who has investigated over 400 wildfires across his 20+ year career

Expert Testimony: Mr. Joseph Hemstock, 38 Year as PG&E as Supervisory Inspector, Crew Foreman, Electrical Transmission Supervisor and other lead roles plus 10 years as PG&E consultant

Testimony Date: February 9, 2022 (See Attachment B: Pre-Trial Transcript)

BACKGROUND TESTIMONY/EVIDENCE:

Pg. 261 (lines 7 – 13)

“Q. Okay. And describe what would happen. How would you fix that problem? A. Well, what I ended up doing is -- because of the level of contamination that was coming out of the cooling tower, what I ended up doing is replacing the insulators and then covering the insulators with silicone grease.”

QUESTION 27

- a. Is this practice of “covering the insulators with silicone grease” the approved mitigation tactic of PG&E?
- b. If so, how is that reflected in their WMP and if not how has this poor maintenance practice been corrected?

ANSWER 27

There was no testimony or evidence that applying “silicone grease” to insulator strings to mitigate the effects of contamination is a “poor maintenance practice” or that it contributed to the cause of the Kincade Fire.

PG&E’s design standards recommend the use of ceramic (glass) insulators, which come with a factory-applied silicone coating. Though PG&E’s design standards and

manufacturers' design standards help promote safety and reduce wildfire risk, that level of granularity is not typically included in the WMP.