

Follow-up Questions and Responses to 2023 PSPS Pre-Season Workshop on August 2-3, 2023

On August 2 and 3, 2023 Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), PacifiCorp, Liberty Utilities, and Bear Valley Electric Service (BVES) presented to the CPUC and the public in the Joint IOU 2023 Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Pre-Season Workshop. Some questions that were raised during the workshop necessitated follow-up responses. PG&E and PacifiCorp subsequently provided their responses to the questions. See below for the follow-up questions and the IOUs' responses.

Follow-up Question for PG&E and PG&E Responses

Question 01

What mitigations have you done on the segment impacted the most by EPSS outages? (Director Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS))

Response to Question 01

The following work has been executed by our operational and customer teams as part of our Multiple Outage Review process to address challenges associated with the Madison 2101 circuit.

2023

- **Reliability Improvements** – An existing switch was replaced with a line recloser to allow the circuit to be further sectionalized and limit customer exposure during future outages.
- **Gridscope Deployment** – 98 Gridscope installations have been completed on Madison 2101 and are now operational in Gridware's platform as a part of our technology pilot program. This technology is being piloted to determine whether we can collect additional data before and after an outage that can be used to support secondary causal evaluations, as well as provide intelligence to inform additional mitigation activities on the circuit.
- **Fault Indicator Installations** – Two fault indicators were installed to accelerate identification of trouble areas following an outage and allow for safe, quicker restoration of customers.
- **Targeted Preseason Outreach** – Customers served by the Madison 2101 who experienced eight or more outages while the circuit had EPSS settings enabled in 2022 received a letter in mid-April acknowledging their outage experience, sharing actions PG&E has taken to improve reliability, and highlighting resiliency resources that are available.
- **Customer Response to 2023 Outages** – PG&E hosted an in-person answer center in Guinda on July 20, 2023. Approximately 700 customers who had experienced EPSS outages on the Madison 2101 in 2023 were invited, including all of the customers who experienced eight or more outages in 2022. The event covered the EPSS program, actions PG&E has taken to improve reliability, information about local restoration challenges, and resiliency support available.

- **Customer Resiliency Offerings** – Customers who experienced eight or more EPSS outages in 2022 received targeted outreach to encourage participation in PG&E resiliency programs. This included an expansion of the Generator and Battery Rebate Program to include up to \$5,000 rebates for permanent battery storage projects. Outreach also included the Residential Storage Initiative that provides free whole-home battery solutions for eligible customers on income qualified or medical baseline programs.

2022

- **Reliability Improvements** – Four new protection line devices were installed to further sectionalize the circuit and limit customer exposure during future outages.
- **Fault Indicator Installations** – PG&E installed 20+ fault indicators to accelerate identification of trouble areas and allow for safe, quicker restoration of customers.

Follow-up Question for PacifiCorp and PacifiCorp Response

Question 01

What are the average outage times for circuits enabled with Elevated Fire Risk (EFR) settings in 2021 and 2022? (Director Thomas Jacobs, Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS))

Response to Question 01

In 2021, the average length of outages when EFR was enabled was 257 minutes with the monthly average ranging from 192 minutes in September to 326 in August. In 2022, the average length of outages when EFR was enabled was 306 minutes with the monthly average ranging from 253 minutes in August to 446 minutes in July. In 2021, during the months when EFR was in effect, EFR related outages were typically 67% longer than non-EFR related outages. In 2022, this number was 88%.