CPUC Update: Wildfire + PSPS
CPUC Proceedings

R.18-10-007: PG&E Wildfire Mitigation Plan

R.18-12-005: De-Energization

I.19-06-015: 2017 PG&E/Wildfire Investigation

R.17-05-010: Rule 20A Undergrounding

A.18-12-009: PG&E 2020 General Rate Case
PG&E Wildfire Mitigation Plan

• SB 901 mandated WMPs for all electric utilities
• Phase 1: Concluded May 30, 2019
  • D.19-05-037: Approved PG&E 2019 WMP
  • D.19-05-036: Guidance decision for all utilities
• Phase 2: Opened June 14, 2019
  • Issues: metrics used to evaluate WMPs; PG&E’s amended WMP; additional in-language outreach; scope of work for Independent Evaluator; improvements to WMP review process for 2020
  • Comments on Phase 2 issues were filed August 21
PG&E Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Napa’s achievements in Phase 1:
• PG&E must consider ingress/egress constraints when planning infrastructure upgrades
• PG&E must share internal weather and fire-risk data and modeling with local governments
• Future PG&E WMPs must address effectiveness of PG&E’s local government coordination
• PG&E must provide local governments with direct communication from its Wildfire Safety Operations Center
• PG&E must coordinate and partner with local governments in general
• PG&E’s next WMP must examine effectiveness of its past fire prevention measures
• PG&E must partner with local governments for additional skilled labor, where possible
De-Energization (PSPS)

- Phase 1 (December 2018-June 2019)
  - Focused on communication, notification, and coordination with PG&E’s public safety partners
De-Energization (PSPS)

• CPUC adopted virtually all County recommendations in Phase 1, e.g.:
  • PG&E must create a web portal for sharing PSPS outage maps, affected customer and facility information, etc.;
  • PG&E must work with local public safety partners to establish a 24-hour customer helpline;
  • PG&E must coordinate and communicate with local governments for virtually all aspects of PSPS planning and preparedness;
  • PG&E must allow a local government to embed a liaison in PG&E’s EOC
  • PG&E must embed a liaison in the local EOC on request
De-Energization (PSPS)

• Phase 1 implementation by PG&E:
  • PSPS information web portal is operational
  • PG&E has not yet provided satisfactory weather and fire-threat information
  • PG&E’s Community Resource Center program is not currently helpful to local governments
  • PG&E’s communication and coordination during the June 8 PSPS was poor
  • PG&E’s recent PSPS Progress Report paints a rosier picture than is warranted by the facts
De-Energization (PSPS)

• Our solutions to PG&E’s implementation issues:
  • Working directly with PG&E to improve its outreach and coordination with local governments
  • Working directly with CPUC staff
  • Full participation in Phase 2 of the PSPS Rulemaking to ensure that these issues are raised and our needs are met
De-Energization (PSPS)

- Phase 2, Track 1 (August 2019-Q1 2020)
  - Track 1 will focus on improvements to:
    - Terminology/definitions;
    - Outreach and education to Access and Functional Needs populations;
    - PSPS strategy and decision-making;
    - Notification and communication;
    - Protocols for de-energization of transmission lines;
    - Lessons learned in 2019 PSPS events
  - Track 1 proposals will be filed September 17
De-Energization (PSPS)

- Phase 2, Track 2 will perform in-depth analysis of:
  - Lessons learned from 2019 PSPS events;
  - Notification and Communication improvements;
  - Mitigation measures
    - Cooling centers, charging stations, water access, etc.
    - Who bears the cost of installing backup generation at critical facilities
    - Mitigation measures for extended outages
    - Should customers be billed for electric service during PSPS
    - Should utilities consider claims for losses as a result of PSPS
De-Energization (PSPS)

• Phase 2, Track 2 issues, continued:
  • Utility PSPS strategy and ensuring de-energization is a measure of last resort;
  • Re-energization notification and communication;
  • Requests to delay PSPS events;
  • Additional education and outreach needs;
  • CPUC evaluation of de-energization decision for reasonableness
2017 Wildfire Investigation

• Purpose: Identify CPUC regulations PG&E violated that contributed to/caused 2017 wildfires

• Timeline: Parties are engaged in good-faith settlement negotiations. All financial penalties must be calculated with reasonable certainty by mid-October (bankruptcy deadline)

• Investigation must conclude in time to allow PG&E to emerge from bankruptcy by June 2020 (AB 1054 deadline)