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March 8, 2021

**ADVICE LETTER 3708-E
(U902-E)**

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

**SUBJECT: QUARTERLY ADVICE LETTER RELATED TO PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE
SECTION 8389(e)(7)**

Per Public Utilities Code Section 8389(e)(7) and the February 16, 2021 Wildfire Safety Division (WSD) Compliance Operational Protocols,¹ San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E or the Company) hereby submits to the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) this Tier 1 Advice Letter (AL) that details the implementation of both its approved Wildfire Mitigation Plan and recommendations of the most recent safety culture assessment; a statement of recommendations of the Board of Directors Safety Committee (Safety Committee) meetings that occurred during the quarter;² and a summary of the implementation of the Safety Committee recommendations from SDG&E's previous advice letter.³

PURPOSE

The purpose of this AL is to comply with the requirements of Section 8389(e)(7), which were added to the Public Utilities Code by Assembly Bill (AB) 1054 on July 12, 2019. That statutory provision requires that SDG&E file a Tier 1 AL "on a quarterly basis that details the implementation of both its approved wildfire mitigation plan and recommendations of the most recent safety culture assessment, and a statement of recommendations of the board of directors safety committee meetings that occurred during the quarter." Section 8389(e)(7) also requires that the AL "shall summarize the implementation of safety committee recommendations from the electrical corporation's previous advice letter filing." The WSD's recently issued Compliance Operational Protocols confirms these requirements.

BACKGROUND

Governor Newsom signed AB 1054 into law on July 12, 2019. AB 1054 contains numerous statutory provisions and amendments designed to enhance the mitigation and prevention of catastrophic wildfires – including wildfires linked to utility equipment – in California. AB 1054 added Section 8389 to the Public Utilities Code. Section 8389(e) establishes the requirements for

¹ The WSD's Compliance Operational Protocols provides guidance on the contents, format, and timing of the compliance reporting the WSD requires of the electrical corporations.

² This AL includes information relating to activities and events that occurred in the fourth quarter of 2020.

³ AL 3634-E.

annual safety certifications⁴ and, *inter alia*, requires electrical corporations to establish a safety committee of its board of directors composed of members with relevant safety experience, establish board-of-director-level reporting to the Commission on safety issues, and file quarterly Tier 1 ALs as described above.

DISCUSSION

Implementation of SDG&E's Approved Wildfire Mitigation Plan

SDG&E continues to track 42 progress metrics on 29 different mitigations proposed in its 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan. These mitigations involve a wide-array of topic areas such as: inspection and maintenance programs, infrastructure replacement programs, and vegetation management programs which all mitigate the risk of ignitions due to a fault on the electric system. SDG&E has mitigation programs to enhance situational awareness, which informs SDG&E's risk models and helps prioritize infrastructure replacement; and strategies and tools for real time decision making during emergency response or Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events. SDG&E also has mitigations that reduce the impact of a wildfire once an ignition has occurred, including high definition cameras, ground and aerial fire suppression resources, and a fuels management program.

In addition, SDG&E has implemented mitigations to the customer impacts associated with PSPS events including the installation of remote switches to limit the customers exposed to PSPS, the establishment of customer resource centers during PSPS events, and SDG&E's customer outreach programs.

In Attachment A hereto, SDG&E provides a detailed breakdown of the progress on all these individual mitigations. In summary, SDG&E has fire hardened 236 miles of its electric system and replaced over 2,517 structures within the high fire threat district from January 1, 2020 through December 31, 2020.

Implementation of SDG&E's Most Recent Safety Culture Assessment

SDG&E has not yet undergone a safety culture assessment. The WSD has issued guidance on its annual safety culture assessment process,⁵ and plans to conduct its first annual assessment in 2021. Accordingly, SDG&E has no information to report regarding implementation at this time. Once SDG&E's safety culture assessment is completed, SDG&E will include implementation information in future advice letters.

January 12, 2021 Safety Committee Meeting

The SDG&E Board Safety Committee⁶ advises and assists the Board of Directors in the oversight of safely providing electric and natural gas services to the Company's customers. The Safety Committee held a meeting on January 12, 2021 in which it received presentations from SDG&E management and employees. In the course of the meeting, the Safety Committee asked questions and engaged with SDG&E management and employees regarding the subjects of their presentations.

At the January 12 meeting, the Safety Committee received the following presentations from SDG&E management and employees regarding safety issues.

⁴ SDG&E received its 2020 safety certification from the WSD via a letter dated September 14, 2020.

⁵ See Resolution WSD-011.

⁶ The Safety Committee members include Erbin B. Keith, Chairman; Robert J. Borthwick; Trevor I. Mihalik; and Caroline A. Winn.

Kevin Geraghty, SDG&E's Chief Safety Officer and its Senior Vice President for Electric Operations, reported on several topics. First, Mr. Geraghty provided an update on the impact of COVID-19 on the Company and its employees. Second, Mr. Geraghty provided an overview of SDG&E's safety performance over the last calendar year, highlighting the improvement from prior years. Third, Mr. Geraghty discussed the 2021 safety focus on near-miss reporting. Fourth, Mr. Geraghty gave an update on WMP implementation status, summarizing key milestones completed to date.

As a follow-up to the Safety Committee's prior recommendation, John Jenkins, SDG&E's Vice President of Electric System Operations, reviewed the 2020 fire season and PSPS events. Mr. Jenkins began with a review of the 2020 statewide fire season, and he then discussed the structure impacts resulting from the 2020 Valley Fire in SDG&E's service territory. Mr. Jenkins next summarized details of the Red Flag Warning events and PSPS events during the year, noting customer communications and community support provided by SDG&E in connection with the events. Next, Mr. Jenkins discussed generator programs, microgrids, Emergency Operations Center response, Community Resource Centers, and new weather technologies, all of which increased wildfire resilience in 2020.

Jonathan Woldemariam, SDG&E's Director of Wildfire Mitigation and Vegetation Management, provided an overview of the Kincadee Fire, which occurred near Geyserville, CA in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) service territory in 2019. Mr. Woldemariam discussed an investigation report related to the fire in PG&E's service territory, noting that investigations are ongoing. Mr. Woldemariam discussed differences in SDG&E's procedures for decommissioned lines.

David Buczkowski, Vice President of Gas Distribution, briefed the Safety Committee on SDG&E's Locate and Mark insourcing initiative to mitigate the risk of dig-ins on gas and electric underground facilities, caused by third party activities. Mr. Buczkowski reviewed the 2020 accomplishments of the internally sourced Locate and Mark Department, noting that the damage rate was significantly reduced.

Ron Kiralla, SDG&E's Director of Safety, reported on emerging safety trends in utility line work. Mr. Kiralla identified gaps in SDG&E's approach for investigating injury potential and near miss reports. Mr. Kiralla then discussed the Serious Injuries & Fatalities (SIF) initiative, which is being implemented to classify incidents with SIF potential, and to thoroughly investigate and identify precursors to such events and assign mitigations to prevent recurrences.

Bruce Folkmann, SDG&E's President and Chief Financial Officer, and Kendall Helm, SDG&E's Vice President of People & Culture, summarized the proposed safety elements of SDG&E's 2021 executive incentive compensation plan. Ms. Helm described new metrics for 2021 and any changes to the metrics since they were last presented to the Safety Committee.

Lastly, Erbin Keith provided the following Safety Committee recommendation to SDG&E:

- SDG&E should make presentations at upcoming Safety Committee meetings on the following topics:
 - o New wildfire safety technologies being deployed in 2021.
 - o Communications strategies for major emergencies, including strategies for dealing with potential failures of communications channels.
 - o Use of backup generation for PSPS events.

Implementation of Recommendations of the Board of Directors Safety Committee in the Prior Quarter

As noted in AL 3634-E, SDG&E's Safety Committee provided the following recommendations to the company at the October 6, 2020 meeting:

1. SDG&E should make a presentation at the next Safety Committee meeting on the fall 2020 wildfire season and its efforts to ensure employee, contractor and customer safety during PSPS events, including any safety lessons learned.

At the January 12 meeting, John Jenkins provided the Committee with a presentation on the fall 2020 wildfire season, and discussed the efforts ensure safety during PSPS events, as noted above.

UPDATE ON SDG&E'S WILDFIRE SAFETY COMMUNITY ADVISORY COUNCIL MEETINGS

Per the requirement established in D.20-05-051 that SDG&E report on advisory council activities on a quarterly basis, SDG&E provides the following. SDG&E convened a meeting of its Wildfire Safety Community Advisory Council on February 26, 2021. Caroline Winn, SDG&E's Chief Executive Officer, chaired the meeting, which took place virtually in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout the meeting, Council members asked questions and provided comments.

Ms. Winn opened the meeting with a discussion of SDG&E's efforts to follow up on suggestions from council members during previous meetings. Specifically, Ms. Winn noted that SDG&E had visited San Ysidro Health in Alpine, California to explore methods to improve communications with rural communities. In response to that meeting, SDG&E is pursuing additional outreach and communication tools for the backcountry for PSPS and planned outages, including tools tailored to the ongoing challenges of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ms. Winn also shared success stories of SDG&E's PSPS outreach and coordination achieved through community partnerships targeted at access and functional needs (AFN) and vulnerable customers; and noted that SDG&E had met with tribal leaders to address further PSPS customer mitigation efforts targeted to tribal areas.

John Jenkins, SDG&E's Vice President for Electric System Operations, presented on the 2020 fire season, including a summary of the PSPS events at the end of 2020 and early 2021. Mr. Jenkins noted that SDG&E's December 2-4, 2020 PSPS event was nearly three times larger than any prior event, in response to record winds unlike any previously seen in SDG&E territory. Mr. Jenkins thanked the council for the efforts by community partners to coordinate with Community Resource Centers to aid customers during these events. Mr. Jenkins also discussed generator programs, microgrids, Emergency Operations Center response, Community Resource Centers, and new weather technologies, all of which increased wildfire resilience in 2020.

Brian D'Agostino, SDG&E's Director of Fire Science and Climate Adaptation presented on the climate conditions of the 2020 fire season, the ongoing impacts of climate change on wildfire risk, and addressed SDG&E's efforts to incorporate record-setting conditions in its modeling. Mr. D'Agostino also discussed the repeated record-setting wind events in 2020 that led to increased PSPS use, and SDG&E's efforts to mitigate those impacts. At the conclusion of the presentation, Ms. Winn noted that that climate is the centerpiece of SDG&E's business strategy, and climate is impacting the energy industry nationwide, referencing the weather crisis in Texas.

Dan Skopec, SDG&E's Senior Vice President of State Government Affairs and Chief Regulatory Officer, presented on the safety emphasis of the Commission, including the specific emphasis on wildfire safety through the creation of the Wildfire Safety Division and the development of the Wildfire Mitigation Plans. Ron Kiralla, SDG&E's Director of Safety, continued the presentation with a discussion of SDG&E's internal safety emphasis. Mr. Kiralla discussed the safety culture at

SDG&E and how it is implemented from an enterprise-wide perspective, incorporating the full engagement of the SDG&E Board and Officers as well as SDG&E line employees. Mr. Kiralla highlighted that safety is a core value of SDG&E and the company continues to see reduced annual safety incidents on an annual basis.

Jonathan Woldemariam, SDG&E's Director for Wildfire Mitigation and Vegetation Management discussed SDG&E's evolving wildfire safety culture and risk mitigation efforts. He noted that SDG&E measures its wildfire safety performance through safety, performance, and survey metrics. As examples of the SDG&E's improvements in wildfire safety, the presentation included statistics on the decrease in tree related outages as a result of increased tree-line clearance requirements and a sample of SDG&E's recent Safety Barometer Survey results. Mr. Woldemariam also discussed how SDG&E uses diverse methods of employee and community engagement to improve wildfire safety communications and efforts.

Kevin Geraghty, SDG&E's Chief Safety Officer and Senior Vice President for Electric Operations, presented on SDG&E's recently submitted 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Update. Mr. Geraghty noted the 112% increase in elevated or higher Fire Prevention Index days compared to 2015-2019. He stated that SDG&E continues to be a world leader in managing wildfire risk for its customers, and the Company continues to strive to minimize wildfire risk. Mr. Geraghty discussed the evolution of SDG&E's Wildfire Mitigation Plan improvements, and highlighted key initiatives such as grid hardening, strategic undergrounding to target both wildfire risk and PSPS mitigation, and the expanded use of falling conductor protection. He also noted that SDG&E's generator grant program has been instrumental in mitigating PSPS impacts.

The next meeting of the Council is scheduled for March 25, 2021.

Following these presentations, Council members and SDG&E engaged in a roundtable discussion.

EFFECTIVE DATE

SDG&E believes this submittal is subject to Energy Division disposition and should be classified as Tier 1 (effective pending disposition) pursuant to GO 96-B. SDG&E respectfully requests that this AL become effective on March 8, 2021, which is the date of submittal.

PROTEST

Anyone may protest this Advice Letter to the California Public Utilities Commission. The protest must state the grounds upon which it is based, including such items as financial and service impact, and should be submitted expeditiously. The protest must be made in writing and must be received no later than March 29, 2021, which is within 21 days of the date this Advice Letter was filed with the Commission. There is no restriction on who may file a protest. The address for mailing or delivering a protest to the Commission is:

CPUC Energy Division
Attention: Tariff Unit
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Copies of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the attention of Energy Division at EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov of the Energy Division. A copy of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the address shown below on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission.

Attn: Gregory S. Anderson

Regulatory Tariff Manager

E-mail: GAnderson@sdge.com and SDGETariffs@sdge.com

NOTICE

A copy of this filing has been served on the utilities and interested parties shown on the attached list, including interested parties to service lists R.18-10-007 and R.18-12-005, by either providing them a copy electronically or by mailing them a copy hereof, properly stamped and addressed.

Address changes should be directed to SDG&E Tariffs by e-mail at SDGETariffs@sdge.com.

/s/ Clay Faber

CLAY FABER

Director – Federal & CA Regulatory



ADVICE LETTER SUMMARY

ENERGY UTILITY



MUST BE COMPLETED BY UTILITY (Attach additional pages as needed)

Company name/CPUC Utility No.:

Utility type:

ELC GAS WATER
 PLC HEAT

Contact Person:

Phone #:
E-mail:
E-mail Disposition Notice to:

EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE

ELC = Electric GAS = Gas WATER = Water
PLC = Pipeline HEAT = Heat

(Date Submitted / Received Stamp by CPUC)

Advice Letter (AL) #:

Tier Designation:

Subject of AL:

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing):

AL Type: Monthly Quarterly Annual One-Time Other:

If AL submitted in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:

Does AL replace a withdrawn or rejected AL? If so, identify the prior AL:

Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL:

Confidential treatment requested? Yes No

If yes, specification of confidential information:

Confidential information will be made available to appropriate parties who execute a nondisclosure agreement. Name and contact information to request nondisclosure agreement/ access to confidential information:

Resolution required? Yes No

Requested effective date:

No. of tariff sheets:

Estimated system annual revenue effect (%):

Estimated system average rate effect (%):

When rates are affected by AL, include attachment in AL showing average rate effects on customer classes (residential, small commercial, large C/I, agricultural, lighting).

Tariff schedules affected:

Service affected and changes proposed¹:

Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets:

¹Discuss in AL if more space is needed.

Protests and all other correspondence regarding this AL are due no later than 20 days after the date of this submittal, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, and shall be sent to:

CPUC, Energy Division
Attention: Tariff Unit
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
Email: EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov

Name:
Title:
Utility Name:
Address:
City:
State: Zip:
Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx:
Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx:
Email:

Name:
Title:
Utility Name:
Address:
City:
State: Zip:
Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx:
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Email:

General Order No. 96-B
ADVICE LETTER SUBMITTAL MAILING LIST

cc: (w/enclosures)

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CA. Public Avocates (CalPA)
R. Pocta
F. Oh
Energy Division
M. Ghadessi
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L. Tan
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S. Anders

Energy Regulatory Solutions Consultants
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EQ Research
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Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, & Day LLP
B. Cragg
J. Squeri

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Hanna and Morton LLP
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JBS Energy
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General

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M. Swindle

NRG Energy
D. Fellman

Pacific Gas & Electric Co.
M. Lawson
M. Huffman
Tariff Unit

RTO Advisors
S. Mara

SCD Energy Solutions
P. Muller

Shute, Mihaly & Weinberger LLP
O. Armi

Solar Turbines
C. Frank

SPURR
M. Rochman

Southern California Edison Co.
K. Gansecki

TerraVerde Renewable Partners LLC
F. Lee

TURN
M. Hawiger

UCAN
D. Kelly

US Dept. of the Navy
K. Davoodi

US General Services Administration
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Service List(s)
R.18-10-007
R.18-12-005

San Diego Gas & Electric Advice Letter 3708-E
March 8, 2021

ATTACHMENT A
2020 Q4 Progress Update

SDG&E's 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan 4th Quarter Progress Update

(All data as of December 31, 2020)

2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Activities Q4 Summary



5.3.2 – Situational Awareness & Forecasting		5.3.4 – Asset Management & Inspections			5.3.5 – Vegetation Management & Inspections		
5.3.2.1 Camera network and advanced weather station integration	5.3.2.3 Wireless fault indicators	5.3.4.1 Detailed corrective maintenance program inspections	5.3.4.2 Transmission system inspections	5.3.4.4 Infrared inspections of distribution infrastructure	5.3.5.2 Detailed inspections of vegetation around distribution infrastructure – tree trimming	5.3.5.5 Fuels management	
	5.3.2.4.1 Fire science and climate adaptation department	5.3.4.9.1 HFTD Tier 3 inspections	5.3.4.9.2 Drone assessments of distribution infrastructure	5.3.4.15 Substation system inspection	5.3.5.9 Other discretionary inspection of vegetation around distribution infrastructure – Enhanced inspections, patrols, and trims	5.3.5.20 Vegetation management to achieve clearances around electric infrastructure – Pole brushing	
5.3.3 – Grid Design & System Hardening							
5.3.3.1 SCADA Capacitors	5.3.3.2 Advanced protection	5.3.3.3 Distribution overhead system hardening	5.3.3.6 Pole replacement and reinforcement	5.3.3.7 Expulsion fuse replacement	5.3.3.8.1 PSPS sectionalizing enhancements	5.3.3.8.2 Microgrids	5.3.3.10 Hotline clamps
5.3.3.11.1 Customer resiliency programs	5.3.3.11.2 Expanded generator grant program	5.3.3.11.3 Whole house generator program	5.3.3.16 Strategic undergrounding	5.3.3.17.1 Overhead transmission fire hardening	5.3.3.17.2 Cleveland National Forest fire hardening	5.3.3.18.1 Distribution communications reliability improvements	5.3.3.18.2 Lightning arrester removal and replacement

Complete
 Ahead of Plan
 On Track
 Off Track

Q4 Activity Status vs 2020 Goals

5.3.2 – Situational Awareness and Forecasting

5.3.2.1

30

Weather stations installed

4

Cameras installed

125% Camera network and advanced weather station integration

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 30 of 20 weather stations installed (150%), 4 of 4 cameras installed (100%)

Key Actions: Exceeded 2020 goal for weather stations installed.

5.3.2.3

502

WFI's installed

100% Wireless fault indicators

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 502 of 500 WFI's installed (100%)

Key Actions: Slightly exceeded 2020 target of 500 WFI's installed.

5.3.2.4.1

1

Fire Science & Innovation Lab

100% Fire science and climate adaptation department

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 1 of 1 fire science and innovation lab (100%)

Key Actions: Continued expansion and development of key academic collaborators to include Scripps Institution of Oceanography in addition to SDSC and SJSU. A virtual lab was established via Microsoft Teams and has already been leveraged for wildfire incident coordination this season.

Q4 Activity Status vs 2020 Goals

5.3.3 – Grid Design and System Hardening (1 of 2)

5.3.3.1

30

SCADA capacitors installed

100% SCADA Capacitors

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 30 of 30 SCADA capacitors installed (100%)

Key Actions: Achieved 2020 goal of 30 SCADA capacitors installed.

5.3.3.2

6

Cir.

8

Subs.

100% Advanced protection

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 6 of 8 circuits enabled (75%), 8 of 6 substations enabled (133%)

Key Actions: Completed 6 circuits and 8 substations enabled.

5.3.3.3

1.9

CC

99.5

OH

98% Distribution overhead system hardening

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 1.9 of 1 mile hardened with covered conductor (190%), 99.5 of 102 miles OH hardened (98%)

Key Actions: Program is within the 2020 target range. 2,019 poles were hardened.

5.3.3.6

598

Poles replaced

89% Pole replacement and reinforcement

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 598 of 670 poles replaced (89%)

Key Actions: Poles identified to be replaced in 2020 decreased from both compliance maintenance program inspections and wood pole intrusive inspections.

5.3.3.7

3,179

Fuses replaced

106% Expulsion fuse replacement

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 3,179 of 3,000 fuses replaced (106%)

Key Actions: 2020 program target exceeded.

5.3.3.8.1

23

Switches installed

329% PSPS sectionalizing enhancements

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 23 of 7 sectionalizing devices installed (329%)

Key Actions: 2020 program target exceeded.

5.3.3.8.2

4

Microgrids installed

133% Microgrids

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 4 of 3 microgrids installed (133%)

Key Actions: Ramona Air Attack Base (RAAB), Cameron Corners, Aqua Caliente, and Shelter Valley all have temporary generation installed.

5.3.3.10

2061

HLC's replaced

125% Hotline clamps

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 2,061 of 1,650 hotline clamps replaced (125%)

Key Actions: 2020 program target exceeded.

Q4 Activity Status vs 2020 Goals

5.3.3 – Grid Design and System Hardening (2 of 2)

5.3.3.11.1
1334 MBL
 8 CRC 4 CCI

107% Customer resiliency programs
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 1,334 of 1,250 medical baseline generators (107%) includes 75 generators for access and functional needs customers, 8 of 8 Community Resource Centers (100%), and 4 of 4 community and critical infrastructure generators leased (100%)
Key Actions: 2020 program target exceeded.

5.3.3.11.3
75
 Generators

25% Whole house generator program
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 75 of 300 generators (25%)
Key Actions: Program delays resulted in reaching one quarter of year-end goal. Streamlined permitting process which will be incorporated in 2021 program plan. Lessons learned include actual installation cost data to better inform budget needs, union and non-union labor requirements, and end-to-end permitting and construction timelines. 2021 program year will build upon the lessons learned of this initial test year.

5.3.3.17.1
19.7 OH
 0 UG 9.4 UB

99.5% Overhead transmission fire hardening
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 19.7 of 20 OH miles (99%), 9.4 of 9 miles distribution underbuilt (100%)
Key Actions: Program is within the 2020 target range. 2021 target = 6 mi UG.

5.3.3.18.1
15
 Base Stations installed

60% Distribution Communications Reliability Improvements
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 15 of 25 base stations installed (60%)
Key Actions: The DCRI program purchased a spectrum license and installed 15 base stations in 2020.

5.3.3.11.2
1081
 Generators

832% Expanded generator grant program
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 1081 of 130 generators (832%)
Key Actions: 2,261 customers reserved a rebate coupon in 2020 (\$300 for general customers, \$450 for CARE customers). 1081 generators were purchased by customers. Lowes and Home Depot both cited nationwide generator shortages on shelves due to West and East coast disasters.

5.3.3.16
15.8
 Miles UG

158% Strategic undergrounding
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 15.8 of 11 miles undergrounded (158%)
Key Actions: 2020 program target exceeded.

5.3.3.17.2
 29.1 T OH 21.8 D OH
 25 D OH w/ T 14.4 D UG

100% Cleveland National Forest fire hardening
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 29.1 of 26 transmission OH miles (112%), 21.8 of 25 distribution OH miles (87%), 25 of 25 distribution OH with associated transmission miles (100%), and 14.4 of 14 distribution UG miles (103%)
Key Actions: Due to unforeseen delays (Valley Fire in September, multiple weather and PSPS events in Q4, and cultural holds due to discoveries onsite), circuit 440 Phase 2A & 2B were not completed in 2020. SDG&E forecasts completion of remaining work by March of 2021.

5.3.3.18.2
0
 Lightning Arrestors removed and replaced

0% Lightning arrester removal and replacement
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 0 of 0 lightning arrestors removed and replaced.
Key Actions: This program will begin construction in 2021 and will replace approximately 2,772 lightning arrestors by the end of 2022.

All data is up to date as of December 31, 2020

Q4 Activity Status vs 2020 Goals

5.3.4 – Asset Management and Inspections

5.3.4.1
17,977
Detailed Inspections

103% Detailed corrective maintenance program inspections
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 17,977 of 17,500 inspections (103%)
Key Actions: Program has completed the target for 2020.

5.3.4.4
13,077
Infrared Inspections

154% Infrared inspections of distribution infrastructure
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 13,077 of 8,500 inspections (154%)
Key Actions: Program has exceeded the target for 2020.

5.3.4.9.2
37,310
Drone Inspections

113% Drone assessments of distribution infrastructure
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 37,310 of 33,000 inspections (113%)
Key Actions: Program is within the 2020 target range. 4116 poles were repaired based on drone assessment findings in 2020.

5.3.4.2
114 Visual
110 Infrared
41 Detailed
21 Aerial

98% Transmission system inspections
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 114 of 117 visual inspections (97%), 110 of 113 infrared inspections (97%), 41 of 41 detailed inspections (100%), and 21 of 21 aerial inspections (100%)
Key Actions: Program is within 2020 target range.

5.3.4.9.1
11,864
HFTD Tier 3 Inspections

103% HFTD Tier 3 inspections
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 11,864 of 11,500 inspections (103%)
Key Actions: HFTD Tier 3 inspections were completed prior to the start of fire season.

5.3.4.15
405
Substation Inspections

123% Substation system inspection
Volume vs 2020 Goal: 405 of 330 inspections (123%)
Key Actions: Exceeded the 2020 goal for substation inspections.

Q4 Activity Status vs 2020 Goals

5.3.5 – Vegetation Management and Inspections

5.3.5.2

451,207
Trees Inspected

99% Detailed inspections of vegetation around distribution infrastructure – Inventory Tree Inspections

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 451,207 of ~455,000 tree inspections (99%)
Key Actions: This goal is specific to Inventory Tree Inspections. Program within 2020 target range.

5.3.5.9

17,075
Trees trimmed or removed

100% Other discretionary inspection of vegetation around distribution infrastructure – Enhanced inspections, patrols, and trims

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 17,075 of 17,000 trees trimmed or removed (100%)
Key Actions: Enhanced Vegetation Management HFTD (trim or remove) 2020 target slightly exceeded.

5.3.5.5

324
Pole vegetation thinned

65% Fuels Management

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 324 of 500 pole vegetation thinned (65%)
Key Actions: Program target decreased to 515 landowner poles due to 30 target poles identified were on Federal, State, County or City Land. Notification postcards were mailed out in mid-June to all landowners and customers potentially affected by work around targeted poles. Work began in September and program is on target for 2020.

5.3.5.20

36,563
Poles brushed

103% Vegetation management to achieve clearances around electric infrastructure – Pole brushing

Volume vs 2020 Goal: 36,563 of 35,500 poles brushed (103%)
Key Actions: Program slightly exceeded 2020 target.

Appendix

Off Track Activity Details

2020 WMP Off Track Activities – Details

Off Track

38

Generators

5.3.3.11.3 – Whole House Generator program

Summary: The Whole House Generator program seeks to support SDG&E’s long-term vision to reduce or minimize the impacts of PSPS to customers. In rural areas with lots of circuit miles but very low customer density, the cost of hardening programs can be very high relative to the cost of providing generators. In these specific cases, SDG&E plans to continue utilizing PSPS as a last resort measure to protect public safety but will seek to help reduce the PSPS customer impacts by installing whole house generators with automatic transfer switches.

Progress/Challenges: All 300 sites have been assigned and are in the pipeline for installation and submitted for permitting review this year. The remaining sites not completed in Q4 2020 are expected to be complete by Q4 2021. With the early start of commercial sites from Q4 of 2020, these facilities have logistics and planning in place. These commercial sites will roll into 2021. Commercial sites, especially schools, have proven to be a much longer planning, installation, and permitting process. The residential permitting process normally takes 4-8 weeks but has been reduced to a 2-3 week streamlined process with San Diego County. The plan is to incorporate enhancements based upon these Q4 2020 lessons learned for the 2021 program moving forward.

Off Track

15

Base Stations installed

5.3.3.18.1 – Distribution Communications Reliability Improvements

Summary: The DCRI program is deploying a privately-owned LTE network using a licensed radio frequency (RF) spectrum. This will enhance the overall reliability of SDG&E’s communication network, which is critical for enabling fire prevention and public safety programs. SDG&E’s communication network is foundational to the wildfire mitigation enhancements proposed in the Advanced Protection program.

Progress/Challenges: The DCRI program purchased a spectrum license and installed 15 base stations in 2020. The active development of distribution standards and as well as the associated integrated LTE/Distribution build process has delayed the installation of additional base stations this year. The integrated LTE/Distribution build process is a new unique process that integrates numerous departments and various safety and regulatory requirements into new distribution standards that drive design. Site specific designs must be fully completed prior to initiating procurement of the engineered steel poles used in the designs. The procurement process for an engineered steel pole is estimated at one year, delaying mass deployment. Once we have established a standardized process, we will be able to generate a predictable build-out schedule to meet forecasted goals. In addition, the number of total base stations required is expected to be reduced with the purchase of an additional spectrum in 2021.

2020 WMP Off Track Activities – Details

Off Track

324

Pole vegetation
thinned

5.3.5.5 – Fuels Management

Summary: The goal of the Fuels Management program is to reduce the risk of point source wildfire ignitions in high fire risk areas along SDG&E’s infrastructure. The program reduces fire fuel load around distribution and transmission lines within the SDG&E service area. Fuels modification is be conducted inside and outside of SDG&E’s rights-of-way, where necessary, while maintaining habitat throughout all treatment areas. SDG&E coordinates directly with individual landowners to obtain permission to conduct wildfire fuels modification activities outside of existing easements.

Progress/Challenges: A major challenge for this program in 2020 was a large amount of the work was conducted outside of our rights-of-way. The program is dependent on indivial landowner approval to perform work, and sometimes permission is required from several different landowners to access a single pole. Approvals from different landowners can be sporadic, which in turn can affect the amount of work completed per year and costs per unit. SDG&E is developing a new landowner notification and approval protocol in 2021 to more effectively interface with community partners in the HFTD where the program is implemented.