

January 5, 2021

Summary of December 16, 2020 WMP Guidelines Utility Working Group Meeting

Introduction

On December 16, 2020, the Wildfire Safety Division (WSD) held the first of two virtual meetings to respond to investor-owned utility (IOU) questions related to the 2021 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) Guidelines¹ issued November 30, 2020. This document provides a summary of the questions and answers from that meeting.

Representatives from the following utilities were present: Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE), San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), PacifiCorp, Liberty Utilities (Liberty), and Trans Bay Cable (TBC).

Summary of Questions and Answers

Quarterly Report and 2021 WMP Schedule: Request for clarification on Quarterly Report and 2021 WMP Update that are due the same day.

The ongoing Quarterly Report,² Quarterly Data Report, and the 2021 WMP update are due on the same day. To the extent that information required in the ongoing Quarterly Report is reported in the WMP, referencing to the discussion in the WMP update is sufficient (or vice-versa).

WMP Cycle: Is the 2021 WMP update part of 3-year 2020 – 2022 cycle or part of rolling cycle covering 2021 – 2023?

The WMP cycles are not rolling and the current WMP cycle is 2020 – 2022. This applies across all WMP reporting unless otherwise stated.

Data Submission Frequency: Proposal for a follow-up discussion on the frequency of data submissions in 2021. Has the WSD considered cadence and content of future data submissions?

As stated in the WMP Guidelines, performance metrics will be reported quarterly through the Quarterly Data Report. Further discussions regarding future cadence and content can be discussed in a separate forum.

Inability to Submit All Spatial Data: If an IOU is unable to submit all spatial data in accordance with requirements but has described its path and timeline, what impact would that have on WMP approval?

The WSD is looking for continued, substantial progress and expectations for individual IOUs will vary by circumstances, resources, past performance, and other factors. The IOU will be submitting a status tracker with each quarterly data report that includes detail on missing data, issues with collection or reporting, and the plan and timeline to begin reporting.

¹ Resolution WSD-011 and associated attachments.

² See Guidance on Remedial Compliance Plan and Quarterly Report Process
https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/uploadedFiles/CPUCWebsite/Content/About_Us/Organization/Divisions/WSD/WSD%20Guidance%20Statement%20on%20RCP%20QP%2020200717.pdf

PSPS Metric Clarifications: In Table 11, 4.e, should percentage of customers notified of Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) be number impacted over number notified or the reciprocal? What is the difference between “frequency of PSPS events” (1.a) and “number of PSPS de-energizations” (5.a)?

4.e and 4.f in Table 11 have been adjusted to show the correct numerator and denominator to properly calculate the percentage of customers notified. 5.a “Number of PSPS de-energizations” has been clarified to mean the number of instances where the IOU notified the public of a potential PSPS event but no de-energization occurred.

Evacuation Data: How is evacuation data related to customer outreach? IOUs are struggling to locate and collect evacuation data.

Evacuation data has been reclassified as “Customer Impact” from “Customer Outreach.” The WSD intends to engage with the IOUs on how best to collect evacuation data and assist in building relationships between the IOUs and local entities who control the data. To the extent that evacuation data is unavailable or unobtainable, the WSD expects IOUs to explain those circumstances in the “Comments” column for the data.

Inability to Separate Risk Events from Ignitions: What if an IOU is unable to exclude ignition from risk event counts with confidence due to inconsistent mapping in prior years.

If the data cannot be separated, note the reason in the “Comments” column.

Historical Infrastructure Data: What if an IOU cannot access data from prior years due to real-time nature of GIS system.

IOUs that do not have an archive will submit blank cells for the years of data they no longer have.

Conclusion

The scope of this meeting was limited to the 2021 WMP Guidelines and some questions submitted regarding Change Order Reports or other Commission proceedings may be addressed in a separate, more appropriate forum.

An updated data template³ reflecting the corrections and clarifications made during this meeting will be distributed to stakeholders.

³ Attachment 2.3 to Resolution WSD-011.