Wildfire Safety Advisory Board – Electrical Safety Policy Division Remarks

December 4, 2024, Board Meeting

- Good afternoon, Chair Block and Board Members.

- My name is Dakota Smith and I'm a Program and Project Supervisor in Energy Safety's Electrical Safety Policy Division.

- I'll provide an update today about what the Policy Division has achieved since your last meeting and provide an overview of what we will be working on in the coming months.

- I will discuss
  - Wildfire Mitigation Plans, or WMPs
  - Safety Culture Assessments
  - Executive Compensation
  - Safety Certifications, and our
  - Risk Model Working Group

Wildfire Mitigation Plans & Guidelines

- Policy Division has been evaluating the electrical corporations' 2025 WMP Updates. We've staggered their submission schedules into two groups:
  - Group 1 includes Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison, and Bear Valley Electric Service. Group 1 submitted their 2025 WMP Updates on April 2, 2024.
  - Group 2 includes PacifiCorp, Liberty Utilities, Trans Bay Cable, Horizon West Transmission, and LS Power Grid California. Group 2 submitted their 2025 WMP Updates on July 8, 2024.

- We published Decisions on all Group 1 electrical corporations' WMP in October and November.

- For Group 2 electrical corporations, we have issued Reject and Resubmit Orders to Liberty, PacifiCorp, and LS Power in August/September and draft decisions on Horizon West Transmission and Transbay Cable in October

- We've also been revising the WMP Base Guidelines suite of documents for the 2026-2028 Base WMP cycle.
    - Package 1 (Process, Technical, and Petition to Amend chapters) of the Draft WMP Guidelines were published on 11/12 and a workshop was held on 11/26. Comments and input are currently being solicited from the Board, sister agencies, and members of the public through 12/12.
    - Package 1 can be found at: https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=57612&shareable=true
        - Notable draft changes include:
            - New grouping of mitigation sections (8 through 12)
            - Objectives are now "Qualitative Targets"
            - Targets are now "Quantitative Targets"
            - Elimination of all 10-year targets
            - Master target table
            - Updated risk framework & components
            - Updated risk impact calculation
            - PSPS section now focuses on lessons learned and reduction and eliminates targets and narrative
            - New QA/QC requirements for Grid Design & Vegetation Management sections
            - Consolidation of the Emergency Preparedness and Community Outreach sections into one
            - Enterprise systems now a standalone section
    - Package 2 is expected to be published in Mid-December

- As a reminder, information and announcements about Energy Safety's WMP Guidelines and Decisions can all be accessed through our docket.

Safety Culture Branch & Workstreams

- A new Safety Culture Branch was created in July 2024. The team consists of a supervisor, three PURAs and one AGPA.

- The Branch recently completed the 2024 executive compensation structure reviews and is in the process of evaluating 2024 Safety Certification requests.

- A contract with National Safety Council (NSC) was executed and draft guidelines were published on 11/08/2024. An adoption meeting is scheduled for 12/16/2024.

- Due to the contract delays, the 2024 Safety Culture Assessments (SCAs) will not be issued in time for the 2024 Safety Certification issuance. Electrical Corporations will use their 2023 SCAs to demonstrate good standing for their 2024 Safety Certifications.

- 2024 Executive Compensation Structures were approved for PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, and BVES on 10/04/2024.

- Safety Certification Requests have been received from PG&E, SDG&E, SCE, and BVES and are currently under evaluation.

Risk Model Working Group

- Jensen Hughes onboarded as new contractor to assist with RMWG.

- RMWG meetings cancelled through the end of 2024.

- In the meantime, Jensen Hughes has scheduled introductions with the 6 ECs and 4 major stakeholders to solicit candid feedback on how to improve the structure of the RMWG for 2025.