

Southern California Edison
2025-WMPs – 2025-WMPs

DATA REQUEST SET Cal Advocates - SCE - 2025 WMP - 08

To: Cal Advocates
Prepared by: Bryan Landry
Job Title: Senior Advisor – Enterprise Risk Management
Received Date: 4/16/2024

Response Date: 4/19/2024

Question 02:

Your WMP Update at p. 45 states

As shown in the circuit-level risk data provided in Table 15 of the WMP Quarterly Data Reports, PSPS risk at the circuit level is far outweighed by wildfire risk in nearly every circuit.

- a) Please explain why PSPS risk is so low relative to wildfire risk in nearly every circuit.
- b) Please explain how your evaluation of a circuit's overall risk and mitigations would change if the PSPS risk were greater than the wildfire risk.
- c) Please explain how your evaluation of a circuit's overall risk and mitigations would change if the PSPS risk were equal to or near equal to the wildfire risk.

Response to Question 02:

a) Please explain why PSPS risk is so low relative to wildfire risk in nearly every circuit.

PSPS risk is relatively lower than wildfire risk for nearly every circuit for three reasons. First, SCE uses Public Safety Power Shutoffs (PSPS) as a measure of last resort as mitigation against wildfires driven by dry fuel and high wind conditions. There are several circumstances in which wildfires can occur in low/no-wind conditions that would not meet PSPS criteria. In such cases, PSPS consequence would be zero, where wildfire risk would be a non-zero number.

Second, SCE has mitigated a significant amount of PSPS risk on several circuits through the deployment of grid hardening measures. While the PSPS conditions may occur in some circumstances on these circuits (e.g. wind thresholds exceeding covered conductor thresholds), in nearly all cases, both the frequency and duration of PSPS events are likely to have been reduced.

Finally, and most importantly, wildfire risk including the associated loss of life and property, as well as the suppression and restoration costs associated with a wildfire event, far exceed any potential safety, economic and reliability harm associated with PSPS consequences when considered in the long-term planning context.

SCE also notes that the calculation of overall PSPS risk for the WMP is not the same as the short-term calculation of PSPS risk in the context of informing PSPS de-energization decisions. For additional detail, see Section 6 of SCE's 2023-2025 WMP.

b) Please explain how your evaluation of a circuit's overall risk and mitigations would change if the PSPS risk were greater than the wildfire risk.

For the reasons stated above, it is difficult for SCE to consider a scenario where PSPS risk for long-term planning is greater than wildfire risk. If wildfire risk was lower than PSPS risk, SCE would not consider PSPS as a mitigation, and therefore it would see no need to mitigate against PSPS risk.

c) Please explain how your evaluation of a circuit's overall risk and mitigations would change if the PSPS risk were equal to or near equal to the wildfire risk.

For the reasons stated above, it is difficult for SCE to consider a scenario where PSPS risk for long-term planning is equal to wildfire risk. If wildfire risk was equal to PSPS risk, SCE would not consider PSPS as mitigation, and therefore it would see no need to mitigate against PSPS risk.