

*Southern California Edison*

*WSD-011 – Resolution implementing the requirements of Public Utilities Code Sections 8389(d)(1), (2) and (4) related to catastrophic wildfire caused by electrical corporations subject to the Commission’s regulatory authority*

**DATA REQUEST SET Cal Advocates - SCE - 2021 WMP - 02**

**To: Cal Advocates**

**Prepared by: Alyssa Grigoryan**

**Job Title: Principal Manager, Aerial Inspections**

**Received Date: 1/22/2021**

**Response Date: 2/15/2021**

---

**Question 002:**

- a) How many SCE employees were qualified to perform drone inspections of transmission towers as of January 1, 2021?
- b) How many SCE contractors were qualified to perform drone inspections of transmission towers as of January 1, 2021?
- c) How frequently are SCE employee drone inspectors of transmission towers requalified?
- d) How frequently are SCE contractor drone inspectors of transmission towers requalified?
- e) Please respond to questions 2(a) and 2(b) with the appropriate numbers that correspond to January 1 of:
  - i. 2018.
  - ii. 2019.
  - iii. 2020.

**Response to Question 002:**

- a) Data collection from drone flights are separate from inspections of that data. The aerial inspection program does not utilize SCE employees to perform drone flights. The aerial inspection program uses external drone vendors to capture transmission tower photos. The imagery captured by the drone vendors is then delivered to SCE and inspected by a team of contractors, Qualified Electrical Workers (QEWs) and Engineers.  
As of January 1, 2021, there are 2 SCE employees qualified to perform transmission inspections.
- b) The Aerial Inspection Program uses two (2) drone vendors to perform transmission tower photo captures.  
As of January 1, 2021, there are nine (9) contractors qualified to perform transmission inspections of collected images.
- c) Data collection drone pilots (contractors) are required to obtain a Remote Pilot Certificate from the FAA under the FAA’s Small UAS Rule (Part 107).  
The SCE employees (QEWs) who are qualified to conduct inspections of transmission towers go through an annual aerial inspection training program. Starting 2021, this training program will be delivered annually, with quarterly refresher trainings.
- d) Data collection drone vendors undergo a one-time SCE vendor assessment by the Air Operations organization, responsible for aviation safety, prior to starting work for SCE. The vendor is responsible for annual training of Unmanned Aircraft Systems (UAS) personnel. SCE contractors who conduct inspections of transmission towers (QEWs or Engineers) undergo an annual onboarding aerial inspection training program when they start work. SCE holds

periodic meetings to review updates or changes to program or inspection requirements. Starting 2021, the contractor QEWs and Engineers will go through an annual training, and a quarterly refresher training throughout the year.

- e) These questions are answering the number of inspectors, not data collection crews.
  - i. 2018: The Aerial Inspection Program was not established.
  - ii. 2019: (a) average of 5; (b) average of 15.
  - iii. 2020: (a) 2; (b) 9.