

Southern California Edison
2023-WMPs – 2023-WMPs

DATA REQUEST SET Cal Advocates - SCE - 2023 WMP - 10

To: Cal Advocates
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Job Title: Principal Manager
Received Date: 4/11/2023

Response Date: 4/14/2023

Question 06:

Regarding PSPS and its relationship with Fast Curve settings:

- a) Please describe in detail the decision-making process for a scenario in which SCE anticipates PSPS conditions but decides to utilize Fast Curve settings instead.
- b) Please list all dates in 2021 and 2022 when SCE anticipated PSPS conditions but utilized Fast Curve settings instead, if this occurred.
- c) Please provide a narrative of the decision-making process for each instance listed in your answer to part (b) above.
- d) Please describe how SCE utilizes Fast Curve settings during a PSPS event period.

Response to Question 06:

- a) *Please describe in detail the decision-making process for a scenario in which SCE anticipates PSPS conditions but decides to utilize Fast Curve settings instead.*

PSPS and Fast Curve settings are distinct wildfire mitigations with different activation criteria and are not interchangeable. Fast Curve is not an alternative to PSPS, and SCE does not “utilize Fast Curve settings instead [of PSPS].”

PSPS is a planned, proactive response to a potentially hazardous weather event where forecasted wind and fire potential index (FPI) conditions are expected to meet or exceed established thresholds¹. Power is shut off proactively to eliminate the possibility of an ignition during dangerous fire weather (*i.e.*, PSPS) conditions that pose a risk to SCE’s customers and infrastructure. PSPS is used as a wildfire mitigation measure of last resort.

By contrast, Fast Curve is a device setting that allows a protective device (e.g., remote automated reclosers and circuit breaker relays) to react and de-energize a line more quickly than a standard setting if an issue is detected such as a palm frond contacting an energized conductor or there is an unexpected equipment failure on a pole. These settings are enabled as a baseline mitigation measure when the National Weather Service declares a Red Flag Warning (RFW) or

¹ See SCE’s Quantitative and Qualitative Factors for PSPS Decision-Making technical paper is available at https://download.newsroom.edison.com/create_memory_file/?f_id=609d61cbb3aed37d0f3d5f6a&content_verified=True

when SCE's meteorologists declare a fire weather threat (FWT) and/or fire climate zone (FCZ) threat based on seasonal analysis of fuels and fire history. By increasing the speed with which a protective relay reacts to fault currents, Fast Curve settings reduce the energy released by a fault, which in turn reduces the likelihood of an ignition. Unlike proactive de-energization, Fast Curve is reactive and does not prevent a fault from occurring in the first place.

In very dry and windy PSPS conditions when FPI and wind speeds breach PSPS thresholds, Fast Curve settings would not sufficiently mitigate wildfire risk. Accordingly, "a scenario in which SCE anticipates PSPS conditions but decides to utilize Fast Curve settings instead" does not exist. If a weather event is forecasted to exceed PSPS criteria, SCE activates for PSPS; if the forecasted fire weather conditions do not materialize during the period of concern, SCE does not de-energize any circuits.

- b) *Please list all dates in 2021 and 2022 when SCE anticipated PSPS conditions but utilized Fast Curve settings instead, if this occurred.*

N/A. Please see answer to part (a).

- c) *Please provide a narrative of the decision-making process for each instance listed in your answer to part (b) above.*

N/A. Please see answer to part (a).

- d) *Please describe how SCE utilizes Fast Curve settings during a PSPS event period.*

Please see, e.g., SCE's Post-Event Report for November 24, 2022 PSPS Event, Section 2-5, available at on.sce.com/PSPSposteventreports. As explained in part (a) above, activation of Fast Curve settings is dependent on weather and/or fuel conditions. If applicable criteria are met, Fast Curve settings will be activated on circuits by county, region, or zone (based on areas impacted by the RFW, FWT, or FCZ). This action is entirely independent of any decision to activate the PSPS protocol, which is based on a different set of established thresholds and criteria.