Southern California Edison
2022-WMPs – 2022 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates

DATA REQUEST SET C a l A d v o c a t e s - S C E - 2 0 2 2 W M P - 1 0

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Response Date: 3/25/2022

Question 01:
On p. 264 of SCE's 2022 WMP, SCE discusses the Wildfire Risk Reduction Model (WRRM). SCE states that,
when an isolable [circuit] segment is fully covered with covered conductor, the wind/gust thresholds on that segment will increase compared to today's wind/gust thresholds. The change in the thresholds has the indirect effect of reducing the PSPS frequency and PSPS risks associated with those conductor segments.
a) How does SCE determine the appropriate scale of change to gust/wind thresholds due to covered conductor installation on a circuit segment?
b) Since the start of 2021, has SCE changed the wind/gust threshold on any circuits or circuit segments due to covered conductor installation?

Response to Question 01:

a) SCE considers the lower of the National Weather Service's (NWS) wind advisory levels (defined as 31 mph sustained wind speed and 46 mph gust wind speed) or the 99th percentile of historical wind speeds to set activation thresholds for each circuit. The wind advisory level is chosen because debris or vegetation is likely to become airborne as described by the Beaufort Wind Scale, while a circuit's 99th percentile wind speeds represent extreme and unusual wind activity for the area. There are a handful of circuits that have legacy thresholds below the NWS advisory level because they have a history of local circuit outages at lower wind speeds.

   De-energization thresholds are raised for segments or circuits that have had covered conductor installed. The de-energization threshold for segments with covered conductor is 40 mph sustained/58 mph gusts which aligns with the National Weather Service high wind warning level for windspeeds at which infrastructure damage may occur. Other factors, such as maintenance issues, could lower the thresholds for specific events.

b) Yes.