

DATA REQUEST RESPONSE
Bear Valley Electric Service
R. 18-10-007: Wildfire Mitigation Plan Rulemaking

Response provided by: Marc Stern
Title: Operations and Planning Manager
Data Request Number: CalAdvocates-BVES-2020WMP-01
Date Received: February 19, 2020
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Received by email from CalPA Shelby Chase on February 19, 2020.
The following questions pertain to the BVES' 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP).

Question 1

Please clarify how BVES uses the terms “ignition” and “near miss” in BVES’s 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (and all associated data and metrics submitted to the Commission’s Wildfire Safety Division).

- a. Does BVES use the term “ignition” as synonymous with “CPUC-Reportable Event”?¹**

Response:
Yes.

- b. If the answers to question 1a is no, please provide BVES’s definition of “ignition” as used in BVES’s 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (and all associated data and metrics submitted to the Commission’s Wildfire Safety Division).**

Response:
Not applicable. See BVES response to question 1a.

Question 2

Please clarify how BVES uses the term “near miss” in BVES’s 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (and all associated data and metrics submitted to the Commission’s Wildfire Safety Division),

¹ D. 14-02-015, *Decision Adopting Regulations to Reduce the Fire Hazards Associated with Overhead Electric Utility Facilities and Aerial Communications Facilities*, issued February 5, 2014 in R.08-11-005, p. C-3:

“CPUC-Reportable Event” means “any event where utility facilities are associated with the following conditions: (a) A self-propagating fire of material other than electrical and/or communication facilities, and (b) The resulting fire traveled greater than one linear meter from the ignition point, and (c) The utility has knowledge that the fire occurred. Ignition Point is the location, excluding utilities facilities, where a rapid, exothermic reaction was initiated that propagated and caused the material involved to undergo change, producing temperatures greatly in excess of ambient temperature.”

- a. Does BVES use “near miss” as defined in the December 16, 2019 WMP Guidelines?²

Response:

Yes.

- b. If the answer to question 2a is yes, please explain how BVES determines whether an event entails “significant probability of ignition.”

Response:

BVES has very few potential “near misses.” Therefore, our subject matter experts are able to closely examine the specific and detailed circumstances of each one to determine if the event entails a “significant probability of ignition.”

- c. If the answer to question 2a is no, please provide BVES’s definition of “near miss” as used in BVES’s 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (and all associated data and metrics submitted to the Commission’s Wildfire Safety Division).

Response:

Not applicable. See BVES response to question 2a.

Question 3

Please explain how BVES distinguishes between an ignition and a Near Miss.

Response:

BVES considers an ignition as “any event where utility facilities are associated with the following conditions: (a) A self-propagating fire of material other than electrical and/or communication facilities, and (b) The resulting fire traveled greater than one linear meter from the ignition point, and (c) The utility has knowledge that the fire occurred.” BVES considers a “near miss” any event with a “significant probability of ignition” as describe above.

² *Administrative Law Judge’s Ruling on Wildfire Mitigation Plan Templates and Related Material and Allowing Comment*, R.18-10-007 December 16, 2019, Attachment 1, WMP Guidelines, (December 16, 2019 WMP Guidelines) p. 11.

“Near miss” means “An event with significant probability of ignition, including wires down, contacts with objects, line slap, events with evidence of significant heat generation, and other events that cause sparking or have the potential to cause ignition.”