



# California Public Utilities Commission

## Recent Actions Regarding October 2019 Wildfires and Utility PSPS Events

### **Public Safety Power Shut-Off (PSPS) Proceeding:** Order Instituting Rulemaking to Examine Electric Utility De-Energization of Power Lines in Dangerous Conditions

- On Oct. 14, 2019, California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) President Marybel Batjer ordered Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) to take a multitude of immediate corrective actions after it encountered significant problems with communication, coordination and management during the PSPS events of the week of Oct. 7, 2019.
  - CPUC President Batjer also directed PG&E to perform an after-action review and file weekly updates on corrective actions until all concerns have been addressed.
  - The CPUC also held an emergency meeting on Oct. 18, 2019 to hear from top PG&E executives about lessons learned from PSPS events of the week of Oct. 7, 2019 and what steps would be taken to ensure mistakes and operational gaps were not repeated.
- On Nov. 1, 2019, a CPUC Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a Ruling revising Phase II of this proceeding to review the PSPS guidelines adopted in Phase I and to accelerate consideration of utility grid investment to improve PSPS.
  - A ruling that will set the scope and schedule for Phase II is tentatively scheduled to be issued before the end of November.
- On Nov. 12, 2019, CPUC President Batjer and the ALJ assigned to the proceeding issued an Order to Show Cause to PG&E. This is an adjudicatory process that will examine PG&E's actions during its October 2019 PSPS events, particularly PG&E's communication with customers; PG&E's communication with local and tribal governments; and PG&E's coordination with communications entities.
  - A Pre-hearing Conference will be held on December 4, 2019.

### **Investigation of October PSPS Events of All Investor-Owned Utilities:** Order Instituting Investigation into the Oct. 2019 PSPS Events

- In the initial phase of this proceeding, the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division will investigate whether the actions of PG&E, Southern California Edison, San Diego Gas & Electric, Liberty Utilities/CalPeco Electric, Bear Valley Electric Service, a division of Golden State Water Company, and PacificPower, a division of PacifiCorp, prior to, during, and after the October 2019 PSPS events complied with the CPUC's existing de-energization regulations and requirements and will produce a public report.
  - On Nov. 13, 2019, the CPUC approved opening this investigation.
  - A second phase of this proceeding may open to pursue enforcement actions.

### **Telecommunications Emergency Response Proceeding:** Order Instituting Rulemaking Regarding Emergency Disaster Relief Program

- On Nov. 13, 2019, CPUC President Batjer and the ALJ assigned to the proceeding issued a Ruling setting a Pre-hearing Conference on Nov. 20, 2019, to question communication companies on their efforts to keep their systems functioning during the October PSPS. This Pre-hearing Conference will inform the development of a Scoping Memo for Phase II of this proceeding.
  - Phase II of this proceeding will establish rules focused on building a resilient communications network for functionality during emergencies. The topics include requirement of back-up battery power and generators at cellular towers and hardening communications infrastructure.

