

Attachment 1 - Staff summary of recent engagement with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

CPUC Rulemaking 18-12-005 (De-Energization)

This rulemaking was opened in December 2018 to examine de-energization issues, including best practices, notification protocols, utility coordination with state and local first responders, minimizing impact on vulnerable populations, reporting requirements, and other issues related to de-energization of utility power lines.

The County of Sonoma obtained party status to this Rulemaking, along with Napa County, Mendocino County and the City of Santa Rosa, and has successfully advocated to improve communication and coordination with local governments before and during de-energization events to ensure public safety priorities, and help protect the health and safety of Sonoma County residents.

In May 2019, the CPUC adopted [De-energization Guidelines](#) that reflect many of the County's comments and suggestions. Below is a summary of bullet points of the decision:

- Electric Utilities must submit progress reports on coordination, education, and outreach activities;
- Utilities are ultimately responsible and accountable for safe de-energization, notification, and communication throughout the de-energization event;
- De-energization educational materials and communications must be provided in English, Spanish, Chinese, Tagalog, Vietnamese, and Korean and Russian where those languages are prevalent in the utility's service territory;
- The 48-72 hours' advance notice to public safety partners is the minimum timeline;
- Public safety partners can provide secondary or supplemental notification to the general public to the extent they are willing and able;
- Supplemental or secondary notification provided by local governments does not supplant the utility's responsibility to provide notice to all customers;
- Utilities must have updated its public safety partner contact information at least two months before fire season each year, and must work with points of contact throughout the year to encourage information-sharing;
- Utilities do not need to share confidential information about medical baseline customers with local governments;
- Utilities must develop a plan to expand identification of AFN customers beyond those enrolled in existing utility programs in circumstances where local entities are not able to assist;
- Utilities must work with local jurisdictions to identify and communicate with people who are not listed on the utility account or who are visiting the area;
- PG&E must provide relevant geographic information, system data to local governments;
- Utilities must also provide "operational coordination" with public safety partners, if requested;

Attachment 1 - Staff summary of recent engagement with the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC)

- Uniform educational materials for de-energization must use the best practices in the California Alert and Warning Guidelines;
- Utilities must provide a GIS file to public safety partners via a secure data transfer process that provides the most accurate and specific information possible about the boundaries of the affected area;
- Utilities must provide the boundaries of the expected outage to the public on its home webpage;
- A utility liaison must be placed in the local EOC if requested, and to hold space in the utility EOC for local representatives;
- The CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division will develop a template for post-outage reporting; SED may solicit stakeholder input;
- The 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plans will include a "lessons learned" section on de-energization;
- Utilities must solicit input from stakeholders to develop protocols for de-energizing transmission lines

There will be a Phase 2 of the de-energization rulemaking, which will likely be opened in the next month or two. The County of Sonoma will continue to be involved in Phase 2, which will address the continued refinement of notification and communication measures, development of criteria for cooling/charging stations, evaluation of backup generation options, and consideration of cost responsibility for de-energization impacts and losses.