

*Southern California Edison*  
*2023-WMPs – 2023-WMPs*

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

**To: Cal Advocates**  
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**Response Date: 4/14/2023**

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**Question 02:**

Regarding Table 9-02 (Frequently De-energized Circuits), on WMP Appendix F (p. 859-869), for the following entries: 1, 4, 6, 20, 39, 43, 57, 59, 60, 62

- a) These entries state that SCE “implement[ed] operational protocol to raise PSPS windspeed thresholds.” Please describe this operational protocol.
- b) Please explain how implementing the operational protocol raised the PSPS wind thresholds on the affected circuits.
- c) Will the referenced operational threshold only work (i.e., reduce the need for or impact of PSPS events) for certain scenarios or all PSPS events going forward?
- d) Does the referenced change in operational protocol raise the wind threshold for the entire circuit or only selected customers?

**Response to Question 02:**

*a) These entries state that SCE “implement[ed] operational protocol to raise PSPS windspeed thresholds.” Please describe this operational protocol.*

This operational protocol refers to SCE’s circuit exception process, except in the case of Petit, which is explained in part b.

SCE raises PSPS wind speed thresholds or removes circuit segments from PSPS consideration altogether in situations where persistent or prevalent wildfire risk associated with these segments is temporarily abated or no longer exists, through a circuit exception process. While the potential for reducing PSPS based on circuit exceptions is much more limited than grid hardening activities, the exception process does not require installation or replacement of assets and, therefore, analysis and application of this option can typically be performed quicker than grid hardening activities when the latest information supports such exceptions. The circuit exception review process begins when SCE personnel identify a line segment which—despite being located in HFRA—might currently pose a very low risk for wildfire ignition or fire spread. For example, a portion of a circuit found to be traversing over a recent burn scar may be a candidate for circuit exception. Circuit segments can be identified as candidates for exception review as SCE begins preparing detailed designs for grid hardening activities, or through specific feedback received from field personnel. This process requires current and local knowledge of changing conditions to inform the circuit review process. Identified circuit segments are reviewed by SCE’s PSPS operations, fire science, and risk

management experts evaluating the circuit segment's unique characteristics (e.g., construction type, outage history) and location characteristics (e.g., fuel quantity, fuel type, fuel dryness, fuel age, history of fires in the area) to determine if that circuit segment can have raised thresholds despite not being fully covered, or if it can be exempt from PSPS monitoring and de-energization due to low wildfire risk.

*b) Please explain how implementing the operational protocol raised the PSPS wind thresholds on the affected circuits.*

While thresholds can change slightly from event-to-event based on current environmental and circuit characteristics, the general thresholds for each circuit are listed below, along with details of each circuit exception:

- Acosta: Raised thresholds on part of the circuit to 40 mph sustained winds or 58 mph wind gusts for 610 customers.
- Anton: Raised thresholds on part of the circuit to 40 mph sustained winds or 58 mph wind gusts for 70 customers.
- Atento: Raised thresholds on the entire circuit to 40 mph sustained winds or 58 mph wind gusts for 2,735 customers.
- Cuthbert: Raised thresholds on part of the circuit to 40 mph sustained winds or 58 mph wind gusts and removed part of the circuit from PSPS consideration, affecting a total of 1,711 customers.
- McKeveitt: Removed the entire circuit from PSPS consideration, affecting 291 customers.
- Petit: This is the only circuit where “operational protocol” changes do not refer to the circuit exception process. For the Petit circuit, SCE automated 1 existing switch, installed 1 new weather station and updated our circuit switching plan accordingly to increase flexibility and automation if PSPS de-energization is necessary.
- Tapo: Raised thresholds on the entire circuit to 40 mph sustained winds or 58 mph wind gusts for 1,374 customers.
- Twin Lakes: Raised thresholds on the entire circuit to 40mph sustained winds or 58 mph wind gusts for 840 customers.
- Vargas: Raised thresholds on part of the circuit to 40mph sustained winds or 58 mph wind gusts and removed part of the circuit from PSPS consideration, affecting a total of 1,651 customers.
- Zone: Raised thresholds on the entire circuit to 40mph sustained winds or 58 mph wind gusts for 949 customers.

*c) Will the referenced operational threshold only work (i.e., reduce the need for or impact of PSPS events) for certain scenarios or all PSPS events going forward?*

These thresholds generally apply to all PSPS events, subject to an annual review to help ensure that conditions still support the exception.

*d) Does the referenced change in operational protocol raise the wind threshold for the entire circuit or only selected customers?*

Circuit exceptions can apply to an entire circuit or just selected portions. Please see part b above for details for each circuit.