

Southern California Edison
2023-WMPs – 2023-WMPs

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To: Energy Safety
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Response Date: 5/18/2023

Question 01:

Regarding Vegetation Inspections

On page 375, Table 8-12, SCE summarizes one of its objectives as: “deploy consolidated inspection strategy and transition to circuits from grids.”

- a. Detail the difference between circuits and grids.
- b. What is the advantage of inspecting by circuit instead of grid?
- c. What was the feedback from the Independent Third-Party Evaluation that triggered and/or informed this forthcoming switch from grids to circuits?

Response to Question 01:

a. Detail the difference between circuits and grids.

Grids are SCE-defined geographic boundaries (typically polygon-shaped) that define a work area and may include multiple circuits. A circuit is the linear area from substation to substation, which spans from the initiation point to the termination point of the circuit.

b. What is the advantage of inspecting by circuit instead of grid?

The advantages of conducting inspections on a circuit basis include the ability to assign contractors to a complete circuit (even if the circuit traverses multiple districts), and integration with other wildfire mitigation efforts (e.g., PSPS).

In certain instances, there are advantages to conducting inspections on a grid basis. For example, conducting inspections on a grid-by-grid basis allows smaller, geographically adjacent bundles of work to be coordinated and measured for completion and invoiced on a more timely basis. This also helps in planning the work to maintain a normalized amount of contractor work volume on a monthly basis.

c. What was the feedback from the Independent Third-Party Evaluation that triggered and/or informed this forthcoming switch from grids to circuits?

The third-party evaluator observed that using a consistent, circuit-based approach for all VM activities (rather than a mix of grid-based and circuit-based) would be preferable as it could help

inform PSPS decision-making (which is done on a circuit-basis) and also allow designation of hazards along an entire circuit. SCE had been considering transitioning all inspections to circuits prior to the Independent Third-Party Evaluation.