

From: [Jennie Dusheck](#)
To: [ESRB Compliance Filings](#); [Tran, Lana](#); [Yergovich, Matthew](#); [Haro, Lea](#)
Subject: [EXTERNAL] Comments on Resolution M-4864
Date: Thursday, November 3, 2022 4:43:16 PM

CAUTION: This email originated from outside of the organization. Do not click links or open attachments unless you recognize the sender and know the content is safe.

Rachel Peterson, Executive Director California Public Utilities Commission

Dear Ms. Peterson:

I am a private landowner in Santa Cruz County, with multiple PG&E lines crossing my forested property.

I am writing to express my objection to allowing PG&E to exit Step 1 of the Enhanced Oversight and Enforcement Process. I have lived on my 10 acres since 1985 and so have worked with PG&E and its vegetation management contractors for 37 years. For decades, I have made every effort to collaborate with PG&E, but their subcontractors' performance on vegetation management has become ever worse.

The last two years have been the worst of the 37 years. I sincerely doubt that PG&E has met the conditions of its Corrective Action Plan.

Three different PG&E power lines run near my house: a high tension transmission line on towers; a 20,000-volt distribution line; and, within 30 feet of my house and within the branches of two oak trees, bare copper wires that serve my neighbors.

A year after I moved here, a downed transmission line caused a fire on my property that the fire department was afraid to approach for half an hour. Eight years later the bare copper wires set fire to the tops of a grove of small redwoods. In 2018, I hired a licensed timber operator to cut trees for fire prevention under a CalFire permit. A climber in a redwood next to my house was electrocuted when a limb across the bare copper lines and connected the tree he was in to the lines. The man was terribly burned and required repeated skin grafts. The uncoated lines are also part of a fuel ladder leading directly to my house.

I have repeatedly asked PG&E to underground these dangerous lines or at least replace them with coated lines, but they always put me off, including this year.

Since 2020, PG&E's subcontractor has repeatedly cut green branches and left them to dry out either hung up in the trees or on the ground below. The piles of dead branches under the power lines and adjacent to my house are much more of a fire hazard than the green limbs were. (Interestingly, the contractors keep volunteering that they are cutting dead limbs and then cut obviously green ones. That is, they lie to my face much more than during the previous 35 years.)

But the point is that, unlike in the past, they neither chip nor clear what they cut unless I chase them around for weeks or months. When I finally got them to come

back several months later, they chipped only what I dragged into piles for them on short notice. (I am 5'2" and 67 years old.) Much was left behind that I just didn't have the energy to pile for the tree guys. Honestly, despite 30 years of working on my defensible space, I can't keep up with PG&E's ever bigger piles of dead wood slash.

Additionally, vegetation management cut down two green trees under a transmission line and neither chipped nor lopped. That material is still there, dried out and increasing fire risk for the entire neighborhood, and blocking a fire trail my neighbors and I had established.

First, please keep PG&E in step 1 of until they have shown they can clean up the dead wood they actively create. Second, make PG&E eliminate bare copper lines like that on my property and upgrade other equipment to reduce fire risk. PG&E should not be released from any of their obligations until they make good faith efforts to reduce fire risk. Those of us on the ground are not yet seeing that.

Jennie Dusheck

Health & Climate, Writing & Editing

Ph: 831•427•1391

dusheck@gmail.com