

**PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
General Rate Case 2011 Phase I
Application 09-12-020
Data Response**

PG&E Data Request No.:	DRA_186-02b		
PG&E File Name:	GRC2011-Ph-I_DR_DRA_186-Q02b		
Request Date:	March 9, 2010	Requester DR No.:	DRA-186-TLG
Date Sent:	March 23, 2010	Requesting Party:	DRA
PG&E Witness:	Redacted	Requester:	Tamera Godfrey

SUBJECT: ELECTRIC DISTRIBUTION OPERATIONS AND MAINTENANCE EXPENSES FOR MWC BF, BG, AND BK

QUESTION 2B

PG&E forecasted \$40.712 million for MWC BF. This is an increase of \$7.487 million or 22.53% over 2008 recorded adjusted expenses of \$33.225 million. PG&E's MWC BF includes individual forecasts for ten subaccounts/line items. The questions below relate to the following five subaccounts/line items and forecast: \$4.984 million for Poles Patrolled, \$11.122 million for Poles Inspected, \$2.398 million for Enclosures Patrolled, \$10.464 million for Enclosures Inspected, and \$0.857 million for Poles Infrared Inspected.

- b) PG&E's poles patrolled between 2004 and 2008 have fluctuated each year and in the test year PG&E states that "units from 2008 to 2011 are projected to significantly decrease". Provide the documentation that explains in detail the reasons for the fluctuation between 2004 and 2008 and the reason for the significant decrease in 2011.

ANSWER 2B

PG&E has approximately 2.3 million poles in its service territory. Per General Order 165, poles in urban areas must be patrolled annually, and poles in rural areas need to be patrolled every two years. PG&E utilizes its plat maps in performing patrols. The plat maps provide PG&E with a means to manage work geographically to do this work. Therefore, the mix of plat maps and their corresponding unit counts from year-to-year differ as each division proceeds through its cycle. As a result, fluctuations of units from year to year are normal due to the PG&E's use of plat maps to identify the units for patrols for a specified year. Overall, however, the percent of poles patrolled/to be patrolled range year-to-year consistently range from 51% to 59%.

The table below shows recorded units for 2004 through 2008 and forecasted units for 2011 for poles patrolled. The 2011 forecast of units is in alignment with historical values. In addition, for the 2011 forecasted units, this forecast includes a 2% growth factor for poles counts (Exhibit (PG&E-3), Chapter 2, page 2-2, lines 1-2).

The reason PG&E referred to a “significant” decrease in the number of poles forecast to be patrolled in 2011 compared to 2008 is that 2008 was at the upper end of the historical range, and in fact was the second highest year in the table below. The difference between the 2008 recorded units and 2011 forecasted units is a decrease of 75,595 (6%).

Year	Units		PG&E GRC Exhibit 3, Chapter 2 Workpaper Reference
2004	1,367,737		Table 2-16, Workpaper page WP 2-21
2005	1,192,892		
2006	1,272,347		
2007	1,173,097		
2008	1,335,295		
2011	1,258,700		Table 2-26, Workpaper page WP 2-39