

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

PG&E Data Request No.:	DRA_206-05c		
PG&E File Name:	GRC2011-Ph-I_DR_DRA_206-Q05c		
Request Date:	March 12, 2010	Requester DR No.:	DRA-206-TLG
Date Sent:	April 2, 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 5c**

PG&E forecasted \$0.467 million for Insulator Washing in 2011 and this is an increase of \$0.290 million or 164% over 2008 expenses. PG&E forecasted 10,000 units in 2011 for Insulator Washing and this is an increase of 7,773 or 349% over 2008 units of 2,227.

- c) Provide the documentation that demonstrates the recorded number of pole fires due to contamination on the surface of electric insulators for 2004 through 2008 that were due to insulators not being washed in other areas, not including insulators in coastal areas which PG&E claims have a washing program in place.

**ANSWER 5c**

The documentation that demonstrates the recorded number of pole fires due to contamination on the surface of the electric insulators for 2004 through 2008 that were due to insulators not being washed in non-coastal areas is shown below.

**Outages Caused by Pole Fires  
Non-Coastal Areas  
2004-2008**

Year	Number of Outages Caused by Pole Fires
2004	138
2005	158
2006	165
2007	219
2008	256

PG&E does not have conclusive evidence that each of these outages were directly attributed to insulator contamination, because on scene field personnel are not always sure of the direct cause at the time that they report the information. The first responders to pole fires provide the outage cause information based on their experience and observations, which is entered into PG&E's database. Subject matter experts subsequently review and validate this input data from the field in a Division Outage Review Team meeting. If the team's review does not reveal other likely causes of the fire such as lightning in the area or the presence of associated overhead equipment fire, then the conclusion is that the insulator (since that is the only other thing at the top of the pole) either flashed over or tracked with enough leakage current to start a fire. The large majority of the incidents reviewed are judged to be a direct result of an insulator flashover or leakage current resulting from insulator contamination.