

CalPA Data Request 19.1

On pages 175-176 of its 2022 WMP, PacifiCorp states:

Some materials are more susceptible to fire and ignition than others, PacifiCorp can build a more resilient system by utilizing equipment which is more fire resistant by using alternate materials such as fiber glass or steel poles. As PacifiCorp identifies poles for replacement through the Line Rebuild program, described in section 7.3.3.3. PacifiCorp plans to mitigate the risk associated with wood poles by replacing them with more fire resilient materials.

Regarding your selection and installation of non-wood pole materials:

- (a) Please describe which non-wood pole materials you typically install for fire hardening in HFTD locations as of 2020.
- (b) Please explain how factors such as terrain, voltage, wildfire risk, or HFTD tier would affect your decision to select and install non-wood pole materials.
- (c) Please provide any analyses or studies that validate your assessment of the conditions where non-wood pole materials are the most reasonable and cost-effective option for fire hardening poles in HFTD locations.

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- (a) PacifiCorp primarily uses fiberglass poles during installation of fire hardening in high-fire threat district (HFTD) locations and steel poles as a secondary if fiberglass is deemed not applicable in a particular location or situation.
- (b) As a standard, if a pole is replaced as part of the line rebuild program, a non-wood material is selected for replacement. Load conditions and available pole sizes which determine if the poles are fiberglass or steel. PacifiCorp does not factor in terrain, voltage, wildfire risk, or HFTD tier when deciding on the material for a non-wood pole installation.
- (c) PacifiCorp has analyzed and studied wildfire mitigation plans from other utility's such as San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE) to help determine the most reasonable and cost-effective options when it comes to fire hardening poles. Replacing wood poles with fiberglass and steel provide increased fire resistance with more consistent strength. In the event of a fire event, wooden poles have the potential to become added fuel whereas fiberglass or steel do not contribute to such events and are a more fire-resistant material than wood.