



Notice of Staff Workshop

Research Needs on Wildfire: Ensuring Grid Resilience and Public Safety

California Energy Commission staff is requesting stakeholder input on potential research topics on wildfire related to ensuring grid resilience and public safety. Stakeholders may participate in person or online. The workshop will be held on:

Wednesday, July 25, 2018

9:00 a.m.

CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION

1516 Ninth Street

1st Floor, Imbrecht Hearing Room

Sacramento, California 95814-5512

Wheelchair Accessible

Remote Access Available by Computer or Phone via WebEx™
(Instructions below)

Background

In the last decade, California residents witnessed the largest, deadliest, and most destructive wildfires in state history. Wildfire risks are expected to increase as a result of climate change through hotter temperatures, greater moisture deficits—even in wetter years—and greater likelihood of prolonged drought, possibly associated with beetle-caused tree mortality. Wildfire is a significant concern to state government, local communities, and electric utilities.

The interaction of wildfire and the electricity system is twofold. First, wildfire can damage grid infrastructure. Second, failures of electrical equipment, such as falling conductors when trees make contact with the lines, can ignite fires, which under extreme weather conditions can lead to substantial loss of life and property. More extreme weather conditions associated with climate change are likely to lead to larger, more destructive fires. To protect public safety, the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) recently approved a High Fire-Threat District Map¹ that delineated areas where enhanced fire safety regulations for utilities will apply.

¹ ftp://ftp.cpuc.ca.gov/safety/fire-threat_map/2018/PrintablePDFs/8.5X11inch_PDF/High_Fire-Threat_District_Map_final.pdf

Acknowledging these urgent threats to grid resilience and public safety, Energy Commission staff and invited speakers will discuss the latest wildfire science and uncertainties, present ideas for near-term research to reduce those threats, and solicit stakeholder input to inform future Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) solicitations. A summary of this workshop will be included in the August 2, 2018 IEPR workshop on climate adaptation and resilience.

Agenda

The Energy Commission plans to discuss the following topics at this workshop to inform implementation of the *2018-2020 EPIC Triennial Investment Plan*:

1. The emerging science of wildfire with respect to climate change, including wind regime and tree mortality.
2. Current and prospective research concepts on measures to increase grid resiliency to wildfire.
3. Current and prospective research concepts on technologies and strategies to reduce the risk of wildfire ignitions by the electricity system.

Public Comment

Oral Comments: Oral comments will be accepted during the workshop. Comments may be limited to three minutes per speaker. Any comments may become part of the public record in this proceeding.

Written Comments: Written comments should be submitted by **5:00 p.m. on August 8, 2018**. Written comments will also be accepted at the workshop; however, the Commission may not have time to review them before the conclusion of the meeting.

Please note that your written and oral comments, attachments, and associated contact information (for example, address, phone number, and email address) become part of the viewable public record. Additionally, this information may become available via Google, Yahoo, and other search engines.

Written comments may be submitted by emailing them (include the workshop name in the subject line) to David Stoms, David.Stoms@energy.ca.gov.

If you prefer, you may send a paper copy of your comments to:

California Energy Commission
Attn: David Stoms
1516 Ninth Street, MS-43
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Public Adviser and Other Commission Contacts

The Energy Commission's Public Adviser's Office provides the public assistance in participating in Energy Commission proceedings. If you want information on how to participate in this forum, please contact the Public Adviser, Alana Mathews, at PublicAdviser@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4489, or toll free at (800) 822-6228.

If you have a disability and require assistance to participate, please contact Poneh Jones at poneh.jones@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4425 at least five days in advance.

Media inquiries should be sent to the Media and Public Communications Office at mediaoffice@energy.ca.gov or (916) 654-4989.

If you have questions on the subject matter of this meeting, please contact David Stoms at David.Stoms@energy.ca.gov or (916) 327-2381.

Remote Attendance

You may participate in this meeting through WebEx, the Energy Commission's online meeting service. Presentations will appear on your computer screen, and you may listen to audio via your computer or telephone. Please be aware that the meeting may be recorded.

VIA COMPUTER: Go to <https://energy.webex.com/>. If this event is shown on the list of events, click on its "Join" link. If it is not listed, click the "Unlisted Events" link on the left of your screen and enter the meeting number **922 407 211**. When prompted, enter your name and email address. No meeting password is needed.

The "Join Conference" menu will offer you a choice of audio connections:

1. To call into the meeting: Select "I will call in" and follow the on-screen directions.
2. International Attendees: Click on the "Global call-in number" link.
3. To have WebEx call you: Enter your phone number and click "Call Me."
4. To listen over the computer: If you have a broadband connection, and a headset or a computer microphone and speakers, you may use VoIP (Internet audio) by going to the Audio menu, clicking on "Use Computer Headset," then "Call Using Computer."

To join a meeting:

VIA TELEPHONE ONLY (no visual presentation): Call 1-866-469-3239 (toll-free in the U.S. and Canada). When prompted, enter the unique meeting number above. International callers may select their number from:

<https://energy.webex.com/energy/globalcallin.php>

VIA MOBILE DEVICES: Access to WebEx meetings is now available from your mobile device. To download an app, go to:

www.webex.com/products/web-conferencing/mobile.html

Please be aware that WebEx audio and on-screen activity may be recorded. WebEx Technical Support is available at 1 (866) 229-3239.

Availability of Documents

Documents and presentations for this meeting will be available online at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/research/notices/>.

Mail Lists:

EPIC listserv

Research listserv

Climatechange listserv