

Staff Workshop Agenda

Research Needs on Wildfire: Ensuring Grid Resilience and Public Safety

Wednesday, July 25, 2018, 9:00 AM to 12:00 PM

California Energy Commission
Charles Imbrecht Hearing Room

This staff workshop will provide an opportunity for stakeholders, interested federal, state, local agencies, and the public to participate in the shaping of research consistent with the Electric Program Investment Charge (EPIC) 2018-2020 Investment Plan.

Energy Commission staff will provide a perspective on energy-related climate/wildfire science and safety, with examples from current and potential future research initiatives under the EPIC program. Invited speakers and public participants will suggest how to enhance the practicality of the proposed research strategy to better inform climate adaptation planning and safety measures for the electricity sector. Research needs identified at this workshop will be summarized at the August 2, 2018 Integrated Energy Policy Report joint agency workshop. Information on the workshop can be found at http://www.energy.ca.gov/2018_energypolicy/documents/.

9:00 – 9:10 AM: Welcome and Introduction (Laurie ten Hope, Deputy Director, Research and Development Division, California Energy Commission)

Introduction and the purpose of the workshop.

9:10 – 9:50 AM: Emerging Fire Science (moderated by David Stoms, California Energy Commission)

The wildfire outbreaks in late 2017 were the largest, deadliest, and most destructive in the state's history. The combination of severe drought, record heat, and massive tree mortality has produced unprecedented conditions that threaten public safety, natural resources, and infrastructure. This session will set the scientific context for the sessions that follow on research ideas for the electricity system. It includes presentations on what fire scientists expect about wildfire in the future and the research being done to address the large uncertainties about this novel situation. Another presentation will discuss CPUC's new map of High Fire-Threat Districts and CAL FIRE's remapping of Fire Hazard Severity Zones.

Speakers:

- **John Battles**, Professor of Forest Ecology, University of California Berkeley
- **Dave Sapsis**, Wildland Fire Scientist, CAL FIRE
- **Dan Cayan**, Research Meteorologist, Scripps Institution of Oceanography

Discussion and questions from the audience

9:50 – 10:30 AM: Resilience of California's Electricity System to Wildfire

This session will present current research on the vulnerability of the electricity system to wildfire. It will also present prospective research topics described in the 2018-2020 EPIC Triennial Investment Plan that cover wildfire risk and grid resilience.

David Stoms, Research Lead on Environmental Science and Climate Change, California Energy Commission

Discussion and questions from the audience

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10:30 AM – 11:50 AM: Fire Safety and Prevention in the Electricity System (moderated by David Erne, Supervisor Energy Systems Research Office, California Energy Commission)

This session will discuss current practices and identify areas for focused research to reduce the risk of wildfires being ignited by the electricity system and strategies and technologies to reduce and mitigate that risk. The session seeks input from stakeholders on research priorities and how to maximize projects' usefulness to utilities and other stakeholders.

Speakers

- **Arthur O'Donnell**, Risk Assessment Supervisor, Safety and Enforcement Division, California Public Utilities Commission
- **Willie Thomas**, Planning, Design, Construction and Vegetation Management Program Manager, San Diego Gas and Electric
- **Paul Hauser**, General Manager, Trinity Power
- **Brian Chen**, Principal Manager, Grid Resiliency Program Management Office, Southern California Edison
- **Joe Herr**, Grid Integration & Innovation, Pacific Gas and Electric
- **Nicole Meyer-Morse**, Science and Technology Advisor, California Governor's Office of Emergency Services

Discussion and questions from the audience

11:50 PM – 12:00 PM: Next Steps and Concluding Remarks (David Erne)

Adjourn