

**BEAR VALLEY ELECTRIC SERVICE, INC.
DATA REQUEST**

Public Advocates Office Data Request

**No. CalAdvocates-BVES-2025WMP-05
Proceeding: 2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan Updates**

Date of issuance: Tuesday, April 16, 2024
Responses due: Friday, April 19, 2024

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DATA REQUEST

These questions relate to your 2025 WMP Update.

Question 1

In BVES' service territory, the oxygen concentration is roughly 30% lower than at sea level, which should correspondingly reduce the rate of fire spread.

- a) Does BVES take this into account when deciding whether to institute a PSPS event?
- b) If yes, how does BVES account for this fact?

RESPONSE:

- a) BVES does not take into account lower oxygen concentrations when deciding to institute a PSPS event. There is sufficient oxygen concentration to support wildfire combustion at the BVES' service territory altitude.
- b) Not applicable.

Question 2

For each of the following Notices of Violation from OEIS for 2023:

BVES_CAC14_20231024_1020_1
BVES_CAC15_20231025_1031_1
BVES_CAC15_20231026_1009_11

Please provide:

- a) What voltage the relevant conductor was at.
- b) Photographs of the incident from before and after correction. If there are more than 10 photographs, please provide the 10 most relevant photographs.
- c) The documentation from the most recent patrol before OEIS discovered the vegetation contact.

RESPONSE:

BVES_CAC14_20231024_1020_1

- a) 4Kv
- b) Please refer to "Before BVES.CAC14.20231024.1020.1" and "After BVES.CAC14.20231024.1020.1" for the before and after pictures.
- c) Please refer to "Patrol record BVES.CAC14.20231024.1020.1". This document shows the most recent patrol inspection of this circuit on 9-26-2022 before OEIS discovered the vegetation contact on 10-24-23. However, this segment of line causing the Notice of Violation had been replaced after the Patrol Inspection was completed.

BVES_CAC15_20231025_1031_1

- a) 4Kv
- b) Please refer to "After pictures of BVES.CAC15.20231025.1031.1". BVES found and mitigated this finding on routine vegetation management cycle on 11/21/2023. OEIS did

not send this request until to BVES until 2/27/2024. For this location, only after photos were taken because it was a level 1 priority and BVES line crews were dispatched immediately to remove the highest risk tree limbs. After the line crews removed the immediate threat, Vegetation management crews were dispatched to create the proper clearances.

c) Please refer to “Patrol record BVES.CAC15.2023.1025.1031.1”. This patrol was finished on 3-29-2023 before OEIS discovered the vegetation contact of this circuit on 10-25-23.

BVES_CAC15_20231026_1009_11

a) 4Kv

b) Please refer to “After pictures of BVES.CAC15.20231026.1009.11”. For this Location, only after photos were taken because it was a level 1 priority and BVES line crews were dispatched immediately to remove the highest risk tree limbs. After the line crews removed the immediate threat, Vegetation management crews were dispatched to create the proper clearances.

c) Please refer to “Patrol record BVES.CAC15.20231026.1009.11” for the patrol record. The most recent patrol of this circuit was completed on 6-28-2023 before OEIS discovered the vegetation contact on 10-26-23. However, this segment of line causing the Notice of Violation had been replaced after the Patrol Inspection was completed.

Question 3

For discontinuities in conductors such as splices, taps, dead-ends, and distribution transformer attachments:

- a) When BVES uses covered conductor, are these sections of conductor completely covered?
- b) Please provide BVES’ procedures for installing conductor covering (whether or not that is full insulation) for conductor discontinuities, including but not limited to splices, taps, dead-ends, and distribution transformer attachments.

RESPONSE:

- a) BVES construction standards require sections of conductor to be completely covered.
- b) Depending on pole configurations, electric tape, raptor protection covers with extension or split covers are installed over the discontinuities in covered conductor locations.

Question 4

Please provide BVES’ plan for load shedding, in the event of a loss of power supply from SCE, to ensure the maximum number of critical facilities receive power.

RESPONSE:

Please refer to “BVES INC EmergencyResponseAndDisasterPlan Rev2”. Load shedding in the event of loss of power supply from SCE is addressed as part of Section 4 Emergency Response Procedures. Table 4-5: Actions for Loss of Supplies addresses the BVES response to loss of power supply from SCE. Table 4-3: Restoration Priorities for Sub-Transmission Circuits, Substations, and Distribution Circuits identifies the circuits on a priority basis. A “Rolling blackout” or “Load shedding” procedure would be in accordance circuit priorities set in Table

4-3. On a loss of SCE power supplies, all load is lost. The Bear Valley Power Plant is lined up for Black Start which essentially sheds all load except one circuit, so that the engines may be started without overloading. Once running load is picked in accordance with the circuit priorities in Table 4-3, Rolling blackouts may be invoked to keep load with the power plant capacity. Circuits that are subject to rolling blackouts are the priority 3 and 4 circuits.

END OF REQUEST