

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Examine Electric
Utility De-Energization of Power Lines in Dangerous
Conditions.

Rulemaking 18-12-005
(Filed December 13, 2018)

**BEAR VALLEY ELECTRIC SERVICE, INC. (U 913 E)
PHASE 2 GUIDELINES PROGRESS REPORT**

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I. Introduction

Pursuant to Decision (D.) 20-05-051, Ordering Paragraph 4, Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. (BVES) presents below its second of two reports on the progress of the implementation of the Phase 2 updated and additional guidelines for the de-energization of electric facilities in mitigating wildfire risk. BVES' second progress report follows the guidelines set forth in D.20-05-051, Appendix A.

BVES submitted its first report in July 2020. In the following four months from August 1 through November 30, 2020, BVES has not initiated a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event.

II. Phase 2 Guidelines Progress Report

As required by D.20-05-051, this second report provides details regarding BVES' progress towards implementing the guidelines set forth in Appendix A to D.20-05-051. The nine sections of Appendix A are addressed in greater detail below.

A. Working Groups and Advisory Boards

1. Advisory Boards

On August 7, 12, 20 and September 3, 9 and 15, 2020, BVES held a virtual meeting with the following stakeholders acting as an Advisory Board:

- Local officials (City of Big Bear Lake (CBBL) and San Bernardino County)
- State officials (normally California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) Energy Division and Safety Enforcement Division)
- San Bernardino County Office of Emergency Services (County OES)
- Big Bear Fire Department
- California Department of Forestry and Fire Protection (CAL FIRE)
- U.S. Forest Service
- San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Big Bear Lake Patrol Station
- California Highway Patrol (CHP) Arrowhead Area
- California Department of Transportation (Caltrans)
- Big Bear Area Regional Wastewater Agency (BBARWA)
- Big Bear City Community Services District (CSD)
- Big Bear Lake Water Department (DWP)
- Big Bear Municipal Water District (MWD)
- Southwest Gas Corporation
- Bear Valley Community Hospital
- Bear Valley Unified School District
- Big Bear Chamber of Commerce
- Big Bear Airport District
- Big Bear Mountain Resort

In addition, BVES has reached out to local communication companies, however, they have not attended any events.

At the meetings, BVES made presentations and held open forums to discuss BVES' emergency response, all aspects of PSPS, and its Wildfire Mitigation Plan and strategy.

2. **Regionalized Working Group (RWGs)**

On December 3, 2020, BVES management participated in Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) Public Safety Power Shutoff Working Group – CalOES Region VI. The virtual meeting lasted for 90 minutes. In the meeting BVES requested the contact information of the SCE manager who supervises the transmission line and related circuits that connect SCE's

system in Apple Valley with BVES' system in Big Bear Lake. One of the lessons learned from its own PSPS tabletop simulation requires that BVES must have a direct contact with SCE supervisors in charge of circuits that are connected to BVES' own system. BVES must know which SCE circuit is affected and how long the PSPS event will last.

B. De-energization Exercises

BVES completed its first de-energization exercise on June 26, 2020. Due to COVID-19 concerns, the exercise was conducted as a tabletop online meeting. The de-energization exercise was simulated and did not disrupt power to BVES' customers. The results of the exercise were discussed with key stakeholders and CPUC staff. Lessons learned are being used to refine the design and implementation of de-energization program elements. The exercise presentation is made available as part of BVES' Emergency Response Plan, which is also included in BVES' GO-166 2020 Annual Report.

C. Who Should Receive Notice, When Should Notice Occur, and How Should Notice Occur?

BVES has never initiated a PSPS event within its service territory. BVES has posted SCE's PSPS information on its website, Facebook page, and has issued press releases to local media outlets. Should a PSPS event occur in BVES' service area, notices will also be sent through BVES' interactive voice response (IVR) and two-way text messaging system. BVES will update public information as it becomes available and make the location and times of the affected areas available to the public through the same information outlets. Local media, members of Advisory Board and Community Based Organizations will be notified as soon as information becomes available.

BVES has reviewed the technology requirements with its IT team and will reach out to the California Department of Technology (CDT) to ensure its hosted website provider and server

meets the requirements necessary for effective and uninterrupted communication to the general public regarding PSPS events. Since BVES has not experienced a PSPS event, and based on its relatively small service territory, one of BVES management's critical tasks is to ensure that the hosted server will not be flooded and unable to respond.

Should a PSPS event occur, BVES will provide information to communication carriers about the location and the estimated period of times the de-energization and re-energization events will occur.

D. Community Resource Centers

BVES has reached out to several businesses, public entities, and non-government organizations (NGOs) to assess their interest in partnering with BVES and hosting a Community Resource Center (CRC). Some of the facilities that BVES has approached include the local public library, hotels, and city health care facilities. BVES has also evaluated its own facilities.

As all of the third-party site providers have declined to participate in a CRC, BVES plans to host the CRC on its property. BVES will set up a mobile tent equipped with electrical outlets for phone charging, Wi-Fi, radio news, television, seating arrangement, water, and snacks. BVES has the capability to host a reasonable number of the affected public and plans to adhere to social distancing requirements.

In prior years during winter storms BVES had worked through the Bear Valley Mountain Mutual Aid Association (Mutual Aid Association) to offer assistance to affected populations. Should a PSPS event occur in its service territory, BVES will call on the Mutual Aid Association for its assistance.

E. Restoration of Power Service upon Conclusion of Public Safety Need for De-energization

BVES ensures that any loss of electric service due to outages, including PSPS, is restored as soon as safe and possible. In the case of a PSPS event that impacts service points, power loss is restored as soon as possible, and typically within hours from the termination of the PSPS event, unless it is unsafe to do so. Due to its small service territory, BVES crews are able to quickly patrol and restore electric service, generally in less than 24 hours, provided no damage occurred to facilities during the PSPS event. Service will be restored only after facilities have been properly inspected and determined to be safe.

F. Transportation, Communications, and Water System Resilience

BVES' PSPS Plan provides for the notification of transportation, communication, and water system providers of impending PSPS events through the same measures described above in Section II.C. BVES has confirmed that these organizations have backup generation and are capable of sustaining their services during a PSPS event. This includes local radio, cell phone towers, and water and wastewater facilities.

G. Medical Baseline and Access and Functional Needs Populations

BVES has reached out to mobile home parks located in its service area to ensure that mobile home park residents are being served correctly with regard to any medical baseline conditions. Most mobile home parks have master metered accounts and residents of these mobile home parks share a master electric bill which is included in the lease. This billing structure does not provide BVES any direct or relevant information about the resident medical conditions or situation. As a result, BVES has increased its efforts to gather information about residents who are served behind-the-meter to assess whether they are medical baseline or Access and Functional Needs (AFN) customers.

BVES also distributed an AFN flyer that was mailed to all residential customers on file to help determine whether any AFN person(s) is part of that household. This outreach effort will help establish a census of the AFN population, which can be combined with data from medical baseline customers to allow emergency medical services teams, firefighters, and the sheriff's deputies to respond quickly during PSPS events and emergency situations.

BVES has distributed the following notice requesting its customers to:

“Help us keep your family safe and informed during an emergency by updating your contact information with Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. It’s especially important to keep us informed of any Access and Functional Needs (AFN) members of your household, so we can ensure you get timely AFN updates and alerts. Every second matters during an emergency event – please update your information today!

AFN Population

Any member of your household who are/have:

- *Physical, developmental or intellectual disabilities*
- *Chronic conditions or injuries*
- *Limited English proficiency*
- *Older adults*
- *Children*
- *Low income, homeless and/or transportation disadvantaged (i.e., dependent on public transit)*
- *Pregnant individual*

How to Update Your Information

Visit www.bvesinc.com/contact-us if you have an individual with AFN in your household. Please provide the following information in the ‘comments’ box: name, phone number, service address, mailing address, email address and note that this comment is for AFN.

You can also call a Customer Service Representative at 800-808-2837 to update your contact information.”

In addition, BVES has coordinated with the fire department, city, and county agencies for assistance on obtaining a list of AFN populations. To date, due to privacy issues, BVES has been unable to collect data on AFN populations, but BVES is still pursuing its efforts.

H. Transparency

BVES recognizes the importance of transparency in any reporting of de-energization events and it will include a thorough and detailed description of the quantitative and qualitative factors it considered in calling, sustaining, or curtailing each de-energization event. Information about the PSPS event will include the reasons why the de-energization was a last resort option, and also an explanation of the factors that led to the conclusion of the de-energization.

BVES has posted on its website all information regarding details of the PSPS Plan and the Wildfire Mitigation Plan, as well as information related to emergency response. Customers can query about the noted plans at the following sites:

<https://www.bvesinc.com/safety/wildfire-mitigation-plan/>

<https://www.bvesinc.com/safety/public-safety-power-shutoff/>

BVES' PSPS Plan includes specific short, medium, and long-term actions that it should take to reduce the impact of and the need for PSPS events to mitigate wildfire risk. This information will be made available and easily accessible on BVES' public website.

I. Definitions

BVES has posted its PSPS Plan and Wildfire Mitigation Plan on its website. Both plans list critical facilities to ensure 9-1-1 emergency services receive priority notification and any additional assistance necessary to ensure resiliency during de-energization events. Regarding the transportation sector, both plans note the assistance of the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department Big Bear Lake Patrol Station and the California Highway Patrol (CHP) Arrowhead Area.

III. Conclusion

BVES believes its efforts to date will help minimize impacts of de-energization events on its customers, while still providing reliable and safe service and mitigating wildfire risks. BVES expects to make additional progress on implementing the Commission's de-energization guidelines.

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Respectfully submitted,

By: _____ /s/

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