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Ahead of Wildfire Season, PG&E to Begin Construction on Microgrids in El Dorado County

Local microgrids to power key community resources in Georgetown and Pollock Pines when a Public Safety Power Shutoff is needed

SACRAMENTO, Calif.— Today, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) announced that it soon will begin construction on two microgrids in El Dorado County, designed to provide electricity to certain customers and shared community resources using temporary generation during future Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events.

The temporary microgrid generation sites in Georgetown and Pollock Pines were identified and selected through an extensive process involving the analysis of prior and expected future PSPS events, along with overall feasibility and other utility work in the region that could reduce PSPS impacts.

“The Georgetown and Pollock Pines microgrids are two of several being developed across PG&E’s service area in 2020 as a part of the company’s comprehensive actions to reduce wildfire risks across our system and minimize the impact of public safety outages on our customers and communities,” said Debbie Powell, vice president, Asset & Risk Management, Community Wildfire Safety Program, PG&E. “Our specific objective with the development of temporary microgrids is to provide electricity to resources such as medical facilities and pharmacies, police and fire stations, gas stations, banks, markets and other shared community services when weather conditions make it unsafe to operate the grid.”

The new microgrid backup generation site in Georgetown is located near the South Street/Orleans Street intersection. PG&E will be able to rapidly connect mobile generators to the site, allowing the downtown district (including a fire station, gas station, radio station, post office, bank, community center, markets, hotels, and restaurants among other businesses, facilities and community services) to remain energized during future PSPS events impacting the area. The Georgetown temporary microgrid energization zone includes approximately 50 PG&E customers in the general vicinity of Main Street, extending between Harkness Street and Georgetown Road.

The new microgrid backup generation site in Pollock Pines is located at the First Baptist Church Of Pollock Pines on the corner of North Street and Pony Express Trail. It will allow the downtown district (including a fire station, pharmacy, bank, markets, hardware store, electric vehicle charging stations, and restaurants among other businesses, facilities and community services) to remain energized during future PSPS events impacting the area. The Pollock Pines

temporary microgrid energization zone includes more than 50 customers along Pony Express Trail, extending between North Street and Center View Drive.

Weather conditions and other operational considerations prevent PG&E from guaranteeing electricity to all customers potentially served by these temporary microgrids during all PSPS conditions or scenarios.

PG&E anticipates construction on both microgrid generation sites to be completed with fully operational islanding capabilities in July 2020. Islanding refers to the ability of a microgrid to disconnect from the larger power grid: when the power is turned off during a broader grid outage, the area supported by the microgrid may still remain energized and can operate autonomously.

While performing this critical safety work during the COVID-19 pandemic, crews will maintain proper social distance recommendations and wear protective equipment when necessary to help safeguard the health and safety of themselves and the general public.

PG&E customers in the vicinity of the construction sites will receive an automated, courtesy phone call from PG&E notifying them of the work taking place.

Customers who are within the temporary microgrid energization zone will receive a separate communication from PG&E, notifying them of their inclusion in the microgrid and informing them of how it will operate during a PSPS event.

In addition to deploying temporary microgrids, which are primarily designed to keep shared community services energized, PG&E is working towards a number of improvements to make PSPS events less impactful for customers, these include:

- Sectionalizing and Reconfiguration: Installing more than 600 sectionalizing devices this year capable of re-directing power and limiting the size of outages. PG&E is also analyzing its grid configuration to ensure as few customers as possible are impacted by future PSPS events.
- Substation Microgrids: Establishing temporary microgrids at substations that will allow PG&E to safely provide electricity using temporary generation during a PSPS event. These microgrids are designed to serve the portions of communities that are most critical and/or benefit the largest numbers of customers.
- Community Resource Centers: Providing customers impacted by PSPS events with a climate-controlled environment and a space to charge electronic devices and receive refreshments.

Learn more about PG&E's wildfire safety efforts by visiting [pge.com/wildfiresafety](https://www.pge.com/wildfiresafety).

About PG&E

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of [PG&E Corporation](https://www.pge.com) (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric energy companies in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with more than 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to nearly 16 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit www.pge.com/ and www.pge.com/en/about/newsroom/index.page.

