MGRA DATA REQUEST
MGRA-SDG&E-DR-05
SDG&E 2016 GRC – A.14-11-003
SDG&E RESPONSE
DATE RECEIVED: APRIL 27, 2015
DATE RESPONDED: MAY 5, 2015

MGRA-80 In regard to the Decision Matrix provided in response to MGRA-35, please provide the following clarification:
The risk scoring calculation uses an Excel spreadsheet that uses the following formula:
=M$4*M6+N$4*N6+O$4*O6+P$4*P6+Q$4*Q6+R$4*R6+S$4*S6+T$4*T6+U$4*U6+V$4*V6+W$4*W6+X$4*X6+Y$4*Y6+Z$4*Z6+AA$4*AA6+AB$4*AB6+AC$4*AC6-(J6/100000)
In this formula, 'J6' is a reference to the circuit segment length. However, the circuit segment length, in miles, divided by 100,000 results in a negligible contribution to the scoring term. Is this term in error? What is the intent of including a length term?

SDG&E Response:

The intent of the term "j6/100000" is to act as a tiebreaker in certain situations – which allowed for ranking consistency and a better utilization of the Microsoft Excel function called "rank". While developing the inputs and weightings of the inputs, there were occasions when more than one line segment received equal Scores. The term "j6/100000" was used to ensure that there were no exactly tied Scores. Having non-identical Scores allows the ranking of the each line to remain consistent whenever sorted by the Score. The column titled "Rank" utilizes the Microsoft Excel function called "rank" which requires unique values in order to generate strictly increasing values. If Scores on multiple line segments were identical, the "rank" function would give those line segments the same value - which SDG&E considered undesirable. A term was chosen small enough so that it would not affect the score when shown with 2 digits after the decimal.

The decision to use a negative value (i.e. to subtract the term "j6/100000") was made while considering density of risk. Consider two line segments in situations of an equal absolute amount of risky assets/exposure. The longer line segment will be less dense of risk. As an example, a line segment with 100 trees spread out over 10 miles is less dense than 100 trees spread out over 5 miles.

The length term in the Score equation was included solely for the purpose described in this response.

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MGRA-81 In regard to the fire history data provided in the amended response to our question MGRA-67: We provided SDG&E the option of withholding any fire data points that were in contention or being litigated. Did SDG&E withhold any fires from the list, and if so, how many and in what years did they occur?

SDG&E Response:

The list that was provided in the amended response to MGRA-67 contained electric distribution events, no distribution events were withheld. The list did not contain 58 electric transmission events from 2008-2014. Electric transmission costs are not within the scope of this GRC; that notwithstanding, these are the years of occurrence:

7 in 2008
7 in 2009
12 in 2010
8 in 2011
11 in 2012
8 in 2013
5 in 2014

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MGRA-82 In regard to the FTZ Decision matrix provided in SDG&E's response to MGRA-35, is the ranked list used to determine either prioritization or the extent of SDG&E's vegetation management program? Is the tree-trimming program more extensive or aggressive along circuit segments with high risk scoring?

SDG&E Response:

No, the FTZ matrix was not used to determine either the prioritization or the extent of SDG&E's vegetation management program.

The vegetation management program consists of more extensive and aggressive level of tree-trimming in the Highest Risk Fire Areas (HRFA). In the HRFA, SDG&E performs an additional tree patrol in the months prior to fall, prior to most severe time of the fire season. SDG&E inspects the HRFA twice annually.

During all routine tree inspections, we assess for adequate clearance between vegetation and conductors, and inspect for any hazard trees (i.e., dead, diseased, dying, structural defects). In the HRFA the hazard tree inspection is even more concerted where we do a 360 degree look at all trees within the 'strike zone' of the conductors. In the HRFA, we also inspect lower voltage conductors such as secondary triplex for vegetation encroachments or line strain.

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MGRA-83 Regarding SDG&E's list of FiRM related projects provided in the response to MGRA-54 and MGRA-55, we note that there are noticeably fewer such projects listed for 2012 and 2013 than there are for 2009-2011 and 2014. What is the reason that there are fewer listed projects in these calendar years?

SDG&E Response:

The volume of work is not defined by the amount of projects undertaken in any given year as projects vary in size and scope. Years that realized the highest volume of projects consisted of many projects that were small in scale, and years that realized fewer projects consisted of projects that were larger in scale.