

Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. ("BVES")

DATA REQUEST

Request Date: Monday, June 10, 2024

Response Due: Thursday, June 13, 2024

To: Jon Pecchia, Utility Manager
Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.
PO Box 1547
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Cc: Paul Marconi, Bear Valley
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Data Request Number: OEIS-P-WMP_2024-BVES-004

Subject(s):

- Q01. Regarding Remote Sensing for Vegetation Management
- Q02. Regarding Maturity Survey Responses
- Q03. Regarding Cross-Utility Collaboration Meetings
- Q04. Regarding Collaboration with Liberty Utilities and PacifiCorp
- Q05. Regarding 2025 Projected Capital Expenditures

REQUEST

Q01. Regarding Remote Sensing for Vegetation Management

- a. In BVES's 2025 WMP Update, it introduces a new program AiDash which "uses satellite imaging providing a rapid assessment of BVES's service territory and insight into whether vegetation should be assessed or moved up in priority for upcoming... inspections."¹
 - i. What assessment(s) and insight(s) are AiDash providing BVES?
 - ii. Is AiDash identifying vegetation-related risks (e.g., clearance issues or hazard trees)? If so, what types of risk is AiDash identifying?
- b. In BVES's 2023-2025 WMP, BVES describes its LiDAR inspections: "BVES conducts one LiDAR sweep per year to evaluate the effectiveness of clearance efforts and identify potential wildfire hazards... LiDAR... uses a system of lasers and software...to accurately determine vegetation clearances to conductors."²
 - i. Compare and contrast BVES's use of LiDAR and AiDash for vegetation management applications noting similarities and differences between detection capabilities, timing of data collection, outputs, use of those outputs, and cost of these programs.

RESPONSE:

- a. AiDash provides BVES with a survey of all trees within striking distance of the lines. The survey identifies possible grow-in risks and fall-in risks and analyzes the health of trees within striking distance. Year-over-year surveys can analyze declines in tree health that may help BVES identify trends of areas that may have higher risk of tree mortality. AiDash also uses an AI model that forecasts vegetation growth to help BVES plan future VM work.
- b. The LiDAR survey is very precise and is able to identify individual encroachments with details on the approximate distance from BVES assets. The AiDash survey provides more of an overview of the entire system. AiDash is a quicker inspection, whereas LiDAR takes approximately 3 months to conduct the fieldwork and complete the analysis. The findings for AiDash are on a span level versus an exact location, which LiDAR provides. One benefit that AiDash provides is that it analyzes all vegetation throughout the service territory as opposed to LiDAR, which only analyzes 12 feet on each side of the conductors. LiDAR does incur a heavier cost than AiDash but has proven to be an invaluable tool for BVES with 4 years of surveys. AiDash has only conducted one survey for BVES. Both inspections, which are different as discussed above, have provided BVES with very useful data to identify vegetation issues.

Q02. Regarding Maturity Survey Responses

- a. BVES did not respond to 61 questions in Category A – Risk Assessment and Mitigation Strategy in its 2024 response to the Maturity Survey.
 - i. Please provide an explanation for the missing survey responses.

¹ BVES's 2025 WMP Update (May 29, 2024), p. 10

² Bear Valley's 2023-2025 WMP (Rev. #2, Nov. 16, 2023), p. 199.

RESPONSE:

- a.i. It was not BVES’s intention to leave any questions blank. BVES has reviewed the completed survey and had responses for the blank questions. BVES initially skipped many risk-model-related survey questions pending technical support from its risk modeling contractor, Technosylva. BVES went back through each section to answer the skipped questions. It appears BVES did not save the responses correctly and hit the submit button before all the questions were fully answered. This omission was an administrative error.

BVES will send the Energy Safety Deputy Director a request for permission to file an amendment to its previously submitted survey response to the survey questions for which no response was provided.

Q03. Regarding Cross-Utility Collaboration Meetings

- a. On page 378, Table 8-63 Best Practice Sharing with Other Electrical Corporations, row 4 of its redlined 2023-2025 WMP, BVES stated that since 2023, it has met with PG&E, SDG&E, and SCE under the best practice subject category “WMP Joint IOU.”³ Please respond with the following:
- i. The number of times BVES has met with PG&E, SDG&E, and SCE under this category.
 - ii. The meeting dates and times of these meetings.
 - iii. The meeting agendas (including items for discussion).
 - iv. Whether the meetings stated above were hosted by BVES, PG&E, SDG&E, or SCE.
 1. If the meetings were hosted by an entity other than the IOUs listed above, please state which entity.
 - v. Whether the meetings were open only to the attending IOUs, or if they were open to other stakeholders.
 - vi. Whether these meetings are set to recur in the future.

RESPONSE:

- i. BVES has attended three meetings under this category with PG&E, SDG&E, and SCE.
- ii. BVES attended the above-mentioned meetings on January 12, 2024, March 13 & 14, 2024, and May 8 & 9, 2024.
- iii. The meetings are designed to discuss WMP content Including, but not limited to:
 - Topic identification for benchmarking
 - Maturity Model and Maturity Survey
 - Quarterly Data Reports
 - Targets and Objectives
 - Annual Report on Compliance (ARC)
 - Energy Safety Workshops
 - Discovery
 - Independent Evaluator
 - Change Order
 - Joint Comments
 - Joint write ups in WMP

³ BVES’s 2025 WMP Update Redline (May 29, 2024), p. 376.

- Verifiable Statements
 - OEIS Guidelines
 - ACI/Remedies for ACI
- iv. Each meeting was hosted by PG&E, SDG&E, or SCE.
 - v. The meetings are open to other IOUs. No other stakeholders have been invited.
 - vi. BVES plans on continuing to participate in future meetings.

Q04. Regarding Collaboration with Liberty Utilities and PacifiCorp

- a. On page 378, Table 8-63 Best Practice Sharing with Other Electrical Corporations of BVES's redlined 2023-2025 WMP⁴ did not include any meetings with PacifiCorp or Liberty Utilities. Has BVES met with PacifiCorp or Liberty Utilities since 2023 regarding matters related to the WMP? If yes, please state:
 - i. The number of times BVES has met with PacifiCorp and Liberty Utilities under this category.
 - ii. The meeting dates and times of these meetings.
 - iii. The meeting agendas (including items for discussion).
 - iv. Whether the meetings stated above were hosted by BVES, PacifiCorp or Liberty Utilities.
 - v. If the meetings were hosted by an entity other than the IOUs listed above, please state which entity.
 - vi. Whether the meetings were open only to the attending IOUs, or if they were open to other stakeholders.
 - vii. Whether these meetings are set to recur in the future.
- b. If no, please state:
 - i. If BVES has any plans to meet with PacifiCorp and/or Liberty Utilities in the future.

RESPONSE:

- i. BVES meets with PacifiCorp and Liberty Utilities on at least a weekly basis.
- ii. Weekly meetings are held every Thursday. Additional meetings are scheduled from time to time depending on the issues to discuss regulatory interpretations, best practices, planned actions and other relevant issues.
- iii. The weekly meeting is designed to discuss WMP, CPUC, and other regulatory and legal items, including, but not limited to, shared best practices, joint utility comments, regulatory compliance interpretations and actions and emerging issues.
- iv. The weekly meetings are conducted via an internet conference between representatives of BVES, PacifiCorp, Liberty Utilities and outside counsel.
- v. No other entity hosts these meetings.
- vi. These meetings are only open to BVES, PacifiCorp, Liberty Utilities and outside counsel. No other stakeholders are invited.
- vii. BVES plans on continuing to participate in these meetings which are set to occur on a weekly basis.

⁴ BVES's 2025 WMP Update Redline (May 29, 2024), p. 376.

Q05. Regarding 2025 Capital Expenditures

- a. On page 8 of its 2025 WMP Update⁵, BVES showed CAPEX increases for GD_10 of \$13.6 million, GD_11 of \$10.3 million, and GD_22 of \$1.8 million. Please provide a justification for these CAPEX changes in 2025.
- b. On page 8 of its 2025 WMP Update⁶, BVES showed CAPEX decreases for GD_23 of \$2.1 million and GD_24 of \$1.1 million. Please provide a justification for these CAPEX changes in 2025.

RESPONSE:

a. GD_10 Bear Valley Solar Project

The Bear Valley Solar Project was not originally scheduled for completion until after 2025. This project has now been scheduled for completion in 2025; therefore, the spending is now listed under the 2025 Adjusted Capital. The Bear Valley Solar Project is listed in Table 8-2 Grid Design, Operations and Maintenance Objectives (10-year Plan) of the approved 2023-2025 Base WMP.

GD-11 Energy Storage Project

The Energy Storage Project was not originally scheduled for completion until after 2025. This project has now been scheduled for completion in 2025; therefore, the spending is now listed under the 2025 Adjusted Capital. The Energy Storage Project is listed in Table 8-2 Grid Design, Operations and Maintenance Objectives (10-year plan) of the approved 2023-2025 Base WMP.

GD_22 Partial Safety and Technical Upgrades to Maltby Substation

Partial Safety and Technical Upgrades to Maltby Substation were originally scheduled for completion in 2024. The substation upgrades have been rescheduled to 2025 due to long lead times for delivery of materials; therefore, the spending is now listed under the 2025 Adjusted Capital. This project is listed in Table 8-1 Grid Design, Operations and Maintenance Objectives (3-year Plan) of the approved 2023-2025 Base WMP.

b. GD_23 Safety and Technical Upgrades to Lake Substation

Safety and Technical Upgrades to Lake Substation were originally scheduled for completion in 2025. The substation upgrades have been rescheduled for 2026 due to long lead times for delivery of materials: therefore, the spending has been removed from the 2025 Adjusted Capital. The change in dates for this project is listed in Section 2.2 Incentive Objectives in the 2025 WMP Update and the project is listed in Table 8-3 Grid Design, Operations, and Maintenance Targets by Year to the approved 2023-2025 Base WMP.

GD_24 Partial Safety and Technical Upgrades to Villages Substation

Partial Safety and Technical Upgrades to Village Substation were originally scheduled for completion in 2025. The substation upgrades have been rescheduled for 2027 due to long lead times for delivery of materials: therefore, the spending has been removed from the 2025 Adjusted Capital. The change in dates for this project is listed in Section 2.2 Incentive

⁵ BVES's 2025 WMP Update (May 29, 2024), p. 8.

⁶ BVES's 2025 WMP Update (May 29, 2024), p. 8.

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Objectives in the 2025 WMP Update and the project is listed in Table 8-3 Grid Design, Operations, and Maintenance Targets by Year to the approved 2023-2025 Base WMP.

END OF REQUEST