

July 23, 2019

Mike Matthews, REHS, Environmental Health Supervisor  
Ian Stromquist, REHS, Environmental Health Response Coordinator  
Hood River County Health Department, Environmental Health Office  
1109 June St. Hood River, OR 97031

Dear Mr. Matthews and Mr. Stromquist,

A Pacific Power customer brought to our attention a letter sent from your office on July 10, 2019 to licensed businesses in Hood River County. We would like to respectfully respond to your letter regarding our company's Wildfire Mitigation Plan and its potential impacts within the local community. Some assertions contained in the letter are inconsistent with the plan. In the spirit of our common commitment to support the community's health and safety we want to ensure accurate disclosure to the public.

To that end, I wanted to provide additional clarity on the Public Safety Power Shutoff feature of our Wildfire Mitigation Plan to help the community know what to expect. We realize that power outages can cause significant disruption to local businesses and residents, and the possibility of a Public Safety Power Shutoff can cause additional worry for some community members.

In your letter, you mentioned that Public Safety Power Shutoffs will occur "during instances of significant wildfire danger (*hot, dry, and windy days*)." Since hot, dry and windy are relative terms that describe typical summer weather in the Hood River area, readers of the letter may think that Public Safety Power Shutoffs could occur frequently, when they will be rare.

- As we have shared with Hood River County, emergency services and health department officials, Pacific Power has a thorough and multi-faceted approach to determining when a Public Safety Power Shutoff is necessary. It includes several key weather indexes, on-the-ground situational awareness and continuous weather monitoring.
- In the chance of a Public Safety Power Shutoff, additional Pacific Power crews would be staged throughout the area to minimize the length of a proactive outage and begin power restoration as soon as hazardous weather conditions have abated. A Public Safety Power Shutoff is a highly situational event, but we will do all that we can to give up to 48 hours' notice to potentially impacted customers so they have time to prepare.
- Public Safety Power Shutoffs will be used as a last resort. Based on historical weather modeling verified by local NOAA meteorologists, a Public Safety Power Shutoff would not have occurred at any time in the last eight years.

- The company's priority when implementing a Public Safety Power Shutoff is the safety of the public, its customers and its employees. We realize that power outages can cause significant disruption to local residents and businesses, which is why we are making every effort to limit the impact of a potential Public Safety Power Shutoff. Pacific Power will evaluate real time weather conditions to determine the specific areas that would be affected. The company will make every effort to minimize de-energization by using sectionalizing tactics to reduce the overall impact when possible.

For additional information regarding Pacific Power's Wildfire Mitigation Plan—including Public Safety Power Shutoffs—please visit [pacificpower.net/wildfiresafety](http://pacificpower.net/wildfiresafety) or you can call me directly.

We look forward to continuing to work closely together with your group, other local officials and emergency support to ensure the safety and readiness of Hood River County community.

Sincerely,

Lori Wyman  
Regional Business Manager, Pacific Power  
(541) 278-6650