
RE: [EXTERNAL] 22-00154-UT - Southwestern Public Service Company's Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Presentation

From Hayes, Amy <Amy.S.Blackwell.Hayes@xcelenergy.com>

Date Mon 5/12/2025 2:36 PM

To Records, PRC, PRC <PRC.Records@prc.nm.gov>

Cc Lovelady, Jeremy M <Jeremy.M.Lovelady@xcelenergy.com>; Houle, Stephanie G <Stephanie.G.Houle@xcelenergy.com>; Ingham, Kyle G <Kyle.G.Ingham@xcelenergy.com>

 1 attachment (1 MB)

22-00154-UT - 2025.05.12 - SPS Wildfire Workshop.pdf;

Dear NMPRC Records,

Attached please find the **corrected** *Southwestern Public Service Company's Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Presentation*.

Thank you,

Amy Blackwell Hayes

Xcel Energy

Regulatory Administrator

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Please consider the environment before printing this email.

From: Records, PRC, PRC <PRC.Records@prc.nm.gov>

Sent: Monday, May 12, 2025 1:59 PM

To: Hayes, Amy <Amy.S.Blackwell.Hayes@xcelenergy.com>

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Subject: Re: [EXTERNAL] 22-00154-UT - Southwestern Public Service Company's Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Presentation

EXTERNAL - STOP & THINK before opening links and attachments.

Your filing is missing the required signed cover page, to include the Document Title and the appropriate Case No.

Pursuant to our rules of procedure, all filings require either an actual or electronic signature (i.e., /s/ printed name). Please resubmit your filing with a signed cover page combined to the front of the documents.



790 South Buchanan Street
Amarillo, TX 79101

May 12, 2025

Ms. Melanie Sandoval
Records Bureau Chief
New Mexico Public Regulation Commission
P.O. Box 1269
Santa Fe, NM 87504

Subject: SPS's Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Presentation – Case No. 22-00154-UT

Dear Ms. Sandoval:

Please find attached Southwestern Public Service Company's (SPS) Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Presentation to be filed in the docket for Case No. 22-00154-UT. This presentation was given to the Commission at its Special Open Meeting on Thursday May 8, 2025 at 10:00am.

Should you have questions or need additional information, please contact me at (806)378-2242 or kyle.g.ingham@xcelenergy.com.

Sincerely,

/s/ Kyle Ingham

Kyle Ingham
Regulatory Policy Specialist
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ATTORNEY FOR SOUTHWESTERN PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY



New Mexico Public Regulation Commission: Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness

Brooke Trammell | Regional Vice President, SPS Regulatory and Pricing

Paul McGregor | Vice President, Wildfire Risk Management

May 8, 2025

SPS Recent Wildfire Related Filings

Southwestern Public Service Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP)

Our roadmap to reducing risk of wildfire associated with Company equipment (*Case No. 22-00154-UT*)

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Plan

Detailed plans to de-energize portions of the Company's electric system and the customers served by those lines, due to imminent and significant risk of severe fire conditions (*Attachment to NM Curtailment Plan*)

SPS Emergency Operations Plan (EOP), Annex D – Wildfire

The SPS EOP is an all-hazards emergency operations plan. It describes strategies and tactics to respond to unexpected events that are beyond the normal operations of the power system, including the transition from normal operations to restoration and recovery. Annex D specifically addresses the Company's response to Wildfire. (*PUCT Docket No. 53385*)

Texas System Resiliency Plan (SRP)

The SPS Texas System Resiliency Plan was filed on December 31, 2024, and includes measures to enhance the resilience of the Company's transmission and distribution systems related to extreme weather conditions, cybersecurity, wildfires or physical security threats. (*PUCT Docket No. 57463*)

DOE Grid Resilience and Innovation Partnership Program Grant (GRIP)

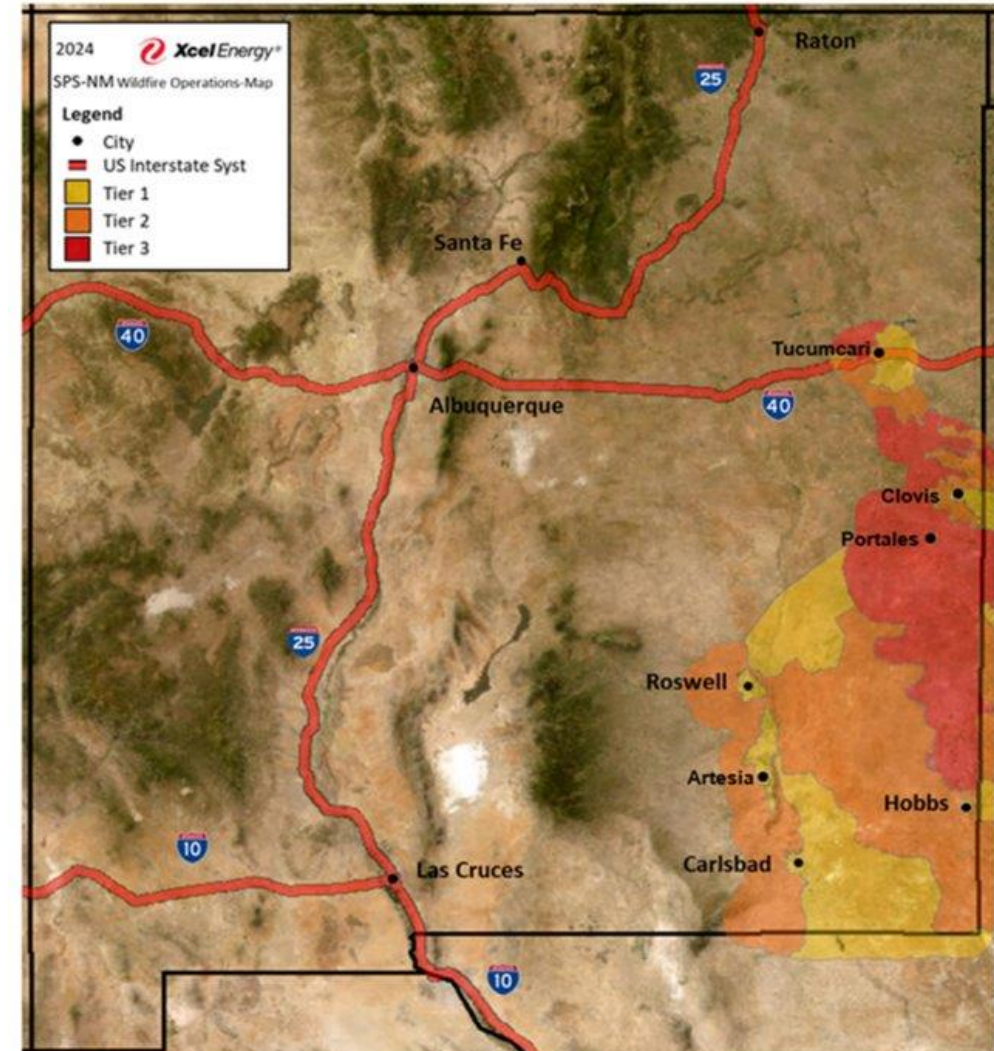
As of October 1, 2024, Xcel Energy has finalized award negotiations with the U.S. Department of Energy that includes components of Wildfire Mitigation and Extreme Weather Resiliency. This funding includes Workstreams for Grid Resiliency and Monitoring Technology. Of these programs a total of \$22M of federal funds is allocated to SPS.

Wildfire Mitigation: Context

High-risk fire weather and **drier conditions** influenced by a changing climate mean **wildfires are a growing year-round threat** in regions across the country, even in areas that have not traditionally been wildfire prone.

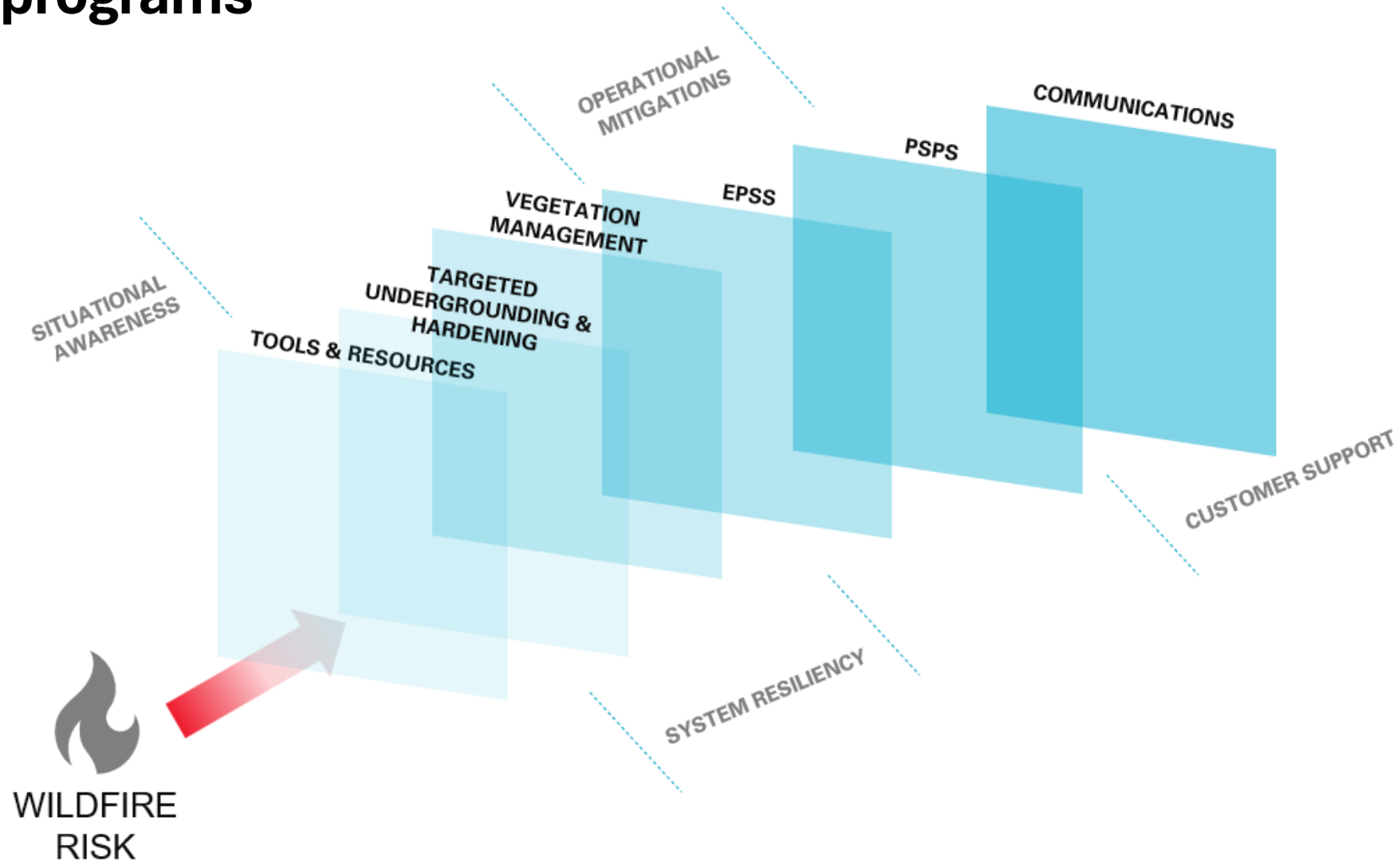
SPS is committed to **reducing the risk** of ignitions associated with its electric facilities and will continue to make strategic investments to help protect our customers, communities, and way of life.

Our goal is to **eliminate catastrophic wildfires** associated with our assets – our wildfire mitigation efforts, including Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS), directly support that goal.



SPS Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Multiple layers of defense including physical and operational wildfire mitigation programs



SPS Wildfire Mitigation Strategies

Situational Awareness

- Risk Tier Maps
- Advanced Fire Modeling Software
- Weather Stations
- AI Cameras

System Resiliency

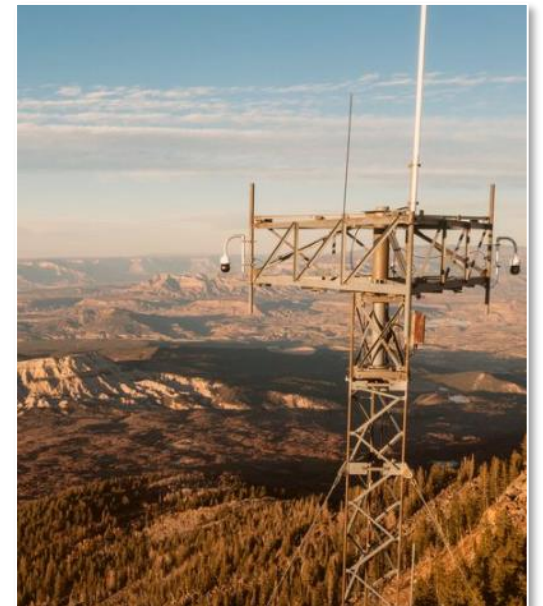
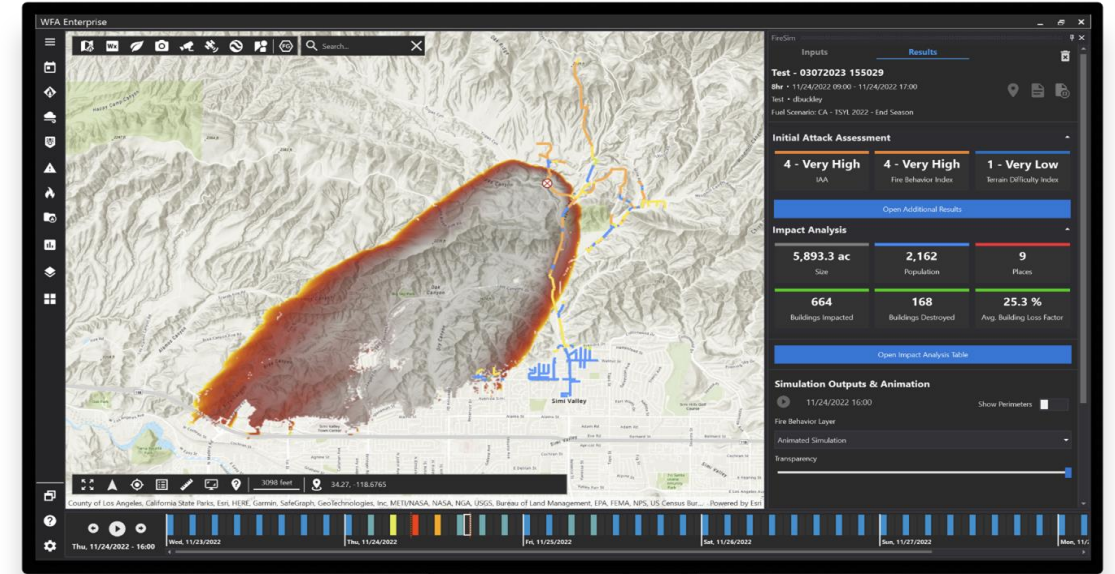
- Asset Inspection and Repair/Replacement
- System Hardening
- System Protection/Sectionalization Equipment

Vegetation Management

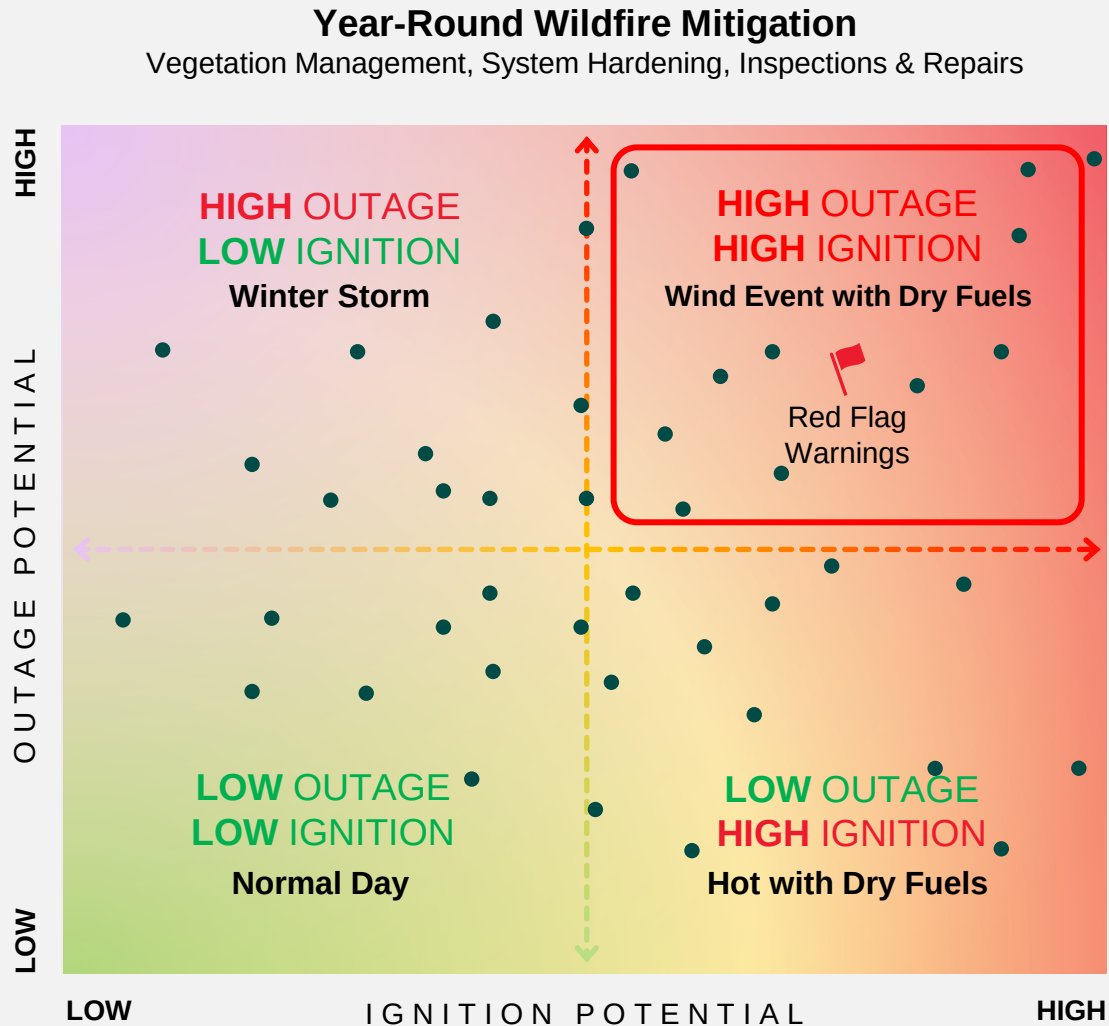
- Conductor Clearances
- Defensible Space Around Poles

Operational Mitigations

- Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS)
- Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)



Operational Mitigations



Weather-Driven Response

Operational Mitigations

Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS)

PSPS is a proactive power deenergization to prevent wildfire ignitions during extreme fire weather conditions.

Wildfire Safety Operations (WSO)/ Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS)

Used to mitigate the risk of wildfire ignition during elevated fire weather conditions by adjusting system protection settings.

PSPS Evaluation and Considerations



Weather: wind speed and relative humidity levels



Fuels: live and dead fuel moisture content

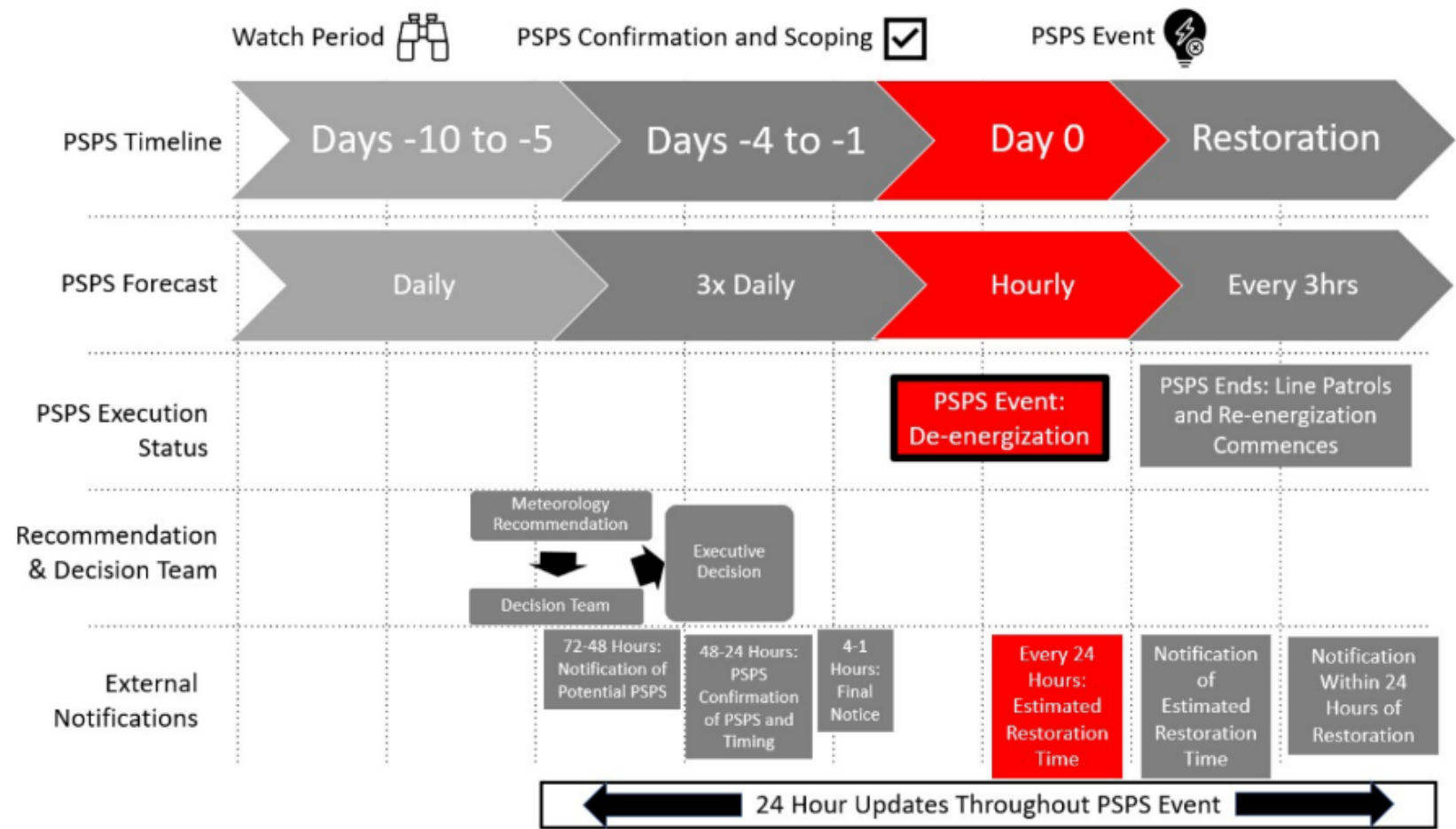


Fire Danger: ignition likelihood and fire behavior



Wildfire Consequence: potential impacts, such as acres burned, and structures/buildings impacted

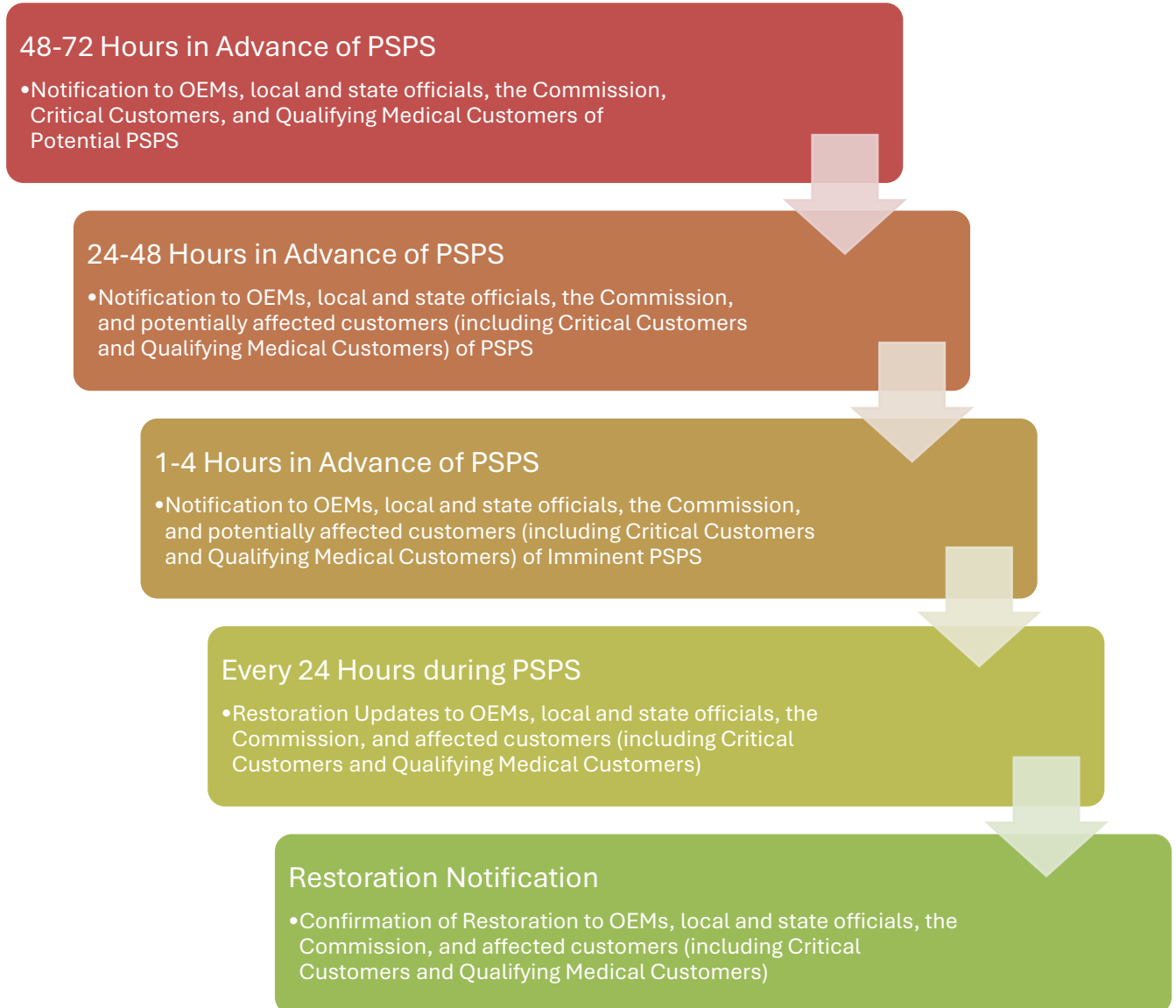
PSPS Event Timeline



PSPS Customer Support

Outreach & Communications

- **Up to 48 hours (or more if possible)** before a potential PSPS event, impacted customers will receive a phone call and/or email, depending on their notification preferences. Updates will be provided daily.
- **Up to 4 hours (or more if possible)** before the PSPS event is set to begin, and an affirmative decision to execute a PSPS is made, we will send an updated phone call and/or email notification
 - Note that in extreme circumstances, we may not be able to provide advance notice



SPS Wildfire Related Investment Scoping

Considerations for Wildfire Investments in New Mexico

- **2,255 miles** of Overhead Distribution lines in **Tier 2 and Tier 3 areas** in SPS service territory in NM (approx. 47%)
- Few publicly available weather stations located near SPS assets
- Service territory topography allows for good visibility, and consequently lower density of AI cameras needed than in other regions

Proposals in other Jurisdictions

- Texas System Resiliency Plan (SRP) request: \$538M
 - *Southwestern Public Service Company (SPS)*
 - 7,258 miles of Overhead Distribution in Tier 2/3 in Southwestern Public Service in Texas (approx. 66%)
- Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) request: \$1.9B
 - *Public Service Company of Colorado (PSCo)*
 - 4,039 miles of Overhead Distribution in Tier 2/3 in Public Service Company of Colorado (approx. 43%)

Important Things to Consider In NM Wildfire Workshops

- **Partnerships:**
 - Consideration of Mitigation Strategies before events occur that allow for appropriate communication with local governments, customers, agencies, and within working groups.
- **Regulatory Mechanisms:**
 - Systems that allow for appropriate and timely recovery of costs associated with mitigation, planning, and recovery considering customer impact.
- **Flexible Planning**
 - Timely consideration of projects in all phases of wildfire mitigation and response planning while allowing for Plans already in place for utilities to stand.



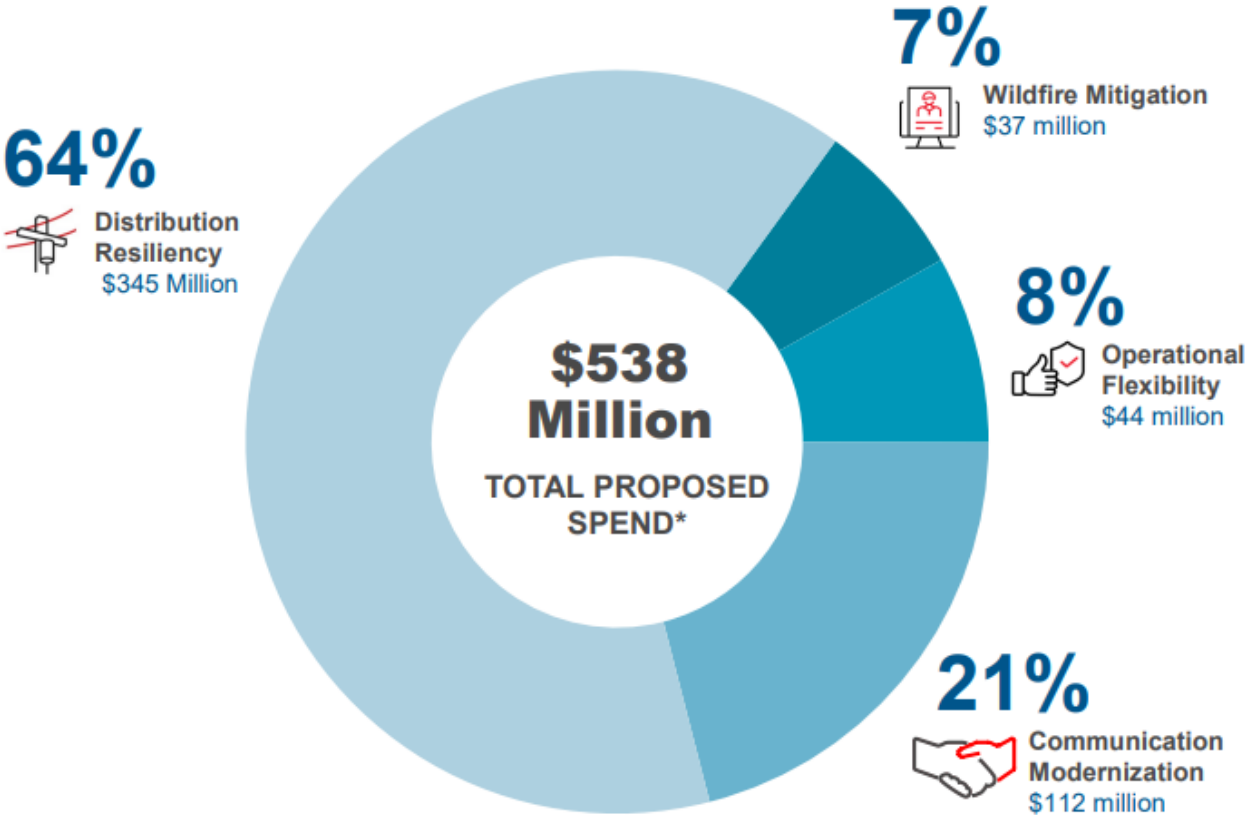


Wildfire Workshop #1

Appendices

Texas Resiliency Plan 2025-2028

(Southwestern Public Service Company)

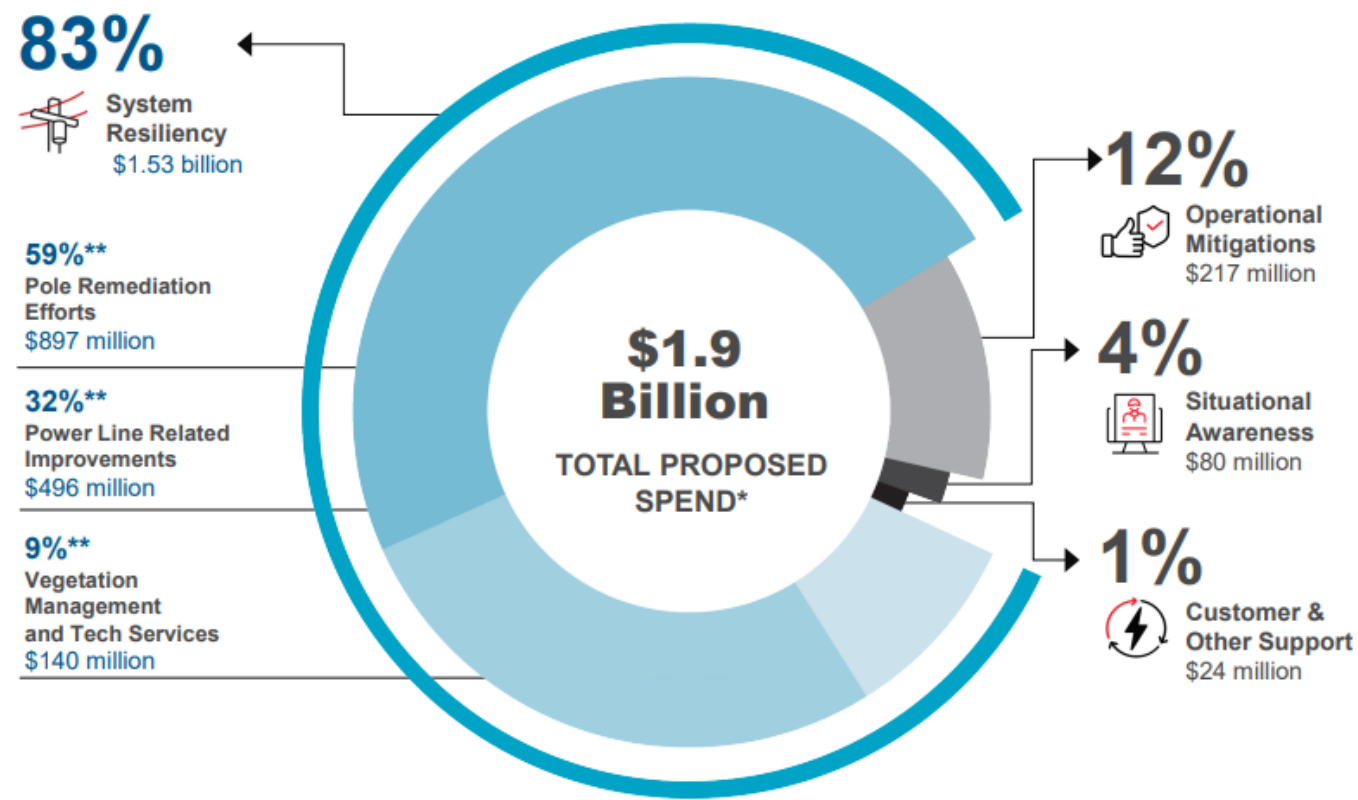


* \$521 million capital and \$17 million O&M

	System Resiliency	743 automated reclosers installed
		11,000 pole replacements, with a focus on higher risk areas
	Communication Modernization	100% coverage of higher risk areas with private cellular network
	Wildfire Mitigation	68 AI-enabled wildfire monitoring cameras covering higher risk areas
		110 new weather stations installed

Colorado Wildfire Mitigation Plan 2025 – 2027

(Public Service Company of Colorado)



* \$1.6 billion capital and \$250 million O&M
** Percent allocations total 100% of system resiliency budget

	System Resiliency	50 miles of underground power lines
		10,000 pole replacements, with a focus on higher risk areas
	Operational Mitigations	100% feeders enabled with Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS) capability for higher risk areas
	Situational Awareness	3x the number of AI-enabled wildfire monitoring cameras
		29,000 non-traditional fault detection sensors deployed

**BEFORE THE NEW MEXICO PUBLIC REGULATION
COMMISSION**

**IN THE MATTER OF AN INQUIRY INTO ELECTRIC PUBLIC)
UTILITIES' VEGETATION MANAGEMENT PLANS AND) Case No. 22-00154-UT
PROCEDURES)**

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that a true and correct copy of *Southwestern Public Service Company's Wildfire Mitigation and Preparedness Presentation* was electronically served only to each of the following on this 12th day of May 2025.

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