

Wildfire Matters Review Committee 2024 HCE Wildfire Risk Mitigation

July 18, 2024 - Cody O'Neil, VP Operations



Your community. Your co-op. Your choice.



About Holy Cross Energy

Holy Cross Energy (HCE) provides safe, reliable, affordable and sustainable energy and services that improve the quality of life for our members and their communities.



In 2023, 50% of our energy came from wind, solar, biomass and hydroelectric power, as well as coal mine methane recovery.

Founded in 1939, we serve more than 46,000 members in scenic Western Colorado with:

275 MW
Peak
Demand

3,100 Miles
Distribution
Lines

120 Miles
Transmission
Lines

170
Employees



Utility Wildfire Mitigation vs. Resilience



Mitigation

Minimizing the possibility that the electric system ignites a fire.



Resilience

How effectively we can keep our system energized during a fire and get it reenergized after a fire.



Mitigation at Holy Cross Energy

Weather Awareness

- DTN, National Weather Service.

Relay Settings

- Fast tripping.

Construction Designs

- Wildlife protection, covered conductor

Proactive Inspection & Maintenance Programs

- Drones, annual inspections, wood pole inspections, thermography

Forward-looking Right-of-Way Management

- Satellite & multispectral imagery.





Mitigation at Holy Cross Energy

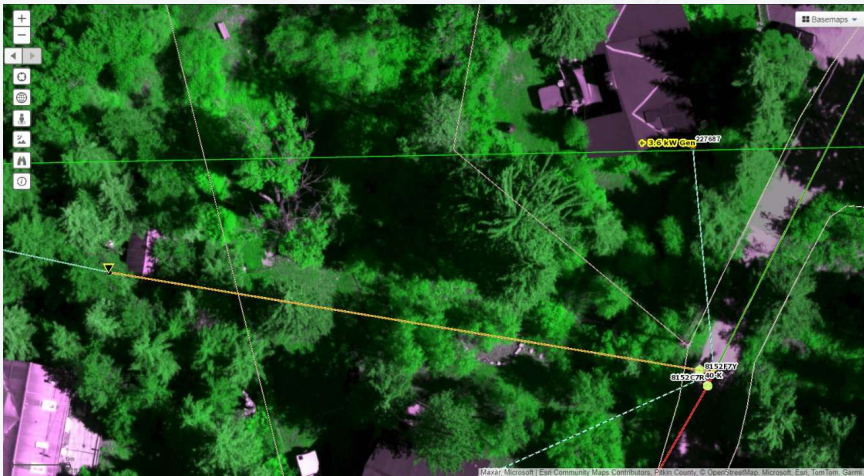


Example Infrared Thermography

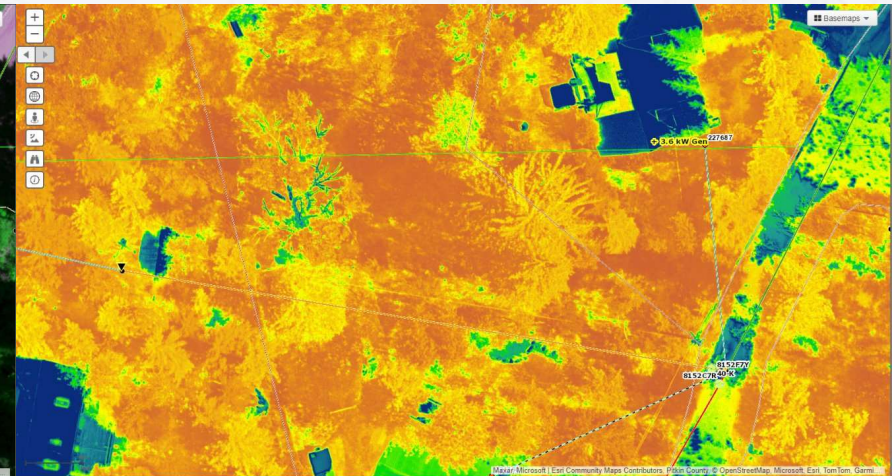


Mitigation at Holy Cross Energy

Scanning for Tree Decay



RGB



Multispectral



Mitigation at Holy Cross Energy

- The last resort mitigation tactic...
 - Public Safety Power Shutoff
 - Should only be used during the most extreme combination of fire conditions and weather events
 - The impact of a PSPS is VERY significant



Resilience at Holy Cross Energy

Circuit Tie Options

- Automated re-routing of power.

Undergrounding power lines

- 63% of HCE distribution system is underground.

Fire guarding transmission structures

- Protective barriers on large, important lines.

Mutual Aid Agreements

- Utilities help each other to restore power.

