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Hoffman Power Consulting Offers Unique Perspective on Enhancing Resilience to Wildfires and Minimizing Power Shutoffs

New Approach to Electric Power Resilience Could Bolster California Electric Utilities' Wildfire Mitigation Plans

Palo Alto, CA: February 14, 2020 – As Australia's bushfires are contained and the California wildfire season approaches, [Hoffman Power Consulting](#) (HPC) is offering a new approach for enhancing electric utility resilience and minimizing pre-emptive public safety power shutoffs. This unique perspective, described in HPC's report [Beyond Resilience](#), proposes a "no regrets" strategy for resilience to wildfires, extreme weather, cybersecurity attacks, and other threats. The elements of this strategy could strengthen the 2020 Wildfire Mitigation Plans that the three California investor-owned utilities released last week.

"Enhancing electric utility and utility customer resilience to wildfires and extreme weather is the number one challenge facing electric service providers today," said Steve Hoffman, HPC CEO and Director, Resilience Practice. "Yet choosing among the myriad resilience solutions is quite challenging. We sought a method for identifying solutions that most electric utilities and their customers could benefit from implementing – without a complex prioritization process."

The strategy is based on the answer to this question: Is there a single solution that enhances resilience to wildfires, severe weather, *and* cybersecurity attacks, *and* decarbonizes (reduces greenhouse gas emissions), *and* provides utility and customer benefits in "blue sky" operation (not just when extreme events occur)? "These three goals are high priorities at most utilities," said Hoffman. "So, if we could find a solution that addressed all three, it would be a 'no-brainer' to implement it."

In its study, HPC identified not one, but six distinct solutions that simultaneously meet all three of these goals: 1) resilience to all three threat types, 2) decarbonization, and 3) enhanced business-as-usual operation. "In most cases, all six of the solutions are technically and economically viable today," explained the study's co-principal investigator Charles Carmichael.

HPC's report (available now for free download) describes how each of the six solutions meets the three goals and how they work together to multiply benefits.

HPC developed the strategy based on an extensive literature review, discussions with other resilience experts, and the firm's ten years of experience in electric power resilience. Its "no regrets" strategy is so named because few electric utilities are likely to regret implementing it, due to its appealing combination of benefits.

"The resilience tactics that California and other utilities are currently implementing remain important," explained Hoffman. These include integrated vegetation management, distribution undergrounding and distribution pole hardening, power system operating procedures, local weather data gathering and forecasting, disaster training and drills, storm response practices, and many others. "But the strategic solutions we identified are likely to be a beneficial complement to these resilience tactics for most electric utilities and their customers, because they help solve three problems at once."

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About Hoffman Power Consulting: Established in 1985, [Hoffman Power Consulting](#) (HPC) of Palo Alto, CA specializes in producing customized thought leadership, business, and marketing materials on electric power resilience to wildfires, severe weather, cybersecurity attacks, and other threats. The firm has written more than 1000 custom deliverables for its clients in the electric power industry. HPC helps companies that offer electric utilities resilience products and services to differentiate their offerings, demonstrate industry leadership, enhance marketing and communication effectiveness, and grow their client base and revenue.

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