



August 6, 2026

To: Stakeholders for the Certificate Guidelines

Subject: Draft Certificate Guidelines Version 2.0

The Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) hereby releases the Draft Certificate Guidelines Version 2.0 (Guidelines) for public comment.

Public Comment

Opening comments will be accepted through August 26, 2026. 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time. Reply comments will be accepted through September 7, 2026. 5:00 p.m. Pacific Time.

Comments must be submitted to the Safety Certifications Guidelines docket (**#Guidelines-SCs**)¹ and titled: “[Commenter Name] [Opening/Reply] comments on the Draft Certificate Guidelines Version 2.0”

To receive notifications about these Guidelines and the comments submitted to the Safety Certifications Guidelines docket, subscribe to Energy Safety’s Certificate service list by following the instructions at:

<https://energysafety.ca.gov/events-and-meetings/how-to-participate-in-public-events/>.

Sincerely,

/s/ Suzie Rose

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¹ Safety Certification Guidelines Docket, #Guidelines-SCs

(<https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/EFiling/DocketInformation.aspx?docketnumber=Guidelines-SCs>, accessed August 3, 2026).



OFFICE OF ENERGY INFRASTRUCTURE SAFETY

DRAFT CERTIFICATE GUIDELINES

Version 2.0

August 2026

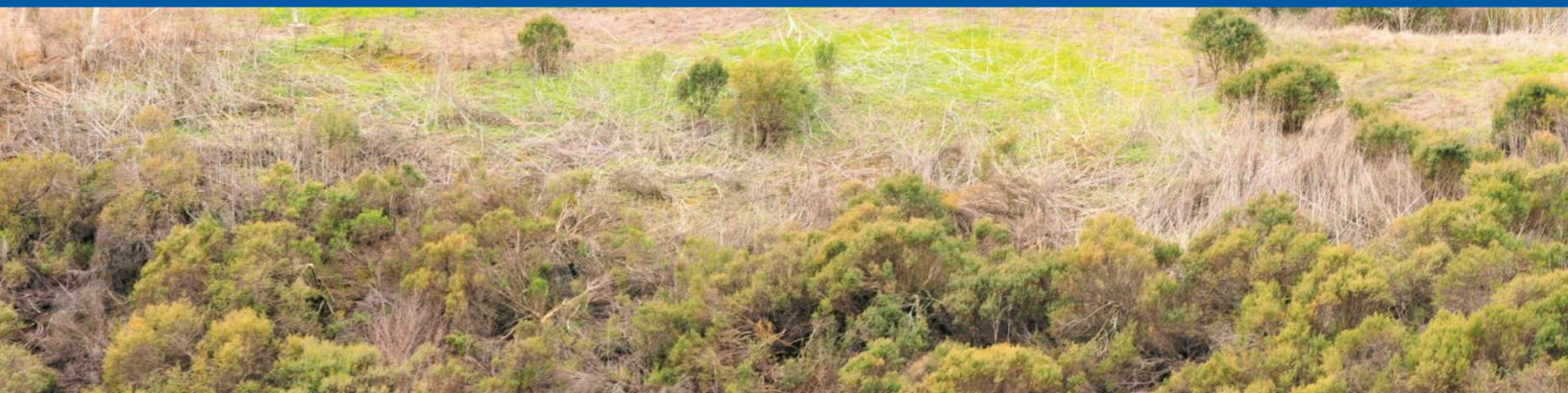


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INTRODUCTION

This document is the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) Certificate Guidelines (Guidelines). These Guidelines set forth requirements for an electrical corporation to prepare and submit a request for a Certificate, as identified in Public Utilities Code section 8389(a).

Process requirements, including but not limited to formatting, accessibility requirements, naming conventions, confidential submissions, errata, public participation, and data requests, are outlined in the Energy Safety Policy Division Process Guidelines (ESPD Process Guidelines).¹ The ESPD Process Guidelines complement these Certificate Guidelines.

The Certificate Guidelines Version 2.0 (v.2) apply to all California electrical corporations submitting a Certificate request.

Background

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 8389(a), Energy Safety is required by law to issue a Certificate to an electrical corporation if the electrical corporation provides documentation of the following:^{2,3}

1. The electrical corporation has an approved wildfire mitigation plan (WMP)
2. The electrical corporation has agreed to implement the recommendations of its most recent safety culture assessments (SCA)⁴
3. The electrical corporation has established a safety committee of its board of directors composed of members with relevant safety experience
4. The electrical corporation has established an executive compensation structure approved by Energy Safety and structured to promote safety as a priority
5. The electrical corporation has established board-of-director level reporting to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) and Energy Safety on safety issues

¹ Energy Safety Policy Division Process Guidelines

(<https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=58024&shareable=true>, accessed Aug 5, 2026).

² Pub. Util. Code § 8389(a).

³ All further statutory citations are to the California Public Utilities Code unless otherwise noted

⁴ As per Pub. Util. Code § 8386.2(a), the CPUC requires a SCA of each electrical corporation be conducted, including updates to the assessment at least every five years. As per Pub. Util. Code § 8386.2(b), Energy Safety shall conduct a wildfire-focused SCA of each electrical corporation at least once every two years. Each electrical corporation must agree to implement the recommendations of both the most recent CPUC SCA and the most recent Energy Safety SCA.

6. The electrical corporation's board has established a compensation structure for any new or amended contracts, plans or arrangements, whether written or unwritten, for executive officers, and this compensation structure meets the requirements set forth in Subsection 8389(a)(6)(A)
7. The electrical corporation is implementing the mitigation strategies in its approved WMP

A Certificate is valid for the 12 consecutive months following its issuance.⁵ Each year, Energy Safety will issue a schedule for Certificate request submittals. Electrical corporations must submit their requests according to this schedule.⁶ Energy Safety will issue a Certificate within 90 days of a request if an electrical corporation has provided documentation demonstrating that it has satisfied the requirements outlined in 8389(a).⁷

PROCESS AND EVALUATION

1. Certificate Request Submissions

An electrical corporation seeking a Certificate must submit a request to the appropriate year's Certificate docket in accordance with the schedule established by Energy Safety, and in adherence to the requirements in these Guidelines.

1.1 Submission Instructions

Requests for a Certificate must be submitted to the respective year's Certificate docket included in the schedule notification published by Energy Safety and must follow the naming convention outlined in the ESPD Process Guidelines.⁸

If any element required for a Certificate request is not available in its final form at the time of the request because it has been submitted to Energy Safety and is awaiting a final approval or decision from Energy Safety (e.g., an electrical corporation submitted its most recent WMP to Energy Safety prior to submitting its Certificate Request but Energy Safety has not yet issued a decision the WMP), an electrical corporation may submit the pending element subsequent to the initial Certificate request. In lieu of the pending element, in its initial submission, the electrical corporation must submit the version of the element most recently approved or

⁵ Pub. Util. Code § 8389(b)(1).

⁶ California Government Code § 15475.6.

⁷ Pub. Util. Code § 8389(b)(2).

⁸ Energy Safety Policy Division Process Guidelines
(<https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=58024&shareable=true>, accessed Aug 5, 2026).

published by Energy Safety. Any element submitted in lieu of a pending element must be labeled as a placeholder.

If the electrical corporation is submitting pending elements following its initial Certificate request, it must submit the pending element to the Certificate docket included in the schedule notification published by Energy Safety. Each pending element submitted subsequent to the initial request date must be marked as “Addendum 1,” “Addendum 2,” and so forth. The file name for each element must be “[abbreviated name of electrical corporation] _ [Document year]_CertificateRequest_Addendum[#].” For example, a first filing of pending element material for PG&E’s Certificate request submitted in 2026, would have the file name “PG&E_2026_ Certificate Request_Addendum1.” These naming conventions align with Section 8.1 of the ESPD Process Guidelines, with the primary difference being the use of “Addendum” followed by the appropriate number to distinguish pending element materials specific to Certificate requests.

2. Request Requirements

An electrical corporation seeking a Certificate must provide the following documentation in its request:

2.1 An Approved WMP

Public Utilities Code section 8389(a)(1) requires that the electrical corporation provide documentation that “the electrical corporation has an approved wildfire mitigation plan.”

In its Certificate request, an electrical corporation must document the date of its most recently approved WMP and the date of all other relevant Energy Safety decisions for that WMP.⁹ Additionally, an electrical corporation must include the hyperlink(s) to most recently approved WMP and all relevant decisions from Energy Safety. An electrical corporation is ineligible for a Certificate if it received a denial of its most recently submitted WMP.

The title of this section as it appears in the Certificate request must read:

1. Section 8389(a)(1) - Approved Wildfire Mitigation Plan

Instructions: Using a narrative format, the electrical corporation must provide the following:

- The date of its most recently approved WMP, including a hyperlink to the document
- The date(s) of all relevant Energy Safety decisions for the most recently approved WMP, including hyperlink(s) to the document(s)

⁹ Relevant WMP decisions include an initial WMP decision, a WMP Update decisions, and a Petition to Amend decision.

2.2 Agreement to Implement SCA Recommendations

Public Utilities Code section 8389(a)(2) requires that the electrical corporation provide documentation that “[t]he electrical corporation has agreed to implement the recommendations of its most recent safety culture assessments performed pursuant to Section 8386.2, if applicable.”

In its Certificate request, an electrical corporation must document its agreement to implement the recommendations of its most recent SCA undertaken by Energy Safety or its contractors pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 8386.2(b). If a SCA has been carried out pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 8386.2(a), the electrical corporation must also document in its request an agreement to implement the recommendations of that SCA.

The title of this section as it appears in the Certificate request must read:

2. Section 8389(a)(2) – Agreement to Implement Recommendations from the Most Recent Safety Culture Assessments

Instructions: Using a narrative format, the electrical corporation must provide the following:

- The date of each of its most recent SCA(s)
- Hyperlinks to each of its most recent SCA(s)
- The date of each of its agreements to implement the recommendations of its most recent SCA(s)
- Hyperlinks to each of its agreements to implement the recommendations of its most recent SCA(s)

2.3 Board Safety Committee and Safety Reporting

Public Utilities Code sections 8389(a)(3) and 8389(a)(5) require that the electrical corporation provide documentation that it meets two requirements related to its board of directors. Each is discussed below.

Public Utilities Code section 8389(a)(3) requires that the electrical corporation’s board of directors have a safety committee comprised of members with relevant safety experience.

The title of this section as it appears in the Certificate request must read:

3. Section 8389(a)(3) – Board Safety Committee

Instructions: To ensure that this requirement is satisfied, the electrical corporation must provide the following:

1. A resume for each safety committee member that clearly indicates the member's relevant experience
2. A summary of safety-related education and experience for each safety committee member that is relevant to their role at the electrical corporation
3. A description of how the safety committee functions within the company's governance structure and its role with respect to company decision making and accountability
4. A report on significant topics covered by the safety committee since issuance of the last Certificate¹⁰
5. A description of any safety committee recommendations and an indication whether the electrical corporation has implemented these recommendations since issuance of the last Certificate. If the safety committee made no recommendations, or the electrical corporation has not implemented all recommendations made by the safety committee, then the electrical corporation must indicate this and provide an explanation.

Public Utilities Code section 8389(a)(5) requires that the electrical corporation has established board-level reporting to the CPUC and Energy Safety on safety issues. Energy Safety and the CPUC will aim to jointly coordinate at least one public meeting prior to the submission of Certificate requests to ensure that each electrical corporation seeking a Certificate has the opportunity to meet this requirement in a transparent manner. For each electrical corporation, a board member, along with the chief safety/risk officer (or equivalent), must brief the CPUC and Energy Safety on safety performance during the public meeting. Details regarding the public meeting, including the agenda of topics to be covered, will be provided in a public notice.

In its Certificate request, an electrical corporation must provide documentation that a board member, along with the chief safety/risk officer (or equivalent), attended and satisfactorily participated in the most recent public meeting held by the CPUC and Energy Safety.

The title of this section as it appears in the Certificate request must read:

4. Section 8389(a)(5) – Board of Director Reporting

Instructions: Using a narrative format, the electrical corporation must provide the following:

- The date of the most recent public meeting, where the electrical corporation reported to the CPUC and Energy Safety
- The electrical corporation representatives who testified at the public meeting
- All materials used and/or referenced in the public meeting

¹⁰ Or, in the case of a request for an initial Certificate, over the previous 12 months.

2.4 Executive Compensation Structure

Public Utilities Code sections 8389(a)(4) and 8389(a)(6)(A) require that the electrical corporation has established an executive compensation structure that meets the statutory requirements of these code sections and has been approved by Energy Safety.

The title of this section as it appears in the Certificate request must read:

5. Section 8389(a)(4) and 8389(a)(6)(A) – Approved Executive Compensation Structure

Instructions: Utilizing a narrative format, the electrical corporation must provide the following:

- The most recent executive compensation structure publicly filed with Energy Safety, including the date and hyperlink to the document
- Energy Safety's decision on its most recent executive compensation structure, including the date and hyperlink to the document

2.5 WMP Implementation

Public Utilities Code section 8389(a)(7) requires that the electrical corporation provide documentation that it is implementing the mitigation strategies in its approved WMP.

In its Certificate request, the electrical corporation must provide documentation demonstrating it filed quarterly notifications to Energy Safety and the CPUC, as outlined in the quarterly notification requirements below.

The title of this section as it appears in the Certificate request must read:

6. Section 8389(a)(7) – Wildfire Mitigation Plan, Safety Culture Recommendations, Safety Committee Recommendations Implementation Progress

Instructions: The electrical corporation must provide the following:

- The dates quarterly notifications were filed with Energy Safety and the CPUC that documented its WMP implementation progress, as outlined in the quarterly notification requirements below

3. Quarterly Notification Requirements

Public Utilities Code section 8389(a)(7) requires the electrical corporation to submit a notification of implementation to Energy Safety on a quarterly basis detailing progress on its WMP, the recommendations of its most recent Energy Safety and CPUC SCAs performed pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 8386(d)(4) and section 8386.2, and a statement of

the recommendations of the board of directors safety committee meetings and a description of the implementation of those recommendations.

If specified, the electrical corporation must use the example tables provided in these Guidelines as templates for reporting the information required by the instructions in each section. Table numbers must match the format given in the relevant section of these Guidelines and any extra table provided needs to fit within that format. Any cells populated in example tables are examples provided by Energy Safety.

The below sections detail the documentation required to satisfy these requirements.

3.1 Quarterly Notification Content

To meet the requirements of section 8389(a)(7), the electrical corporation must submit quarterly notifications to the respective year's Certificate docket on Energy Safety's e-filing system. These notifications must be submitted in the form of letters, including (but not limited to) the following subject line and sections:

Subject line: [Electrical corporation name] Quarterly Notification Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 8389(a)(7)

Background: In this section, the electrical corporation must briefly describe the reason for the quarterly notification submission.

The title of this section as it appears in the Quarterly Notification must read: **Background.**

Discussion: In this section, the electrical corporation must provide the information required by Public Utilities Code section 8389(a)(7) using the structure that follows.

The title of this section as it appears in the Quarterly Notification must read: **Discussion.**

3.1.1 Quarterly Information-Only Submittal to the CPUC

In this sub-section, the electrical corporation must state that the electrical corporation is providing its information-only submittal of the present quarterly notification to the CPUC.

For example: "[Electrical corporation name] is simultaneously submitting this quarterly notification to the California Public Utilities Commission as an information-only submittal."

The title of this sub-section as it appears in the Quarterly Notification must read: **Quarterly Information-Only Submittal to the CPUC.**

3.1.2 Quarterly Progress on WMP Implementation

In this sub-section, the electrical corporation must provide documentation of its WMP implementation. To satisfy this requirement, the electrical corporation must provide the following:

- The date of its WMP non-spatial (tabular) QDR submission to Energy Safety for the same quarter as the Certificate Quarterly Notification filing

- If available, a hyperlink to its WMP non-spatial (tabular) QDR submission to Energy Safety for the same quarter as its Certificate Quarterly Notification filing

The title of this sub-section as it appears in the Quarterly Notification must read: **Quarterly Progress on WMP Implementation.**

3.1.3 Quarterly Progress Report on Implementing SCA Recommendations

In this sub-section, the electrical corporation must detail its progress towards implementing the recommendations from the electrical corporation's most recent SCA(s),¹¹ as outlined below. The electrical corporation must provide the following:

- The dates of each of its most recent SCA(s)
- A narrative summary of its progress in the most recent quarter towards implementing the recommendations in each of its most recent SCA(s)
- Detailed progress in the most recent quarter towards implementing the recommendations in each of its most recent SCA(s), including the name of the issuing regulatory body and year of issuance, the recommendation title, the recommendation goal, and the actions taken to achieve the recommendation goal. This progress must follow the format specified in Table 1. Each recommendation must be documented in individual table rows.

Table 1 provides an example of the minimum acceptable level of information and required format.

The title of this sub-section as it appears in the Quarterly Notification must read: **Quarterly Progress Report on Implementing SCA Recommendations.**

¹¹ As it is written above, “most recent SCA(s)” refers to both the CPUC and Energy Safety SCAs, if applicable.

Table 1. Example of Implementation of SCA Recommendations¹²

SCA	Recommendation	Goal	Actions Taken
[Issuing Regulatory Body and Year of Issuance]	[Recommendation Title]	[Recommendation Goal]	[Actions taken to achieve the recommendation goal]
<i>Energy Safety 2024 SCA Report</i>	<i>Improve Workforce Survey Engagement</i>	<i>Strengthen safety dialogue and improve safety information flow through increased workforce survey participation</i>	<i>Held three safety meetings in Q3 2026 with front-line employees to communicate identified survey participation barriers and solicit feedback on solutions to address barriers and increase survey participation.</i>

¹² When submitting its Certificate request, electrical corporations must remove “Example of” language from table title and the provided example by Energy Safety.

3.1.4 Board of Directors Safety Committee Recommendations

In this sub-section, the electrical corporation must provide the recommendations made by the board of directors safety committee and progress towards implementing these recommendations. The electrical corporation must provide the following:

- The dates of all Safety Committee meetings that have taken place in the most recent quarter, including the recommendations made by the Safety committee in each meeting. If the Board of Directors Safety Committee made no new recommendations in a meeting, the electrical corporation must state this.
- All recommendations from the most recent quarter (or the prior quarter, if not already reported) that the electrical corporation decided not to implement and an explanation why it decided not to implement the recommendation
- Detailed implementation progress of the board of directors safety committee recommendations in the most recent quarter, and progress on any new or outstanding recommendations from prior quarters where implementation is not yet completed. This progress must follow the format specified in Table 2.

Table 2 provides an example of the minimum acceptable level of information and required format. Each recommendation must be documented in individual table rows.

The title of this sub-section as it appears in the Quarterly Notification must read: **Board of Directors Safety Committee Recommendations.**

Table 2: Example of Board of Directors Safety Committee Recommendations¹³

Safety Committee Meeting	QN Date	Recommendation	Status	Actions Taken
[Date]	[QN date the recommendation was initially reported]	[Recommendation Title]	[Option: (select one):] Planned, In-progress, Completed, Canceled	[Actions implemented in achieve the recommendation] ¹
January 10, 2026	May 1, 2025	Report on vegetation management contractor safety performance over the last four quarters	In-progress	Contract safety performance data collection is in-progress. Report results to be shared during next safety committee meeting scheduled for July 11, 2026.

¹³ When submitting its Certificate request, electrical corporations must remove “Example of” language from table title and the provided example by Energy Safety.

3.2 Quarterly Notification Submission Calendar

Following the completion of a calendar quarter, the electrical corporation must submit its quarterly notification. The table below lists the notification submission deadline for each quarter.

Table 3
Quarterly Notification Submission Deadlines

Notification Period	Submission Date
Q1	May 1
Q2	August 1
Q3	November 1
Q4	February 1

If the submission date falls on a weekend or a holiday, the quarterly notification must be submitted on the next business day. All quarterly notifications must be submitted to the relevant year's Certificate docket on Energy Safety's e-filing system. The electrical corporation must follow the naming convention outlined in the ESPD Process Guidelines.¹⁴

4. Certificate Schedule

The schedule and related information for the submission of each year's Certificate request is published on the respective year's Certificate docket through Energy Safety's e-filing system.

An electrical corporation seeking a Certificate must submit its Certificate request according to the schedule issued by Energy Safety each year.

5. Review Process

Energy Safety will review an electrical corporation's Certificate request for compliance with Public Utilities Code section 8389(a) and the requirements and principles set forth herein. Energy Safety may require an electrical corporation to provide missing information and/or respond to requests for additional information in advance of its decision regarding a

¹⁴ Energy Safety Policy Division Process Guidelines
(<https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=58024&shareable=true>, accessed Aug 5, 2026).

Certificate request. Energy Safety will issue a Certificate within 90 days of a request if an electrical corporation has provided documentation demonstrating that it has satisfied the requirements outlined in 8389(a).¹⁵ Energy Safety may, for good cause, extend the 90-day period.¹⁶ All notices of extension beyond the 90-day period will be published on Energy Safety's Certificate docket for the applicable year.

¹⁵ Pub. Util. Code § 8389(b)(2).

¹⁶ Pub. Util. Code § 8389 (b)(2)(B).

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