



Liberty
933 Eloise Avenue
South Lake Tahoe, CA 96150
Tel: 800-782-2506
Fax: 530-544-4811

September 23, 2026

DATA REQUEST RESPONSE
LIBERTY UTILITIES (CALPECO ELECTRIC) LLC (LIBERTY)

Data Request No.: OEIS-P-WMP_2026-Liberty-004

Requesting Party: Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

Originator: Jessica McHale, Wildfire Safety Analyst
Jessica.McHale@energysafety.ca.gov

cc: Dakota Smith
Dakota.Smith@energysafety.ca.gov
Steve Kerr
Steve.Kerr@energysafety.ca.gov
Jolynne Flores
Jolynne.Flores@energysafety.ca.gov
Francis Solis
Francis.Solis@energysafety.ca.gov
Ethan Campos
Ethan.Campos@energysafety.ca.gov
Will Dundon
Will.Dundon@energysafety.ca.gov

Date Received: September 16, 2026

Due Date: September 23, 2026

Subject:

- Q01. Regarding Infrared Inspections
- Q02. Regarding Hobart Mills and Stampede Substations
- Q03. Regarding Asset Inventory Database
- Q04. Regarding Multi-Sensor Program

Q01. Regarding Infrared Inspections:

On page 45 of Appendix D in its 2027 Base WMP, Liberty states that it included infrared inspections of transformers, reclosers, and capacitor banks as part of its drone inspections in 2026.

- a. When reviewing drone inspection data, how does Liberty distinguish between infrared and non-infrared drone inspections and inspection findings?
- b. Describe the infrared inspection scheduling process, and all factors Liberty considers when scheduling drone inspections.

Response:

1.
 - a. In Fulcrum, the Red Green Blue (“RGB”) imagery inspection is labeled as an Advanced Inspection and the infrared inspection is recorded as an Infrared Inspection. They are inspections that are performed separately. Both are performed with drones.

As part of the Infrared Inspection, Liberty captures both infrared and RGB imagery on structures with transformers, reclosers, and capacitor banks. Within the HFTD-3 zone, there are zero capacitor banks. Therefore, infrared inspection was only performed on transformers and reclosers. If there were capacitor banks within HFTD-3, then infrared inspection would have also been performed on those assets as well. The infrared and RGB shots are paired shots to give the inspector the physical context to identify which component a thermal signature belongs to. The inspector utilizes the thermal temperature bands, documented in Liberty’s Drone Inspection Program Manual, to determine priority levels of any concerns.

Infrared and paired RGB files are uploaded to the thermal imagery path on the Liberty SharePoint for processing, and results are entered in Fulcrum as Pass or Fail with site conditions recorded.

- b. Asset data is first pulled from GIS to determine how many transformers, reclosers, and capacitor banks are in scope for the inspection the year. Because assets may be added or removed throughout the year, new data must be pulled each year. Further, if Fulcrum is missing certain assets, when they are found as part of the inspection, they are added to Fulcrum as part of the inspection to ensure a complete inspection of assets.

Because the service territory sits at higher elevations, weather and seasonality guide when the inspections can be performed. For 2026, Liberty performed the inspections July through early September. For future years, Liberty plans to perform the drone inspections earlier in the year (closer to May and June) to be further ahead of peak fire season.

FAA approval is required within the area of the Lake Tahoe Airport, and some assets are non-LANNC enabled so additional authorization is required. To enable the inspections, Liberty aims to submit for authorization at least 90 days, preferable 120 days, in advance.

Daily, scope is reviewed - covering completed inspection, remaining inspection, production rates, and the forecast against the planned completion date. Forecast review and crew planning happen a week ahead. When there is downtime in the field, it is backfilled with door hanger placement and data packaging.

Lastly, in scheduling inspections, Liberty also considers special events in the Tahoe area. For instance, for the 2026 inspections, Liberty deferred the start of the inspections one week until after the American Century Championship golf tournament which occurs the first two weeks of July.

Q02. Regarding Hobart Mills and Stampede Substations:

On page 182 of its 2027 Base WMP, Liberty states that Hobart Mills and Stampede substations are inspected annually, while its other 10 substations are inspected quarterly.

a. Explain why the Hobart Mills and Stampede substations are inspected less frequently.

Response:

2.

- a. Hobart Mills and Stampede substations are located in more remote locations without paved road access. Weather conditions makes access challenging. Liberty aims to inspect these substations quarterly but weather conditions may result in an inspection once a year. At a minimum, Liberty will inspect at least once a year. Historically, if weather and access are not an issue, Liberty has inspected these substations more frequently in a year. For emergencies when access is challenging, Liberty has utilized snowcat, snowmobile, and helicopter for access.

Q03. Regarding Asset Inventory Database:

a. On page 191 of Liberty's 2027 Base WMP, Liberty states that it does not record failures by equipment type and it does not have an exact count of all listed assets, such as connectors or splices, in the field.

- i. What equipment components does Liberty track in its asset inventory database? (E.g., transformers, reclosers, switches.)
- ii. What equipment components does Liberty not track in its asset inventory database? (E.g., splices, bolts, brackets.)

- iii. Provide an explanation for why Liberty does not currently record equipment failures by equipment type, and a brief description of the steps Liberty is taking to begin tracking equipment failures by equipment type.
- b. Provide asset inventories for four distribution poles in Liberty's HFTD Tier 3, and photographs of each pole from its 2026 drone inspection. In total, the four poles must include at least one of each of the following components:
 - i. Transformer
 - ii. Recloser
 - iii. Capacitor bank
 - iv. Down guy

Response:

- 3.
 - a.
 - i. Equipment components Liberty tracks in its asset inventory database include: transformers, wire, cable, reclosers, switches, regulators, capacitors, circuit breakers, fuses, and fault indicators.
 - ii. Equipment components Liberty does not track include: splices, bolts, brackets, or connectors.
 - iii. Liberty has developed a "Components" field in the Outage Management System which tracks components involved in outages. A reference document has been created to aid Dispatchers and Operators to document the incident resolution details in the OMS. Daily reviews of the historical incidents are performed to improve accuracy of data.
 - b. Refer to supporting materials: "LU-DR-004-Q03.b Response.xlsx" for asset inventories and LU-DR-004-Q03.b Response.pdf" for photos. There are no poles with capacitor banks in Liberty's HFTD Tier 3.
 - i. 131598, MEY3500, Pole - Transformer
 - ii. 300700, MEY3500, Pole - Transformer
 - iii. 301047, MEY3500, Pole - Recloser
 - iv. 146363, MEY3500, Pole – Down Guy

Q04. Regarding Multi-Sensor Program:

On page 273 of its 2027 Base WMP, Liberty states that "...in 2026, Liberty plans to deploy GridScope multi-sensor units as part of a new EFD program to identify abnormal conditions on overhead electric infrastructure. Liberty will install 1,000 of the sensors..."

- a. Provide a summary of the GridScope implementation process, including, but not limited to:
 - i. How many devices have been installed to date

- ii. The feasibility of achieving the goal of 1,000 units by the end of 2026
- iii. Expected delays or issues
- b. Provide the name of each circuit where Liberty plans to install multi-sensors, the number of units planned for installation, and the estimated percent monitoring coverage for each circuit in the following format:

Circuit	Number of Units Installed	Estimated Percent Monitoring Coverage (span length/circuit length)

Response:

- 4.
 - a.
 - i. Zero devices have been installed to date.
 - ii. Deploying 1,000 units by year end is feasible. At this time, Liberty is working with the vendor to finalize the contract. If the vendor contract is finalized, most of the installations should be completed by the end of the year, with some installations to occur in 2027.
 - iii. Liberty and the vendor are reviewing contract terms. Weather, network, cell coverage, and other connectivity issues may delay installations.
 - b. See below for the requested table. Liberty notes that the following table does not list planned locations. Rather, it lists locations that Liberty has provided to the vendor for scoping purposes. Final locations will be determined following review of the feasibility study conducted by the vendor. The table includes more than 1,000 units in the event that some scoped locations are not feasible (for reasons such as connectivity or network limitations).

Circuit	Number of Units Planned	Estimated Percent Monitoring Coverage
MULLER1296	285	48.8%
TPZ1202	267	34.3%
MEY3400	240	23.7%
MEY3200	196	40.7%
MEY3100	133	33.8%
TRK7202/609	130	67.4%
TAH7300	122	9.4%
GLS7600	74	100.0%
MEY3300	58	5.6%
HOB7700	37	30.0%
STL3101	27	8.0%
CAL2501	23	32.4%
KBH4203	10	16.5%
Total	1602	