

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



November 5, 2008

Eleanor Pefferman, Manager
Sustainable Electric Reliability
Pacific Gas & Electric Company
245 Market Street, Mail Code N14L
San Francisco, CA 94105

CPUC File No.: E200817

SUBJECT: Electric Audit of PG&E's North Coast South Division

During the week of October 20 through 24, 2008. Ivan Garcia, Terrence Eng and I representing the Commission's Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch (USRB) conducted an Electric Audit of PG&E's North Coast South Division. The audit included a review of your Lake County records for the period of 2006-2008.

During the inspection, we identified violations of one or more General Orders. A copy of the audit summary itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me by electronic mail of all the measures you have taken to correct the violations and the date on which they were corrected.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 703-1327.

Sincerely,

Julian Ajello, Supervisor
Gas and Electric Safety
Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Enclosure: Audit Summary

Ec: Ms. Holly Meyer-Zebzda, PG&E
Mr. Todd Novak, PG&E
Mr. Ivan Garcia, CPUC
Mr. Terrence Eng, CPUC

Audit Summary

PG&E prepared tables listing all patrols and detailed inspections performed or scheduled for 2006 through 2008. The tables showed that all required patrols and inspections had been performed. In response to a data request, PG&E furnished tables of closed, reassessed (both open and closed), and cancelled maintenance tags for 2008.

From the inspection tables we chose maps of inspections and a few patrols to review. We also examined equipment maintenance records for capacitor banks, sectionalizers, and reclosers. From the inspection maps, data response, and equipment maintenance records, we chose maintenance tags to examine. We selected some of these tags for field visits. In addition, we selected an inspection map for underground facilities in Lakeport and one for overhead facilities in Clearlake. In the field, we reinspected the areas covered by the maps and visited the sites of the selected maintenance tags. Below are the violations we found:

Violations

General Order (GO) 165 Section IV, Standards for Inspection, Record-keeping, and Reporting states in part:

“The company shall maintain records of inspection activities which shall be made available to parties or pursuant to Commission rules upon 30 days’ notice. Commission staff shall be permitted to inspect such records consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 314(a).”

Maps Y-30 and Y-3102 for detailed inspections in 2002 were missing, although some maintenance tags generated during those inspections were found. Maps for 2007 inspections of those areas were found.

On Map X-30 for a 2002 inspection, a section of the map was not highlighted suggesting that it might not have been covered. On Map X-30 for the 2007 inspection, a different section of the map was not highlighted. That area was inspected on October 21, 2008.

On Map X-3006 for the 2007 inspection, the section of the map covering an overhead line serving a transformer on Beakbane Island was not highlighted. This section of the map was inspected on October 22, 2008. The map for the 2002 inspection did indicate that this line had been inspected.

On Map X-30-8 for the 2002 inspection, a section of primary line on three poles from Manzanita to 39th Avenue was found not to be highlighted. The map for the 2007 inspection was complete.

GO 95 Rule 56.4 B Ground Wires states in part:

“That portion of the ground wire attached on the face or back of wood crossarms or on the surface of wood poles and structures shall be covered by a suitable protective covering (see Rule 22.8).”

1. 3686 Oleander – exposed ground. The ground molding was repaired on 10/23/08
2. Halika and Taawina – exposed ground. The ground molding was repaired on 10/23/08
3. Toyon and Oregon – exposed ground. The ground molding was repaired on 10/23/2008
4. South Center Drive – exposed ground. The ground molding was repaired on 10/22/2008

GO 95 Rule 54.7-A3 Allowable Climbing Space Obstructions states in part:

“Allowable climbing space obstructions are:...

(j) Bolts and their washers. However, bolts bonded to or used for the attachment of deadend hardware of circuits above 750 volts in wood crossarm configuration that project into the climbing space shall be covered with a non-conductive material as specified in Rule 22.8-C. If such bolts are bonded, a positive electrical contact shall be made....”

Tag number 102349602 called for replacing a ground molding and trimming a bush. The work was completed on 4/17/2008. When we visited the pole, we found that a transformer was missing a bolt cover.

Tag number 102563512 was an open tag to replace a ground molding. When we looked at the pole we found that there was also a missing bolt cover on the transformer. It is the position of USBR that during a detailed inspection, all violations found on a pole should be documented.

GO 95 Rule 51.6 Marking and Guarding, High Voltage Marking states in part:

“Poles which support line conductors of more than 750 volts shall be marked with high voltage signs. This marking shall consist of a single sign showing the words “HIGH VOLTAGE”, or pair of signs showing the words “HIGH” and “VOLTAGE”, not more than six (6) inches in height with letters not less than 3 inches in height. Such signs shall be of weather and corrosion-resisting material, solid or with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.

Tag number 102552059 was a completed tag for a pole near 10095 Kelsey Creek Road. We found that work had been completed satisfactorily but when we examined a pole one span away up a hill through a vineyard, we found that part of a high voltage sign was missing.

Tag number 103062857 was an open tag to replace a chipped insulator. When we looked at the pole we noticed that there was also part of a high voltage sign missing. It is the position of USBR that during a detailed inspection, all violations found on a pole should be documented.