

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 18, 2009

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

CPUC File No. EA20090-07

**SUBJECT:** Electric Audit of PG&E's North Valley North Division, Chico and Paradise

On behalf of the Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission, Ivan Garcia, Kenneth How and I conducted an Electric Audit in the cities of Chico and Paradise in PG&E's North Valley North Division from April 27 – May 1, 2009. The audit included a review of your records for the period of 2007-2008 and other associated records. We also conducted field inspections of overhead and underground electric facilities in Chico and Paradise.

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 of all corrective measures taken by the Utility regarding these violations. Please provide the electronic or hard copy records showing the correction date for each violation.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (415) 703-1817.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Penney".

Paul Penney  
Utilities Engineer  
Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Enclosure: Appendix A  
(1) GO165 Records Review  
(2) GO95/128 Field Notes

CC: Ms. Holly Meyer-Zebzda, Quality Assurance  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Mail Code H15H  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

## APPENDIX A

### (1) GO165 Records Review

- (A) During our records review, we noted the following violations of GO165, Section IV, regarding inspection time intervals. Paragraph one of this section states:

*"Each utility subject to this General Order shall conduct inspections of its distribution facilities, as necessary, to assure reliable, high-quality, and safe operation, but in no case may the period between inspections (measured in years) exceed the time specified in the attached table... "*

In PG&E's data request response, a total of three maps missed their underground detailed inspections (S2811, U3303, and X26), and four maps missed their underground patrols (S2701, S2706, T2924, and T3212). Also, a total of nine maps missed their overhead detailed inspections (Q2622, Q2624, Q2625, S2701, S2706, T2915, W24, X24, and Y27), and four maps missed their overhead patrols (S2811, T3217, U3303, and U3304).

While reviewing outstanding tags, we also noted that five underground enclosures missed their detailed inspection in 2008 because they could not be found. The notification numbers are 103647119, 103647229, 103647340, 103647341, and 103647342. All missed underground detailed inspections were on map number S2817. Counting the three from above, there were a total of four plat maps that missed their inspections. The facilities were subsequently found and inspected on 1/26/09.

- (B) Maintenance tags (Notifications) were reviewed for the cities of Chico and Paradise. From the data provided by PG&E, 191 tags were overdue based on PG&E's internal standard. Out of these, 74 tags were late based on PG&E's interpretation of GO165 (i.e. tags late beyond the end of the year in which they are due).
- (C) During our data review, we noted the following violations of GO165, Section IV, regarding inspection records. The last paragraph of this section states:

*"For all inspections, within a reasonable period, company records shall specify the circuit, area, or equipment inspected, the name of the inspector, the date of the inspection, and any problems identified during each inspection, as well as the scheduled date of corrective action."*

A miscellaneous number of inspections for regulators, reclosers, and capacitors were identified as being late. According to PG&E's UO Standard S2302<sup>1</sup>, regulators should be tested once a year, and reclosers and capacitors should be tested twice a year. The data is summarized below, with follow-up questions and/or requests for each category of equipment.

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<sup>1</sup> See Page 2 of the standard

- (1) **Regulator Records:** The spreadsheet showed a missing record in Chico for a regulator with equipment ID 89 in calendar year 2008. The Equipment Requiring Repair (ERR) spreadsheet had this equipment ID listed, with a "date out" as 3/7/08. Apparently, an inspection was done and entered into SAP, but the original inspection sheet is missing. If the test record has been found, please provide a copy of it.
- (2) **Recloser Records:** For the spring of calendar year 2008, the spreadsheet showed a missing record for a recloser with equipment ID 2532 in Paradise. For the fall of calendar year 2007, the spreadsheet showed a missing record for a recloser with equipment ID 2572 in Chico. For the fall of calendar year 2008, the spreadsheet showed several missing records for reclosers with equipment ID's 2098, 2206, 2596, 2534, and 2034 in Paradise. No equipment ID references were located for any of the above mentioned reclosers in the ERR spreadsheet. If the test records have been found, please provide copies.
- (3) **Capacitor Records:** For the spring of calendar year 2007, the capacitor test record for equipment ID 218 in Paradise was listed as missing. In addition, several capacitor test records for Chico were listed as missing, with some of the records listed as NG (No Good). The equipment ID's for those capacitors are 130-NG, 220, 302, 348-NG, 380-NG, 382-NG, 444, and 648. Two out of the four records listed as NG were on the ERR spreadsheet, and two were not (380-NG and 382-NG). Have these two capacitors been added to SAP for repair? If yes, please provide the description of the problem for each capacitor. If not, please explain.

For the fall of calendar years 2007 and 2008, 150 and 142 capacitor banks test records/partial records in Chico were listed as missing. Are these records missing because of the "Excluded Capacitor Banks" category in PG&E's UO Standard S2302 (page 9)? If yes, please identify each transformer bank that meets this exclusion. If not, please explain the large number of capacitor banks that were not tested per PG&E's UO Standard S2302.

## **(2) *GO95 and GO128 Inspection Field Notes***

We did field verification of detailed inspections for recently completed plat maps, along with random verification of open and closed tags. No violations were noted during the field work.