

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 15, 2009

Michael R. Hale, Director  
Construction Service  
San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E)  
8315 Century Park Court, Suite CP22C  
San Diego, Ca 92123-6368

**CPUC File No.: E2009-13**

**SUBJECT:** Electric Audit of SDG&E's Orange Coast District

On behalf of the Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Cynthia Lee and I conducted an electric audit of SDG&E's Orange Coast District on June 23 – 25, 2009. The audit included a review of SDG&E's design, construction, inspection, maintenance programs, records for the period of 2005 – 2008 and a follow-up inspection in areas where SDG&E recently performed detailed inspections of overhead and underground facilities.

During the follow-up inspection, we found that SDG&E did not document all General Orders (GOs) 95 and 128 violations at the time of its inspections. Attached to this letter is a list of the violations we observed during the follow-up inspections.

Please advise me within 30 days of corrective measures taken by SDG&E regarding the above violations. If you have any questions, contact me at (213) 576-5700.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Kan-Wai Tong'.

Kan-Wai Tong  
Utilities Engineer  
Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Cc: Gregory Walters, Electric Distribution Compliance Management – SDG&E  
8316 Century Park Court CP52E, San Diego, CA 92123

Enclosure: Inspection Report

## Inspection Report

List of GOs 95 and 128 violations that were observed during the electric audit of SDG&E's Orange Coast District and *were not* documented in your records.

### **GO 95, Rule 34, Foreign Attachments**

Rule 34 states:

*"Nothing in these rules shall be construed as permitting the unauthorized attachment, to supply, street light or communication poles or structures, of antennas, signs, posters, banners, decorations, wires, lighting fixtures, guys, ropes and any other such equipment foreign to the purposes of overhead electric line construction."*

- Pole P20395 had foreign metal straps banded around the pole at 2391 El Camino Real in San Clemente.

### **GO 95, Rule 51.6A, High Voltage Marking of Poles**

Rule 51.6A states:

*"...(2) When high voltage supply equipment is installed on a pole, a sign may be installed so that it approximately encircles the pole, and the top of the sign shall be located no more than six (6) inches below the equipment and above all communication line conductors and supply line conductors energized at 0-750 volts..."*

- Pole P128860 was not encircled by a high voltage sign within six inches below its transformer.

### **GO 95, Rule 54.6B, Ground Wires**

Rule 54.6B states:

*"Ground wires shall have a conductivity and mechanical strength at least equal to that of No. 8 AWG medium-hard-drawn copper wire; they shall not be installed on the top surfaces of crossarms; and they shall have clearances of not less than 1.5 inches from hardware in accordance with the provisions of Rules 52.7-B and 52.7-C."*

*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..."*

The following poles had exposed ground wires:

- P127610 (2600 Avenida Esplandian, San Clemente)
- P28107 (2615 Calle Del Comercio, San Clemente)
- P124241 (137 Avenida Buena Ventura, San Clemente)

- P38962 (Cristianitos Road and PVT Road, San Clemente)
- P26396 (2411 El Camino Real, San Clemente)
- P126453 (2377 El Camino Real, San Clemente)
- P129892 (2398 El Camino Real, San Clemente)

**GO 128, Rule 17.8, Identification of Manholes, Handholes, Subsurface and Self-contained Surface-mounted Equipment Enclosures.**

Rule 17.8 states:

*“Manholes, handholes, subsurface and self-contained surface-mounted equipment enclosures shall be marked as to ownership to facilitate identification by persons authorized to work therein and by other persons performing work in their vicinity.”*

- The subsurface enclosure S5117786840 located at 26741 Cuenca Dr. in Mission Viejo was not marked as to the ownership.

In addition to the violations listed above, we also observed the following GO 95 violations when we were inspecting a new construction in the field. According to your staff, the structures were last inspected in 2007 and 2008.

**GO 95, Rule 54.8B(1), Above Public Thoroughfares**

Rule 54.8B(1) states:

*“Service drop conductors shall have a vertical clearance of not less than 18 feet above public thoroughfares, except that this clearance may grade from 18 feet at a position not more than 12 feet horizontally from the curb line to a clearance of not less than 16 feet at the curb line, provided the clearance at the centerline of any public thoroughfare shall in no case be less than 18 feet. Where there are no curbs the foregoing provisions shall apply using the outer limits of possible vehicular movement in lieu of a curb line.”*

- Pole P24076 had a low service drop with a vertical clearance of 13 feet and 8 inches at the curb at 244 La Paloma in San Clemente.
- Pole P24078 had a low service drop with vertical clearances of 13 feet and 11 inches at the curb and 16 feet and 1 inch at the center of the road at 252 La Paloma in San Clemente.

**GO 95, Rule 56.2, Use of Guys**

Rule 56.2 states:

*“Guys shall be attached to structures, as nearly as practicable, at the center of load. They shall be maintained taut and of such strength as to meet the safety factors of Rule 44.”*

- Pole P24086 had a slack down guy wire at 265 W. Marquita in San Clemente.