

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
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May 11, 2009

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CPUC File No.: E2009-02

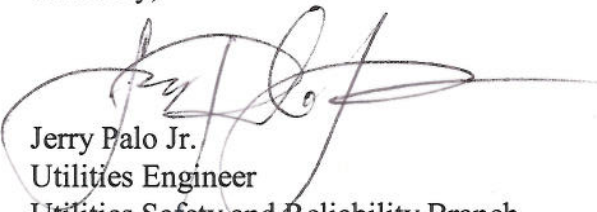
SUBJECT: General Order (GO) 165 Compliance Audit of the Riverside Public Utilities

On behalf of the Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission, I conducted an electric audit of the City of Riverside from February 24 – 27, 2009. The audit included a review of the Riverside Public Utilities' GO 165 inspection program and field inspections of the city.

During the audit, I identified violations of General Order 95, 128 and 165. A copy of the inspection summary itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than June 12, 2009, by electronic or hard copy of all corrective measures taken by the Riverside Public Utilities regarding the violations and the date they were corrected.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (213) 576-5719.

Sincerely,



Jerry Palo Jr.
Utilities Engineer
Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Enclosure: Compliance Audit Summary

Compliance Audit Summary

General Order (GO) 165

“The purpose of this General Order is to establish minimum requirements for electric distribution facilities, regarding inspection (including maximum allowable inspection cycle lengths), condition rating, scheduling and performance of corrective action, record-keeping, and reporting, in order to ensure safe and high-quality electrical service...”

Four elements from the Riverside Public Utilities GO 165 inspection program were deficient:

1. Detailed Inspection Cycle

No records were available for the previous detailed inspection cycle (2004 - 2005).

2. Priority System

Although a priority system is in place, there is no consistency in adhering to the schedule of maintenance the priority system has created.

3. Maintenance Verification

My field inspection revealed the program failed to correctly verify the work done by contractors.

The following GO95 violations were found during the field portion of the compliance audit, conducted on February 26, 2009, to verify the overhead (OH) inspection program. Grids 53, 67 and 68 were inspected as of September 8, 2008 by the Riverside Public Utilities.

1. GO 95, Rule 31.6: Abandoned Lines

“Lines or portions of lines permanently abandoned shall be removed by their owners so that such lines shall not become a public nuisance or a hazard to life or property. For the purposes of this rule, lines that are permanently abandoned shall be defined as those that are determined by their owner to have no foreseeable future use.”

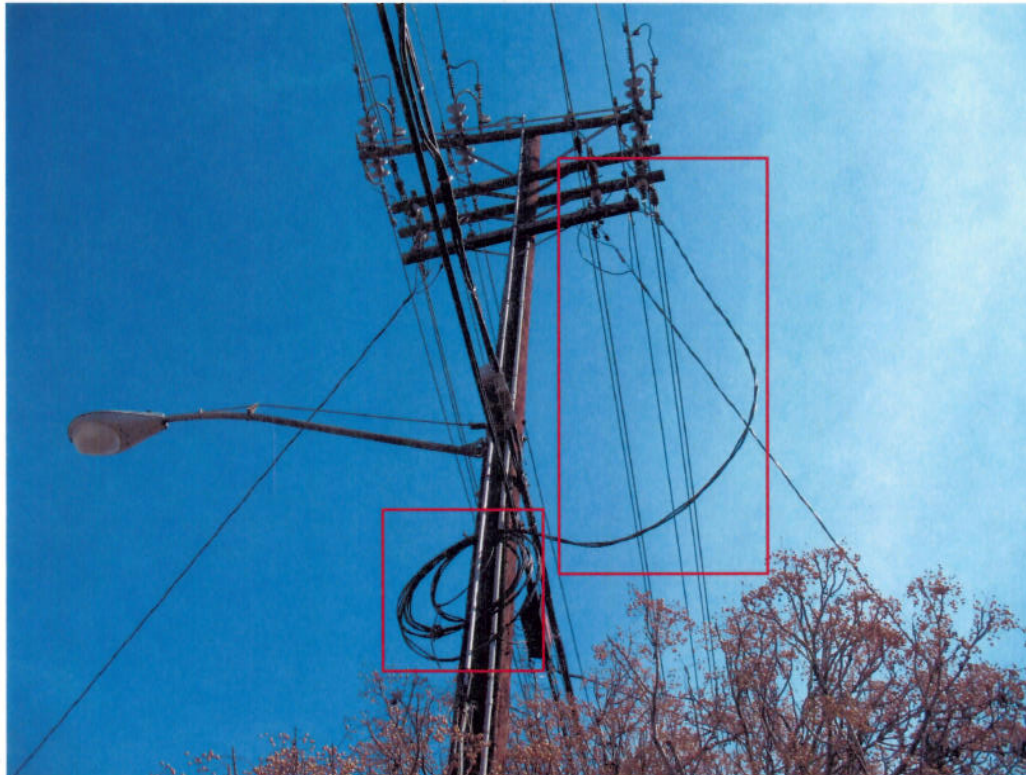


Image 1: Pole in the 5400 block of Arlington Ave (south side of street)

The pole shown in Image 1 had an abandoned service drop.

Poles 618831H (insulator) and 756898H (ground wire) both contain abandoned equipment.

2. GO 95, Rule 34: Foreign Attachments

“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.”



Image 2: Service drop from Pole J37206

The service drop from Pole J37206 was supported by unauthorized equipment. The attachment is not temporary since reinforcement has been continually added at the bottom of the unauthorized pole

3. GO 95, Rule 35: Tree Trimming

“Communication and electric supply circuits, energized at 750 volts or less, including their service drops, should be kept clear of limbs and foliage, in new construction and when circuits are reconstructed or repaired, whenever practicable. When a utility has actual knowledge, obtained either through normal operating practices or notifications to the utility, that any circuit energized at 750 volts or less shows strain or evidences abrasion from tree contact, the condition shall be corrected by slacking or rearranging the line, trimming the tree or placing mechanical protection on the conductor(s). For the purpose of this rule, abrasion is defined as damage to the insulation resulting from the friction between the tree and conductor. Scuffing or polishing of the insulating covering is not considered abrasion. Strain on a conductor is present when there is additional tension causing a deflection of the conductor beyond the slack of the span. Contact between limbs and these conductors, in and of itself, does not constitute a violation of the rule.”

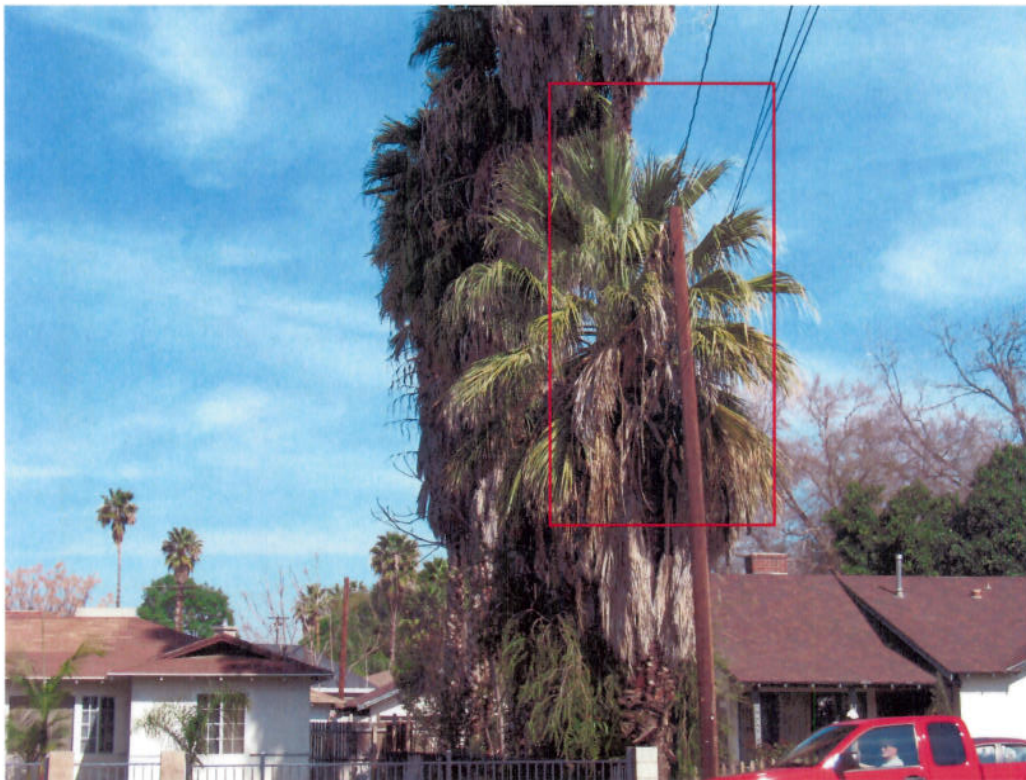


Image 3: Service drop between 5840 & 5836 Arlington Ave

The service drop crosses Arlington Avenue from the south, in between address 5840 & 5836 Arlington Avenue.

The service drop to 7339 Ysmael Villegas (Pole 756704H) showed signs of abrasion from a tree.

4. General Order (GO) 95, Rule 51.6A: Use of Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wires

“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 there from and clearly legible.”

Poles 15478J and 756706H had broken or missing “High Voltage” signs.

5. General Order (GO) 95, Rule 54.6B: Ground Wires

“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.”

Poles 11363J, 11364J, 11830J, 742841H, J35099 and J36776 have broken ground wire molding.

6. General Order (GO) 95, Rule 54.7A(3)(d): Allowable Climbing Space Obstruction

“Allowable climbing space obstructions are:

(d) Suitably covered (covered only by wood, see Rule 22.8):

- 1) Vertical risers; or*
- 2) Vertical runs; or*
- 3) Ground wires.”*

A plastic conduit is installed in the climbing space of Pole 11361J.

7. General Order (GO) 95, Rule 54.8B(1): Above Public Thoroughfares

“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 no 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 are no curbs the foregoing provisions shall apply using the outer limits of possible vehicular movement in lieu of a curb line.”

The service drop from Pole 19128J to address 7394 Ysmael Villegas had a clearance of 12 feet at the curb.

8. General Order (GO) 95, Rule 56.2: Use of Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wires

“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 4125J had a sagging anchor guy.

9. General Order (GO) 95, Rule 58.5B(3): Clearances from Conductors (Street Lighting)

“All parts of street light drop wires, street lamps, and their supporting fixtures (including rods, braces and guys) shall not be less than 1 foot radially from all unprotected conductors not supported on messengers (including lead wires and taps) except the lead wires supplying the street lamps within 24 inches of their points of entrance to the street lighting equipment.”

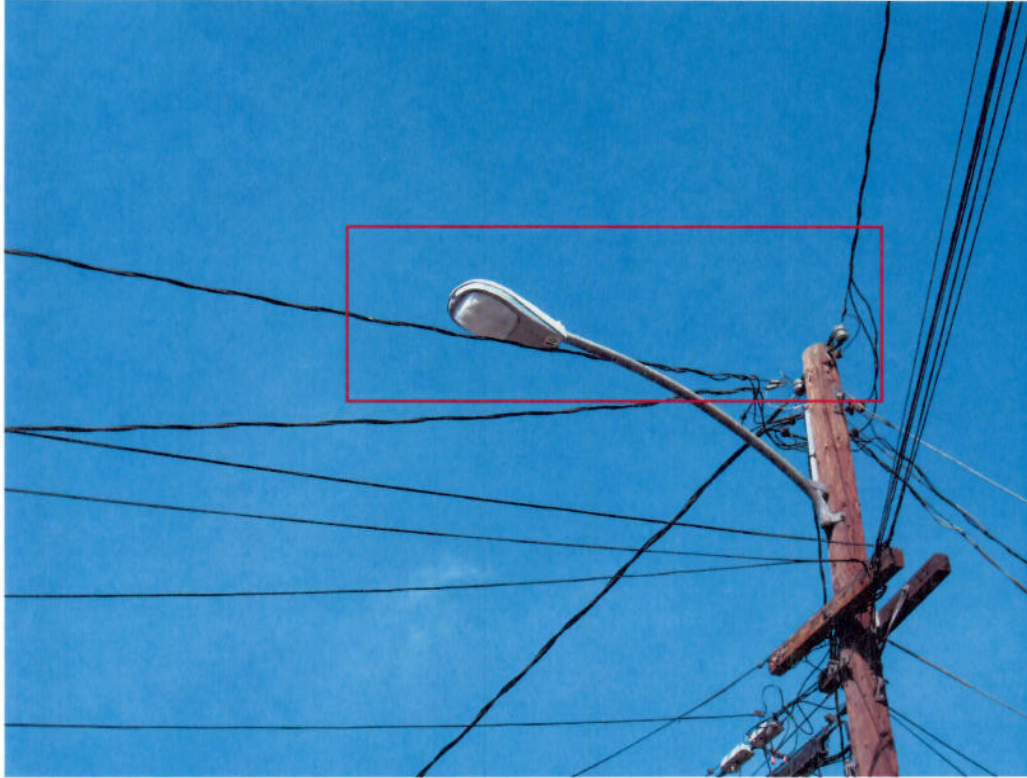


Image 4: Service drop clearance issue to street light

Pole J35099 had a service drop within less than 1-foot radial clearance from the street light.