

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3299



June 24, 2010

EA-2009-26

Mr. Tom Williams  
Service Maintenance Supervisor  
Modesto Irrigation District Electric  
929 Woodland Ave.  
Modesto, CA 95351

CPUC File No. EA2009-26

**SUBJECT:** General Order 95, 128, and 165 Audit of Modesto Irrigation District Electric

Dear Mr. Williams,

On behalf of the Utility Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission, Ryan Yamamoto and I conducted General Order 95, 128, and 165 Inspections of Modesto Irrigation District (MID) from November 4 – 6, 2009.

During the inspection, we identified violations of one or more General Orders. A copy of the audit summary itemizing the violations is enclosed. By August 6, 2009 please advise me of all corrective measures planned or taken by MID regarding the violation(s) and the date on which they are to be corrected or were corrected.

If you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 928-5875.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Ivan Garcia".

Ivan Garcia  
Utilities Engineer  
Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Enclosure: Inspection Summary

## **Inspection Summary**

### **I. Inspection and Maintenance Practices**

MID does not completely follow its program, "Inspection and Maintenance Practices for Overhead and Underground Electric Transmission and Distribution Lines". In reviewing MID's Field Inspection Reports, MID failed to adhere to its priority repair condition timeframe. We found reports that exceeded the timeframe given for repair per its priority. In addition we found reports in which there was no completion date and that the given due date for the repair had been surpassed.

### **II. GO 128, Rules For Construction of Underground Electric Supply and Communication Systems**

#### **GO 128, Rule 34.3-A, Strength states:**

"The equipment case or enclosure shall be secured in place and be of sufficient strength to resist entrance or damage to the equipment by unauthorized persons."

On November 5, 2009, the following pad mount transformer enclosure was shown to not have secure bolts to the pad mount ground. The transformer was last inspected September 4, 2009.

- 1) Transformer #N13883, located at Brigssmore and Prescott, Brigssmore Plaza

#### **GO 128, Rule 35.3, Warning Signs states:**

"Warning signs indicating high voltage shall be installed on an interior surface, or barrier if present, inside the entrance of vaults, manholes, handholes, pad mounted transformer compartments, and other above ground enclosures containing exposed live parts above 750 volts. Such warning signs shall be clearly visible to a person in position to open any such access door, other opening, or barrier."

On November 5, 2009, the following pad mount transformer enclosures were missing warning signs. The transformers were last inspected September 4, 2009.

- 1) Transformer #N10792, located at Brigssmore Plaza behind Ernie's Liquors
- 2) Transformer #N13276, located at Brigssmore Plaza behind Ernie's Liquors

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

On November 5, 2009, the following pad mount transformer enclosure was missing ownership identification by MID.

- 1) Transformer #N10792, located at Brigssmore Plaza behind Ernie's Liquors

### III. GO 95, Rules For Overhead Electric Line Construction

#### GO 95, Rule 54.6-B, Ground Wires states:

“Ground wires attached to or run on the face, back or underside of wood cross arms or on the surface of wood poles and structures shall be covered throughout their poles and structures protective covering (see Rule 22.2), excepting that ground wires of 0-750 volt circuits or equipment are not required to be covered where installed on the underside of cross arms or the portions of cross arms supporting 0-750 volt conductors.”

The following poles were found to have exposed ground molding at the communication level of the pole. MID inspected the poles on May 20, 2009. On November 5, 2009, we observed the exposed ground molding violations.

- 1) Pole #08E5Y205 at 1637 Elm St.
- 2) Pole #08E5Y207 at 1656 Elm St.
- 3) Pole #08E5Y202 at 1657 Elm St.

#### GO 95, Rule 34, Foreign Attachments 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.”

A third party light attachment was found on the following pole. MID completed an inspection of the pole on May 29, 2009. On November 5, 2009 we observed the foreign attachment violation.

- 1) Pole #08E5Y201 at 1669 Elm St.

#### GO 95, Rule 51.6A, Marking and Guarding, High Voltage Markings of Poles 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. A pair of signs may be stacked to a height of no more than 12 inches.”

During our inspection on November 5, 2009 a pole was found to have missing high voltage signs on the west cross arm on the west side of the pole. MID completed an inspection of the pole on May 20, 2009.

- 1) Pole #08E5Y205 at 1637 Elm St.

#### GO 95, Rule 51.7, Stepping states:

“The lowest step on any stepped pole, tower or structure shall be not less than 7 feet 6 inches from the ground line and above this point the spacing between steps on the same side of pole, tower or structure shall not exceed 36 inches.”

A pole step found was found low at approximately 7 feet 2 inches from the ground during our inspection on November 5, 2009. MID completed an inspection of the pole on May 20, 2009.

- 1) Pole #08E5Y202 at 1657 Elm St.