

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 8, 2012

Jack Latiolais
Electric Manager-Line
Redding Electric Utility
777 Cypress Ave.
Redding, Ca 96049

EA2012-10

SUBJECT: Audit of Redding Electric Utility

Dear Mr. Latiolais:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission, Ryan Yamamoto and Ivan Garcia of my staff conducted an audit of Redding Electric Utility's (REU's) electric distribution system from May 23, 2012 to May 25, 2012. The audit included a review REU's records and field inspections of REU's facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders. A copy of the audit summary itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than September 12, 2012 by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by REU to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit please contact, Ivan Garcia at (916) 928-5875 or ivan.garcia@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stepanian", written over a horizontal line.

Raffy Stepanian, P.E.
Program Manager
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Enclosures: Audit Summary

CC: Ryan Yamamoto, Utilities Engineer, USRB, CPUC
Alok Kumar, Senior Utilities Engineer, USRB, CPUC
Raymond Fugere, Program and Project Supervisor, USRB, CPUC
Ivan Garcia, Utilities Engineer, CPUC

AUDIT SUMMARY

GO 165, Section III-B, - Standards for Inspection, states in part:

“Each utility subject to this General Order shall conduct inspections of its distribution facilities, as necessary, to ensure reliable, high-quality, and safe operation, but in no case may the period between inspections (measured in years) exceed the time specified in Table 1.”

REU is not following the required 5 year detailed inspection cycle for overhead facilities as required in GO 165. Currently, REU is conducting detailed inspections of overhead facilities on a 12 year cycle.

REU is not following the required 3 year detailed inspection cycle for underground facilities as required in GO 165. Currently, REU is conducting detailed inspections of underground facilities on a 5 year cycle.

GO 165, Section III-C, – Record Keeping, states in part:

“For all inspections records shall specify the circuit, area, facility or equipment inspected, the inspector, the date of the inspection, and any problems (or items requiring corrective action) identified during each inspection, as well as the scheduled date of corrective action.”

REU does not document all violations during an inspection.

GO 165, Section III-C, – Record Keeping, states in part:

“The utility shall maintain records for (1) at least ten (10) years of the patrol and detailed inspection activities, and (2) the life of the pole for intrusive inspection activities.”

REU’s Distribution Overhead and Underground Inspection and Preventative Maintenance Guideline does not comply with the current GO 165. REU states that copies of inspection forms and completed work will be kept for a minimum of five years after completion of the required maintenance.

GO 165, Section III-D, - Reporting, states in part:

“By July 1st each each utility subject to this General Order shall submit an annual report for the previous year under penalty of perjury.”

REU has not submitted any annual reports to the Commission. Annual reports must be submitted to the Commission by July 1st.

GO 95, Rule 18-A2a, - Resolution of Safety Hazards and GO 95 Nonconformances, states in part:

“All companies shall establish an auditable maintenance program for their facilities and lines. All companies must include a timeline for corrective actions to be taken following the identification of a Safety Hazard or nonconformances with General Orders 95 on the company’s facilities. The auditable maintenance program shall prioritize corrective actions consistent with the priority levels set forth below and based on the following factors, as appropriate:”

REU’s Distrubution Overhead and Underground Inspection and Preventative Maintenance Guideline does not have the appropriate time periods for correction of nonconformances.

GO 95, Rule 18-A1a, - Resolution of Safety Hazards and GO 95 Nonconformances, states in part:

“Each company (including utilities and CIPs) is responsible for taking appropriate corrective action to remedy Safety Hazards and GO 95 nonconformances posed by its facilities.”

REU did not document, schedule for correction and correct all Safety Hazards received from other companies.

GO 95, Rule 18-B, - Notification of Safety Hazards, states in part:

“If a company, while performing inspections of its facilities, discovers a safety hazard(s) on or near a communications facility or electric facility involving another company, the inspecting company shall notify the other company and/or facility owner of such safety hazard(s) no later than 10 business days after the discovery. To the extent the inspecting company cannot determine the facility owner/operator, it shall contact the pole owner(s), who shall be responsible for promptly notifying the company owning/operating the facility with the safety hazard(s), normally not to exceed five business days after being notified of the safety hazard. The notification shall be documented and such documentation must be preserved by all parties for at least ten years.”

REU does not notify other companies of safety hazards as required by GO 95.

A.	Location:	1805 Cedarwood Dr., Redding
	Equipment ID:	T3560L
	Previous Visit by Utility:	12/13/11
	Date Visited by CPUC:	5/24/12
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Padmount Not Secured</u>		
<p>GO 128 Rule 34.3-A, Self-contained Surface-mounted Equipment, Strength, states in part::</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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.</i></p> <p>The padmount at this location was not secured to the base of the pad. This violation was not identified by REU during its last visit to this location.</p>		

B.	Location:	1100 Pinewood Ct., Redding
	Equipment ID:	T2277
	Previous Visit by Utility:	12/13/11
	Date Visited by CPUC:	5/24/12
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Padmount Not Secured</u>		
<p>GO 128 Rule 34.3-A, Self-contained Surface-mounted Equipment, Strength, states in part::</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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.</i></p> <p>The padmount at this location was not secured to the base of the pad. This violation was not identified by REU during its last visit to this location.</p>		

C.	Location:	1208 Hawthorne Ave., Redding
	Equipment ID:	T7392
	Previous Visit by Utility:	12/13/11
	Date Visited by CPUC:	5/24/12
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Padmount Not Secured</u>		
<p>GO 128 Rule 34.3-A, Self-contained Surface-mounted Equipment, Strength, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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.</i></p> <p>The padmount at this location was not secured to the base of the pad. This violation was not identified by REU during its last visit to this location.</p>		

D.	Location:	1761 Hawthorne Ct.
	Equipment ID:	T2859
	Previous Visit by Utility:	12/13/12
	Date Visited by CPUC:	5/24/12
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Padmount Not Secured</u>		
<p>GO 128 Rule 34.3-A, Self-contained Surface-mounted Equipment, Strength, states in part::</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>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.</i></p> <p>The padmount at this location was not secured to the base of the pad. This violation was not identified by REU during its last visit to this location.</p>		

E.	Location:	North End of Canby Rd., South of Highway 44
	Pole No.:	Unknown (next to T6077L)
	Previous Visit by Utility:	12/14/11
	Date Visited by CPUC:	5/24/12
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p data-bbox="358 621 634 653"><u>Guy Guard Missing</u></p> <p data-bbox="358 695 1179 726">GO 95 Rule 56.9, Guy Marker (Guy Guard), states in part::</p> <p data-bbox="488 768 1533 909"><i>A substantial marker of suitable material, including but not limited to metal or plastic, not less than 8 feet in length, shall be securely attached to all anchor guys. Where more than one guy is attached to an anchor rod, only the outermost guy is required to have a marker.</i></p> <p data-bbox="358 951 1511 1010">The guy guard at this location was missing from the down guy. This violation was not identified by REU during its last visit to this location.</p>		

F.	Location:	Southeast corner of Moore Lane and Jordan Lane
	Pole No.:	F22135
	Previous Visit by Utility:	3/20/09
	Date Visited by CPUC:	5/24/12
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p data-bbox="344 583 748 615"><u>High Voltage Signs Missing</u></p> <p data-bbox="344 653 1386 684">GO 95 Rule 51.6, Marking and Guarding, High Voltage Marking of Poles:</p> <p data-bbox="485 726 1539 978"><i>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. Such signs shall be of weather and corrosion-resisting material, solid or with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.</i></p> <p data-bbox="344 1020 1500 1089">High Voltage Signs were missing at this pole. This violation was not identified by REU during its last visit to this location.</p>		