

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



January 29, 2013

EA2012-035

Jadwindar Singh
Manager, Distribution Compliance
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
245 Market St, #926
San Francisco, CA 94105

SUBJECT: Audit of PG&E's Diablo Division

Dear Mr. Singh:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission, Ivan Garcia, and Paul Penney of my staff conducted an electric audit of PG&E's Diablo Division from November 5 to November 9, 2012. The audit included a review of PG&E's records and field inspections of PG&E's facilities.

During the audit, we 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 March 8, 2013, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by PG&E 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".

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

Enclosure: Audit Summary

CC:

Ivan Garcia, Utilities Engineer, CPUC
Raymond Fugere, Program and Project Supervisor, CPUC
Curtis Todd Ryan, Supervisor, PG&E Gas & Electric System Support

AUDIT SUMMARY

Company: PG&E – Diablo Division
Electric Audit
Date: November 5-9, 2012

Violations

A.	Location:	PG&E – Diablo Division
	Date Visited by CPUC:	11/5/2012-11/9/2012
	Explanation of Violation(s):	
	<u>GO 165, Section III-B, – Standards for Inspection, States:</u> <i>“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.”</i> According to a pre-audit data request response, in 2008 PG&E did not inspect overhead map E2012, which had 14 facilities listed. The map was inspected late per GO 165 and is therefore in violation of this GO. PG&E Inspectors are inaccurately tallying the facilities inspected/patrolled. The tallying errors are most likely due to simple addition errors. However, these errors lead to changing facility counts year to year as the new count will supersede the prior, correct count. The tallying errors also create uncertainty when determining the number of facilities that were GO 165 inspected/patrolled, as the tally will not match the number of actual facilities on the map. ¹	

¹ This issue was noted in our 2009 audit report of PG&E’s Peninsula Division dated September 4, 2009.

B.	Location:	PG&E – Diablo Division
	Date Visited by CPUC:	11/5/2012-11/9/2012
	Explanation of Violation(s):	
	<u>GO 165, Section III-C, – Record Keeping, states in part:</u>	
	<p><i>“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.”</i></p> <p>4341 work orders, from January 2008 to October 2012, were completed past their scheduled date of corrective action. Furthermore, 880 work orders are currently open past their scheduled date of corrective action.</p>	

C.	Location:	PG&E – Diablo Division
	Date Visited by CPUC:	11/5/2012-11/9/2012
	Explanation of Violation(s):	
	<u>GO 165, Section III-C, – Record Keeping, states in part:</u>	
	<p><i>“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.”</i></p> <p>PG&E does not document all the details required to be kept under this rule for all corrective actions found during PG&E’s inspections. For minor corrective actions, PG&E staff marks a tally mark but does not specify the equipment or the details required under the rule.</p>	

The following violations that ESRB engineers discovered during the field audit and were not documented and addressed by PG&E during its last detailed inspection as required by General Order 165:

D.	Location:	11 Sandview Dr., Baypoint
	Pole No.:	110214271
	Previous Visit by Utility:	Inspection Map Antioch A1224 Completed 8/13/2012
	Date Visited by CPUC:	11/9/2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p><u>Ground Wire Exposed</u></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 54.6B, Ground Wires, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ground wires of supply circuits must be protected by suitable covering and be in good repair throughout their length.</i></p> <p>At this location, a ground wire was exposed at the bottom of the pole and at approximately 2 ½ feet from the ground. This violation was not documented by PG&E staff when the transformer was inspected.</p>		
<p><u>Primary Conductor Guy Grounded By Tree Branch</u></p>		
<p>GO 95, Rule 56.6, Requirements for Sectionalizing With Insulators, states:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>All portions of guys within both a vertical distance of 8 feet from the level of supply conductors of less than 35,500 volts and a radial distance of 6 feet from the surface of wood poles or structures shall not be grounded, through anchors or otherwise. Where necessary to avoid the grounding of such portions, guys shall be sectionalized by means of insulators installed at locations as specified in Rule 56.7.</i></p> <p>At this location, the tree branch was in contact with the insulator bob on the down guy. This violation was not documented by PG&E staff when the transformer was inspected.</p>		

E.	Location:	45 Sandview Dr., Baypoint
	Pole No:	110214275
	Previous Visit by Utility:	Overhead Inspection Map Antioch A1224 Completed 8/13/2012
	Date Visited by CPUC:	11/9/2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p data-bbox="261 663 553 695"><u>Ground Wire Exposed</u></p> <p data-bbox="261 737 894 768">GO 95 Rule 56.4.B, Ground Wires, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="355 810 1357 879"><i>Ground wires of supply circuits must be protected by suitable covering and be in good repair throughout their length.</i></p> <p data-bbox="261 921 1422 991">At this location, ground wire was exposed at the top of the pole just below the transformer. This violation was not documented by PG&E staff when the pole was inspected.</p>		

F.	Location:	61 Sandview Dr., Baypoint
	Pole No:	110214427
	Previous Visit by Utility:	Overhead Inspection Map Antioch A1224 Completed 8/13/2012
	Date Visited by CPUC:	10/18/2012
	Explanation of Violation(s):	
	<p data-bbox="272 625 776 659"><u>Down Guy Clearance From Conductor</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 697 1365 730"><u>GO 95, Rule 56.49(C)(4), Clearances From Conductors On Same Poles states in part:</u></p> <p data-bbox="367 772 1321 877"><i>GO 95 Rule 38, Table 2, Case 19D references Rule 56.49(C)(4) and states that guys and span wires passing conductors supported on the same poles shall have a minimum clearance of 3 inches from service drops.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 919 1349 1022">At this location, the down guy from this pole was less than 3 inches from the PG&E service line. This violation was not documented by PG&E staff when the pole was inspected.</p>	

G.	Location:	61 Port View Dr., Baypoint
	Pole No.:	110214270
	Previous Visit by Utility:	Overhead Inspection Map Antioch A1224 Completed 8/13/2012
	Date Visited by CPUC:	11/9/2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p data-bbox="272 625 477 659"><u>Down Guy Idle</u></p> <p data-bbox="272 697 841 730">GO 95, Rule 31.6, Abandoned Lines, states:</p> <p data-bbox="354 772 1344 953"><i>Line 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 lines that are determined by their owner to have no foreseeable future use.</i></p> <p data-bbox="272 995 1416 1062">The down guy at this location was not in use for its intended purpose and was considered idle. This violation was not documented by PG&E staff when the pole was inspected.</p>		