

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 7, 2014

EA2014-002

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

**SUBJECT:** Audit of Modesto Irrigation District Electric

Dear Mr. Williams:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission, Jamie Lau and Yusef Collins of my staff conducted an electric audit of Modesto Irrigation District Electric (MID), on February 10 -13, 2014. The audit included a review of MID's records and field inspections of MID's facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders. A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than August 8, 2014, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by MID to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit please contact, Jamie Lau at (415) 703-2233 or [jamie.lau@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jamie.lau@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Fadi Daye".

Fadi Daye, P.E.  
Acting Program and Project Supervisor  
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division

Enclosure: Audit Findings

Cc: Elizaveta Malashenko, Deputy Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC  
Charlotte TerKeurst, Program Manager, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC  
Alok Kumar, P.E., Senior Utilities Engineer Supervisor, CPUC  
Jamie Lau, P.E., Utilities Engineer, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC  
Yusef Collins, Utilities Engineer, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC

## AUDIT FINDINGS

Company: Modesto Irrigation District Electric  
Electric Audit  
Date: February 10-13, 2014

### Violations

A.	Location:	MID - Modesto
	Date Visited by CPUC:	2/10/2014 – 2/13/2014
	<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b> <b><u>Incomplete Inspections</u></b>  GO 165, Section III-B, Standards for Inspection, states:  <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>  Between January 1, 2009 and February 12, 2014, MID did not inspect all of its facilities as required by the GO 165. MID records indicated that seven poles, 16 padmount transformes, and three padmount switches were not inspected on time.	

<b>B.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	<b>MID - Modesto</b>
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	2/10/2014 – 2/13/2014
	<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>	
	<p data-bbox="250 470 1024 501"><b><u>Lack of Safety Hazards Notification Documentation</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="250 554 1052 585">GO 95, Rule 18-B, Notification of Safety Hazards, states:</p> <p data-bbox="344 638 1308 1073"><i>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.</i></p> <p data-bbox="250 1115 1328 1188">MID does not document outgoing third-party safety hazard notifications. This practice does not meet the GO 95's safety hazard notification requirement.</p>	

The following GO 95 and GO 128 violations discovered by ESRB engineers during the field audit, were not documented and/or addressed by MID during its last detailed inspection as required by General Order 165:

<b>C.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	2200 Cornwell Avenue, Modesto
	<b>Pole No:</b>	Pole 8G5-Y1-05
	<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>	3/7/2013
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	2/11/2014
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Missing High Voltage Sign</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 51.6-A, High Voltage Marking, states in part:</p> <p><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. Such signs shall be of weather and corrosion-resisting material, solid or with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.</i></p> <p>The High Voltage sign on the pole was missing.</p>		

<b>D.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Shoemake Avenue, 5 pole east on Hart Road, Modesto
	<b>Equipment No:</b>	Pole 5F-X2-12
	<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>	3/11/2013
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	2/12/2014
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Missing Guy Marker</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 56.9, Guy Marker (Guy Guard), states:</p> <p><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>The guy guard on the anchor guy was missing.</p>		

E.	<b>Location:</b>	Beckwith Road and Hammett Road, Modesto
<b>Equipment No:</b>		Pole 6G-X1-12
<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>		6/20/2013
<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>		2/12/2014
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Foreign Attachment</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 34, Foreign Attachments, states in part:</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>A third party sign was attached to the pole.</p> <p><b><u>Fallen Guy Wire</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 56.2, Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wires Use, states in part:</p> <p><i>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.</i></p> <p>A guy wire was unattached from the pole and lying on the ground.</p>		

<b>F.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	2221 Goldie Avenue, Modesto
	<b>Equipment No:</b>	Pole 8G5-Y2-07
	<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>	3/7/2013
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	2/12/2014
	<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>	
	<p data-bbox="250 655 496 688"><b><u>Loose Guy Wire</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="250 726 1380 798">GO 95, Rule 56.2, Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wires Use, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="344 835 1403 945"><i>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 .</i></p> <p data-bbox="250 982 909 1016">The guy wire attached to the pole was not taut.</p>	

<b>G.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Corner of Andrew Ave and Goldie Ave, Modesto
	<b>Equipment No:</b>	Pole 8G5-Y2-09
	<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>	3/7/2013
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	2/12/2014
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Missing High Voltage Sign</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 51.6-A, High Voltage Marking, states in part:</p> <p><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. Such signs shall be of weather and corrosion-resisting material, solid or with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.</i></p> <p>The High Voltage sign on the pole was missing.</p>		



H.	<b>Location:</b>	2121 Eicher Avenue, Modesto
	<b>Equipment No:</b>	Pole 8G5-Y2-15
	<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>	3/7/2013
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	2/12/2014
	<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>	
	<p data-bbox="240 617 488 653"><b><u>Loose Guy Wire</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="240 688 1373 762">GO 95, Rule 56.2, Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wires Use, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="334 800 1398 909"><i>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 .</i></p> <p data-bbox="240 947 902 982">The guy wire attached to the pole was not taut.</p>	

I.	<b>Location:</b>	2209 Eicher Avenue, Modesto
<b>Equipment No:</b>		Pole 8G5-Y1-13
<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>		3/7/2013
<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>		2/12/2014
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Third-Party Notification</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 18-B, Notification of Safety Hazards, states in part:</p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p>A communication ground wire installed on the surface of the pole was partially exposed. The exposed ground wire was less than 7 feet above the ground. A safety hazard notification was not sent to the third party.</p>		

J.	<b>Location:</b>	2235 Powell Avenue, Modesto
	<b>Equipment No:</b>	Pole 8G5-Y1-01
	<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>	3/7/2013
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	2/12/2014
	<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>	
	<p data-bbox="240 659 488 688"><b><u>Loose Guy Wire</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="240 730 1373 800">GO 95, Rule 56.2, Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wires Use, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="337 842 1398 947"><i>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.</i></p> <p data-bbox="240 989 873 1018">The guy wire attached to the pole was loose.</p>	

<b>K.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	2309 Prescott Road, Modesto
	<b>Equipment No:</b>	Pole 8G5-X2-05
	<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>	3/7/2013
	<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>	2/12/2014
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Third-Party Notification</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 18-B, Notification of Safety Hazards, states in part:</p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p>A ground wire for a City owned street light facility installed on the surface of the pole was exposed. The exposed ground wire was less than 7 feet above the ground. A safety hazard notification was not sent to the third party.</p>		

<b>L.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Rear of 2087 Esther Drive, Modesto
<b>Equipment No:</b>		Pole 08-G5-X3-08
<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>		3/7/2013
<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>		2/12/2014
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Third-Party Notification</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 18-B, Notification of Safety Hazards, states in part:</p> <p><i>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</i></p> <p>A communication ground wire installed on the surface of the pole was partially exposed. The exposed ground wire was less than 7 feet above the ground. A safety hazard notification was not sent to the third party.</p>		

<b>M.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	2315 Claribel Road, Riverbank
<b>Equipment No:</b>		Tx 24796
<b>Previous Visit by Utility:</b>		10/19/2011
<b>Date Visited by CPUC:</b>		2/13/2014
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Padmount Transformer Not Bolted Down</u></b></p> <p>GO 128, Rule 34.3-A, Self-contained Surface-mounted Equipment, states:</p> <p><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 transformer was not bolted down.</p>		