

From: Cherry, Brian K  
Sent: 9/24/2010 8:01:28 AM  
To: pac@cpuc.ca.gov (pac@cpuc.ca.gov)  
Cc:  
Bcc:  
Subject: FW: San Bruno Media Coverage - 6:30 a.m. Update

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**From:** Redacted

**Sent:** Friday, September 24, 2010 6:35 AM

**To:** SB FAQ Key Messages Distribution List; SB MRRT; Peterson, Michael R (Corp Security); Redacted

**Subject:** San Bruno Media Coverage - 6:30 a.m. Update

## San Bruno Media Update

### Friday, September 24, 2010

### Updated 6:30 a.m.

#### Summary

The San Francisco Chronicle reported that there is some speculation that the cause of the San Bruno incident may be due to microbial bacteria. The San Jose Mercury News covered PG&E CEO Peter Darbee's apology to East Palo Alto officials, who were unhappy that they had not received a call from the company about the pipeline that ran under the city. Last night, a gas leak in Fresno prompted the evacuation of people from a local neighborhood, as reported by the Fresno CBS affiliate. Local broadcast stations throughout the state continued to report on the CPUC investigation into the incident.

#### Developments to Date

- The San Francisco Chronicle reported that microbial bacteria could be a potential cause of the San Bruno incident
- A gas leak in Fresno prompted the evacuation of a local neighborhood
- Local news outlets and network affiliates continued to report on the CPUC investigation into the San Bruno incident

## Print Media Coverage

**6:00 p.m. Thursday, September 23 – 5:30 a.m. Friday, September 24, 2010**

### San Francisco Chronicle

San Bruno blast: microbial culprit considered

By Jaxon Van Derbeken

September 24, 2010

One August morning a decade ago, a dozen family members were camping near a bridge across the Pecos River when a natural gas pipeline ruptured, sending a fireball into the New Mexico desert.

All 12 people, including three young children, were killed. The culprit turned out to be microbes that thrived, undetected, in a pool of stagnant water inside the pipe. The colony of bacteria released gases that eventually broke down the wall of the 5-decade-old, 30-inch gas transmission line, a phenomenon called microbiologically influenced corrosion.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/09/23/MN961FG3BE.DTL>

### San Francisco Chronicle

San Bruno survivor's new life near blast zone

By Justin Berton

September 24, 2010

The social workers told [Redacted] that the survivor's guilt would be normal.

Talk about that day, they told the [Redacted]. It will help make sense of why your house was spared.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/09/23/BAH21FIP39.DTL&tsp=1>

### San Jose Mercury News

East Palo Alto gets apologies but still no answers from PG&E about high-risk pipeline

By Bonnie Eslinger

September 24, 2010

East Palo Alto got a big apology Thursday from PG&E's top official, but very few answers about why a natural gas pipeline under a city intersection is listed among the utility's 100 riskiest in the state.

Interim City Manager ML Gordon said he received a morning call from Peter Darbee, the utility's CEO, who apologized that no one from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. had called to alert East Palo Alto that one of its pipeline segments was on a "Top 100" watch list, or to arrange a meeting to provide information.

[http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci\\_16160181](http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_16160181)

### **San Francisco Examiner**

State panel approved to probe deadly PG&E explosion

September 23, 2010

Two weeks have passed since the deadly explosion that destroyed a San Bruno neighborhood, leaving seven people dead and nearly 40 homes destroyed. In the aftermath of the incident, many tough questions are being asked of PG&E, the utility company responsible for the section of pipeline that ruptured, leading to the devastating explosion and fire that made national news. Accusations of negligence have been made by residents and political representatives whose constituency lives within the affected area. However, there are too many individual groups demanding answers, which is why an independent panel has been set up to investigate the deadly explosion's cause.

California regulators voted in an independent panel that would investigate the cause of the September 9th explosion. Regulators also order PG&E to pay the expense of the panel reviewing the accident. The panel is going to look at the utility company's management and their policies regarding high risk pipelines, to see if the blast could have been prevented. Regulators want PG&E to pay for the panel with shareholder funds rather than a rate increase, which comes as a relief to those already suffering from recent utility rate hikes.

<http://www.examiner.com/headlines-in-san-francisco/state-panel-approved-to-probe-deadly-pg-e-explosion>

### **San Francisco Examiner**

Details hazy on funding of panel looking into blast

By Katie Worth

September 23, 2010

It's not clear whether money to pay for the investigations into the cause of the San Bruno fire will come from PG&E's ratepayers or from its profits.

The California Public Utilities Commission, the agency that is supposed to oversee PG&E's infrastructure, met Thursday and created a committee to do its own investigation into the fire — separate from the investigation already begun by the federal National Transportation Safety Board.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Details-hazy-on-funding-of-panel-looking-into-blast-103691944.html>

### **Alameda Sun**

Alameda: No San Bruno

By Dennis Evanosky

September 23, 2010

The natural gas line explosion in San Bruno leaves many in Alameda wondering. Does a line like the one that took so many lives and so many homes on the Peninsula run beneath Island City homes? The answer is "no."

A National Pipeline Maintenance Service map does show one natural gas line entering Alameda near the [Redacted] and winding its way along [Redacted] to [Redacted]. This line, however, did not make Pacific Gas & Electric Company's list of its 100 most hazardous pipelines.

[http://alamedasun.com/index.php?option=com\\_content&task=view&id=7577&Itemid=10](http://alamedasun.com/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=7577&Itemid=10)

### **Gilroy Dispatch**

Gas lines knife through area

By Miranda Simon

September 23, 2010

After [Redacted], 58, saw news footage of San Bruno houses leveled to the ground and wrecked cars covered in soot on the morning of Sept. 10, he immediately thought of the pipelines that line the corner of his house on the [Redacted] of [Redacted] Street.

"I'll be the first to blow up if that pipeline bursts," he told his next-door neighbor half-seriously, "and you'll be next."

<http://www.gilroydispatch.com/news/268927-gas-lines-knife-through-area>

### **Merced Sun-Star**

Officials keeping Merced-area gas lines safe

By Ameera Butt

September 24, 2010

Merced can breathe easier about gas lines.

That diagnosis comes from both city and PG&E officials.

Stan Murdock, director of Public Works operations, said the department's role in a gas leak would be to provide support and services in the form of barricades or backhoes to the fire department and police.

<http://www.mercedsunstar.com/2010/09/24/1582330/officials-keeping-merced-area.html>

## **Broadcast Online Coverage**

### **KTVU-TV (FOX) San Francisco – Online**

Events planned for Bullis family members who died in San Bruno fire

September 23, 2010

[Redacted] will hold a reception following a memorial service Friday to honor a student who died along with his father and grandmother in the San Bruno explosion and fire earlier this month.

[Redacted], 17, his father [Redacted], 50, and his grandmother [Redacted], 85, were three of the seven people killed when a natural gas pipeline ruptured on the evening of Sept. 9, sparking a fire that injured more than 50 other people and destroyed 37 homes.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/25140075/detail.html>

### **CBS Fresno**

Dozens of people evacuated after gas leak

By Brittney Hopper

September 23, 2010

The smell of natural gas filled the air as residents had only minutes to leave their home. In one area it was leaking so much gas, residents who were told to evacuate couldn't leave in their car. Fire officials fearing something could explode.

“The level of gas that we're reading, is high enough in certain areas that if there was an ignition source we would have potential fire or explosion,” said Mike Despain, Fresno Fire Department.

<http://www.cbs47.tv/news/local/story/Dozens-of-People-Evacuated-after-Gas-Leak/IN2EhtV-xUm8cZ9NiuhtjQ.cspX>

### **KOLO-TV Reno – online**

San Bruno's explosion leads to Congress wanting law

By Joan Lowy (AP)

September 23, 2010

Energy industry officials say a bill that would require them to report oil spills, gas leaks and other incidents within one hour doesn't provide enough time.

The energy industry is under scrutiny after a recent gas explosion in California and an oil spill in Michigan.

<http://www.kolotv.com/californianews/headlines/103681609.html>

### **KGO-TV (ABC) San Francisco – online**

SF fire chief gets natural gas pipeline maps

By Amy Hollyfield

September 23, 2010

PG&E's most closely guarded secret under the streets of San Francisco is a secret no more. After two weeks of wrestling with a power company, the fire chief is finally getting answers, but what will she do with the information? Will she release it or keep it to herself?

San Francisco Fire Chief Joanne Hayes-White received the map of the gas lines running through San Francisco from PG&E. She asked for them a week ago.

[http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/san\\_francisco&id=7686609](http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/san_francisco&id=7686609)

## **Broadcast Coverage**

## **Local Coverage**

NOTE: These video clips are being captured electronically in real time. Cleaner and more accurate start/stop clips will be collected at a later date.

CBS 2 News

[Clip](#)

KCBS-TV (CBS) CH 2, Los Angeles, CA  
9/23/2010, 6:00 - 6:30 PM

KCAL 9 News At 9:00 PM

[Clip](#)

KCAL-TV (IND) CH 9, Los Angeles, CA  
9/23/2010, 9:00 - 10:00 PM

NBC11 News: The Bay Area At 6

[Clip](#)

KNTV-TV (NBC) CH 11, San Francisco, CA  
9/23/2010, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

KFSN: Action News At 6:30

[Clip](#)

KFSN-TV (ABC) CH 30, Fresno/Visalia, CA  
9/23/2010, 6:30 - 7:00 PM