




SAN FRANCISCO FIRE DEPARTMENT
CITY AND COUNTY OF SAN FRANCISCO

MEMORANDUM

TO: Mayor Gavin Newsom

FROM: Joanne Hayes-White, Chief of Department 

DATE: September 23, 2010

RE: Update on Utility Infrastructure Safety Review

As you know, it has been two weeks since the San Bruno natural gas transmission explosion and fire. Following the incident, a Utility Infrastructure Safety Review was formed at your direction. The mission was to work closely with PG&E to receive a comprehensive report on all natural gas transmission and distribution lines in the City and County of San Francisco including location, age, condition and maintenance of lines.

A Utility Infrastructure Safety Review Workgroup has been formed comprised of City Administrator Ed Lee, Chief of Staff Steve Kawa, Director of Department of Public Works Ed Reiskin, myself and members of the San Francisco Fire Department.

I am pleased to report that significant progress has been made to date:

On September 15, 2010, the Workgroup met with PG&E representatives to discuss objectives and timelines. This initial meeting provided a solid foundation to gain a thorough understanding of the natural gas infrastructure within our City. At this meeting, we made a request for maps of all pipeline infrastructure. On September 16, 2010, a site visit was conducted in San Bruno.

We have scheduled a follow up meeting with PG&E on September 29, 2010 and will be convening at PG&E's Emergency Operations Center to continue our discussions and review their emergency response protocols.

Just this morning, I personally met with PG&E representatives and was provided with a detailed map of both gas transmission and distribution lines, in addition to a Risk Management Procedures document detailing PG&E's gas transmission pipeline integrity management plan. PG&E also provided a copy of the

Code of Federal Regulations that addresses safety requirements for gas transmission pipelines. I was assured that PG&E is in full compliance with these Federal regulations. After preliminary review of the maps and discussions with PG&E, we have learned that gas transmission lines entering into the City and County of San Francisco are less than half of the pressure of the lines in operation in San Bruno.

Having this information from PG&E prior to our meeting on September 29, 2010 will afford the Fire Department the ability to review and analyze all documents, allowing for a more productive meeting.

PG&E has been responsive to all requests made to date and has cooperated fully from completing leak surveying within hours of the San Bruno incident to demonstrating a willingness to provide natural gas training to our members. I will continue to update you as our Utility Infrastructure Safety review makes further progress.

cc: Steve Kawa, Chief of Staff, Mayor's Office
David Chiu, President, Board of Supervisors
Ed Lee, City Administrator
Dennis Herrera, City Attorney