

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 10/1/2010 7:54:10 AM
To: pac@cpuc.ca.gov (pac@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: San Bruno Media Coverage, 7:00 a.m. Update, Oct. 1

From: Redacted
Sent: Friday, October 01, 2010 7:27 AM
To: SB FAQ Key Messages Distribution List; SB MRRT; Peterson, Michael R (Corp Security); Redacted
Subject: San Bruno Media Coverage, 7:00 a.m. Update, Oct. 1

San Bruno Media Update

Friday, October 1, 2010

Updated 7:00 a.m.

Summary

Coverage last night and early this morning varied but regional publications continued to discuss their own areas' concerns with natural gas pipelines in response to the San Bruno incident. An article in the SF Chronicle reports on a history of electric incidents involving PG&E. The article speculates that PG&E isn't allocating sufficient funds to maintenance and repair. The San Jose Mercury news reports that many officials desire more details from PG&E about nearby pipeline risks. Broadcast coverage focused on the three segments of pipeline under investigation.

Developments to Date

- SF Chronicle discusses history of electric incidents
- NTSB investigators allow cameras inside the investigation lab where they are examining the remains of the pipeline segment

Print Media Coverage

6:00 p.m. – 7:00 a.m. Thursday, September 30, 2010 – Friday, October 1, 2010

San Francisco Chronicle

PG&E electric grid has problems too

By David Baker

September 30, 2010

In June 2009, a power line from the 1920s melted inside an underground Pacific Gas and Electric Co. vault in San Francisco's Tenderloin neighborhood, starting a fire that shot flames 30 feet into the air and knocked out power to 8,600 customers [...] Last month's fatal explosion in San Bruno has focused attention on PG&E's natural gas pipelines, with investigators delving into their age, condition, maintenance and operations.

But the utility, based in San Francisco, has a long history of problems with its electricity grid, an immense web of power lines and equipment covering most of northern and central California.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/09/30/MNGL1FL2KT.DTL#ixzz10bxgCo7U>

San Jose Mercury News

Bay Area leaders say PG&E falling short in providing information about gas pipeline risks

By Paul Rodgers & Joshua Melvin

October 1, 2010

Nearly two weeks after PG&E made public the list of its Top 100 highest-risk natural gas pipelines in the Bay Area and promised to share information about them with cities, the company has yet to provide numerous basic details to local officials.

In San Jose, PG&E has refused to supply the fire department and public works officials a map showing where the shut-off valves on its transmission lines are located, or to provide information about the pressure in its pipelines, citing security concerns.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_16221044

San Jose Mercury News

Segments of San Bruno pipe show 'catastrophic' failure

By Pete Carey

September 30, 2010

The failure of a natural-gas pipeline that ruptured three weeks ago, devastating a San Bruno neighborhood, may have started along a weld or in a weakened section of the 54-year-old pipe, said experts who reviewed photographs of the twisted metal sections Thursday.

The National Transportation Safety Board allowed photographers to take pictures of the segments of pipe at its Virginia laboratory. The Mercury News asked three experts to analyze

the photographs.

http://www.mercurynews.com/news/ci_16220874?nclick_check=1

USA Today

Pipeline explosions raise questions

Thomas Frank

September 30, 2010

It started when a slit opened in a steel pipeline a few feet under a Mississippi cow pasture. For more than seven minutes on Nov. 1, 2007, liquid propane flowed into the ground before vaporizing into a cloud that hovered above the grassland, woods and houses, federal investigators found.

The gas ignited with a blast so intense that neighbors said it sounded like the roar of an airplane. A fireball, visible miles away, incinerated 71 acres, four homes and killed 40 cattle and two people, a 20-year-old woman and her grandmother. The blaze took 30 hours to put out.

Lethal pipeline explosions are rare, but when they do occur, they are destructive and gruesome.

The Sept. 9 blast that killed eight people in San Bruno, Calif., burned 66 others and destroyed 37 homes produced flames that reached 2,000 degrees Fahrenheit. "I saw cars in driveways that were literally melted," Sen. Barbara Boxer, D-Calif., told a Capitol Hill hearing Tuesday.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-10-01-pipeline-explosions_N.htm

USA Today

States give few fines for pipeline violations

By Thomas Frank

September 30, 2010

State regulators around the nation seldom impose large fines for violations of pipeline safety codes, even for incidents causing deaths or substantial damage, a USA TODAY analysis shows.

Fourteen states have not levied a single pipeline fine since 2001 and another 20 states have issued only one or two fines per year, federal records show.

State regulators oversee pipelines that run within state lines. The federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Agency (PHMSA) has jurisdiction over pipelines that cross state lines. The pipelines move natural gas, oil, propane and other hazardous items.

Lawmakers have focused on PHMSA since a Sept. 9 explosion in San Bruno, Calif., killed eight, calling for larger federal fines. But there has been little scrutiny of state pipeline regulators, despite a pattern of minimal penalties.

http://www.usatoday.com/news/nation/2010-10-01-1Apipeline01_ST_N.htm

Placer Herald

Pipeline blast has locals on edge

By John Brines

September 30, 2010

It's been nearly four years since 200,000 cubic feet of natural gas shot out of the ground like a geyser in a Rocklin neighborhood off Americana Way in forcing evacuations of dozens of homes.

"We were concerned about an ignition source," Rocklin Fire Chief Bill Mikesell recalls. It didn't happen and the Pacific Gas and Electric substation was shutdown and repaired. Three weeks ago in San Bruno it was a different story. A 30-inch gas transmission pipeline exploded, in what people described as an earthquake, shaking neighborhoods, killing eight people and leveling 37 houses. Now communities statewide are taking a closer look at similar pipelines.

http://placerherald.com/detail/160163.html?content_source=&category_id=&search_filter=pg

Eureka Times Standard

PG&E briefs local officials: Two local pipeline segments to be inspected in near future

By Thadeus Greenson

October 1, 2010

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. representatives met with local officials Wednesday and left with a better understanding of the company's network of natural gas pipelines running through Humboldt County.

They also received an assurance that the company will be conducting inspections of two specific stretches of pipeline that have recently raised some concerns.

http://www.times-standard.com/localnews/ci_16225172

CNBC.com

Ford Motor Company and Northern California Ford Dealers Donate \$25,000 to Aid Recovery of San Bruno

September 30, 2010

Representatives of Ford Motor Company and its Northern California dealers presented Silicon Valley Community Foundation's San Bruno Fire Fund with a \$25,000 check today to help aid the victims of the September 9 gas explosion.

<http://www.cnbc.com/id/39443118>

KGO-TV -- online

NTSB examines PG&E San Bruno pipelines

By Staff

October 1, 2010

Investigators are examining the PG&E natural gas pipeline that exploded in San Bruno. The National Transportation Safety Board allowed cameras inside the facility in Ashburn, Virginia today.

An expert says they will look at the metal composition and the source the explosion, which appears to be along the welding joint.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/peninsula&id=7699799>

Broadcast Coverage

National Local

(None)

Clip

ABC 7 Morning News At 4:30 AM

KGO- TV

Full Coverage

Clip

CBS 5 Eyewitness News At 6 PM

KPIX-TV

Coverage begins at :25

Clip

CBS 2 News

KCBS-TV

Coverage begins at 1:43

Clip

ABC 7 News At 6:00

KGO-TV

Coverage begins at 1:47

Clip

The Six O' Clock News

KTVU

Coverage begins in earlier segment