

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 10/21/2010 7:36:48 AM
To: 'pac@cpuc.ca.gov' (pac@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: San Bruno Media Update 10/21 7:00 a.m.

From: Romans, Kathleen
To: SB FAQ Key Messages Distribution List; SB MRRT; Peterson, Michael R (Corp Security); Foletta, Joseph; Simpson, Ashlie
Sent: Thu Oct 21 07:14:08 2010
Subject: San Bruno Media Update 10/21 7:00 a.m.

San Bruno Media Update
Thursday, October 21, 2010
Updated 7:00 a.m.

Summary

The top national news headlines throughout Wednesday and early Thursday included stories regarding President Obama's efforts to shore up the party base for the upcoming mid-term elections by way of a western campaign swing as well as Toyota's recall of 1.5 million cars due to complications with brake fluid. Specific to California, the global warming debate and the proposition to legalize pot were the top state stories of the day. Related to the San Bruno accident, coverage consisted of summaries of Tuesday's hearing as well as the governor signing a bill to provide citizens who were affected by the San Bruno accident with tax relief.

Developments to Date

- The California Governor has signed a bill to provide tax exemptions of \$7,000 to those affected by the San Bruno accident

Print Media Coverage

6:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 20, 2010 to Thursday, October 21, 2010

San Bruno Patch (also appeared on KTVU San Francisco and KRON4.com)

Governor Signs Bill Giving Pipeline Victims Tax Relief

By Staff

October 20, 2010

From Staff Reports — Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday signed a bill that will provide tax relief to victims of the Sept. 9 [gas pipeline explosion](#), according to a press release from the office of Assemblyman Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo.

Assembly Bill 11 X6, co-authored by Hill and Sen. Leland Yee, allows San Bruno homeowners who had qualified for a \$7,000 state property tax exemption to still receive that write-off even if their home was among the 35 destroyed in the explosion, which killed eight people and injured dozens.

<http://sanbruno.patch.com/articles/governor-signs-bill-giving-pipeline-victims-tax-relief>

-

San Diego Reader

Ramona Sentinel Publishes SDG&E Comments on WEBA Opposition

By a2zresource

October 20, 2010

Both CPUC's Division of Ratepayer Advocates and CPUC's Consumer Protection and Safety Division have filed protests against WEBA, citing the potentially open-ended consumer liability based on energy industry standards sorely in need of updating and the absence of any reasonableness test to prevent passing onto consumers any damages from operational negligence by utilities.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company has announced that it would not seek WEBA protections in the San Bruno high-pressure gas line explosion. PG&E has already offered \$100 million in immediate response compensation to area victims.

<http://www.sandiegoreader.com/weblogs/encanto-gas-holder/2010/oct/20/ramona-sentinel-publishes-sdgc-comments-on-weba-op/>

The Riverbank News

Crossroads Gas Leak Fixed

By Staff

October 20, 2010

Drivers will continue to hit delays and detours in the vicinity of the Riverbank Crossroads Shopping Center for the foreseeable future.

Stanislaus County officials closed both lanes of Claribel Road between Roselle Avenue and the shopping center on Wednesday, Oct. 13 so Pacific Gas & Electric crews could fix a natural gas leak in an eight-inch pipe near the Claribel Road and Roselle Avenue intersection.

Through Friday, Oct. 29 from 8 a.m. to 5 p.m., southbound Oakdale Road is due to be closed to through traffic south of Claribel Road. Detours are in place. This is a Stanislaus County public works closure for construction, said Riverbank Public Works Director Dave Melilli, noting crews are also working on finishing median landscaping on Oakdale Road north of the intersection.

<http://www.theriverbanknews.com/main.asp?SectionID=1&SubSectionID=2&ArticleID=36699>

89.3 KPCC

State Senate Committee Examines San Bruno Gas Explosion

By Julie Small

October 20, 2010

A joint State Senate committee met Tuesday in Sacramento to figure out what could have prevented the deadly gas line explosion in San Bruno. Eight people died when the line burst and set fire to 37 homes. Lawmakers want to tighten oversight of the tens of thousands of feet of natural gas pipeline in California.

Pacific Gas and Electric owns the pipeline that ruptured. But the senators wanted to know what the state Public Utilities Commission – the pipeline regulator – could have done to prevent the explosion.

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2010/10/20/natgas-oversight/>

San Bruno Patch

More Families File Lawsuits in San Bruno Pipeline Disaster

By Staff

October 20, 2010

Bay City News — Five families filed separate lawsuits against PG&E Tuesday in connection with the deadly September explosion and fire in San Bruno.

Susan Bullis, who lost three family members in the disaster, was among the plaintiffs who filed suit in San Mateo County Superior Court accusing the company of wrongful conduct resulting in death, injury and property loss.

<http://sanbruno.patch.com/articles/more-families-file-lawsuits-in-san-bruno-pipeline-disaster>

San Mateo Daily Journal

PG&E Hit By Five Lawsuits

By Bill Silverfarb

October 20, 2010

Pacific Gas and Electric was slapped with several wrongful death lawsuits filed in San Mateo County Superior Court yesterday related to the Sept. 9 gas pipeline explosion and fire that killed eight people.

The utility company also came under fire yesterday by San Bruno's mayor for unveiling a plan Monday to buy properties in the neighborhood of victims whose homes were not completely destroyed in the fire. The county red-tagged 35 homes as being completely destroyed. Many other homes in the neighborhood, however, were yellow-tagged. Those homes are currently considered uninhabitable.

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=144068&title=PG&E%20hit%20by%20fiv

UPI.com

San Bruno Families Sue PG&E

By Staff

October 20, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif., Oct. 20 (UPI) -- Families affected by a deadly gas explosion in San Bruno, Calif., filed lawsuits against utility company PG&E, saying the company knew a pipeline was faulty.

A natural gas pipeline burst Sept. 9, sparking a massive fireball that ripped through a San Bruno neighborhood. The explosion killed seven people and destroyed 37 homes.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/10/20/San-Bruno-families-sue-PGE/UPI-17001287582305/

San Francisco Examiner

Lawmakers Grill PG&E, CPUC

By Katie Worth

October 20, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO — California lawmakers railed Tuesday on both PG&E Corp. and the agency tasked with monitoring the energy company at a hearing on the San Bruno pipeline explosion.

California Public Utilities Commission leaders were asked why they haven't more closely monitored PG&E's expenditures on maintenance and audited the company.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/San-Bruno-explosion-Lawmakers-grill-PGE-CPUC-105324623.html>

Bakersfieldnow.com (via Associated Press)

5 Families Sue PG&E over San Bruno Gas Line Blast

By Staff

October 19, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP) — Five families affected by the fatal gas pipeline explosion in a San Francisco suburb have filed separate lawsuits against Pacific Gas & Electric Co.

Attorneys for Susan Bullis, who lost her husband, 17-year-old son and mother-in-law, was among those who filed lawsuits in San Mateo County Superior Court on Tuesday.

<http://www.bakersfieldnow.com/news/local/105305098.html>

CaliforniaCityNews.org

Hearing on San Bruno Blast Full of Tough Criticism for Utility Company and PUC

By jbrown

October 20, 2010

In the aftermath of the San Bruno disaster, state leaders held a hearing on Tuesday regarding safety issues and reportedly PG&E didn't get an easy ride from angry leaders who honed in on the company's regulators. Since the pipeline explosion, the hearing was the first that had been

held and was in front of two Senate committees: Energy, Utilities and Communications as well as Public Safety. One major issue that received criticism from the committees was the utility company's decision to use funds that were supposed to go toward the pipelines on other matters. However, it was not just PG&E that was the subject of the blame, as the California Public Utilities Commission was also criticized for its complicity. Mercury News reports:

"The utility had nearly \$5 million allocated for work on the pipeline, which runs from a Milpitas terminal up through the Peninsula, noted state Sen. Dean Florez, D-Bakersfield. 'What did they do with the \$5 million?' Florez asked Richard Clark, the PUC's safety chief. 'My understanding is that they used it for another project,' Clark answered. Kirk Johnson, PG&E vice president for gas operations, said in later testimony that the utility fixes safety problems immediately. The pipeline was determined to be safe until 2013, he said."

<http://californiacitynews.typepad.com/californiacitynewsorg/2010/10/hearing-on-san-bruno-blast-full-of-tough-criticism-for-utility-company-and-puc-.html>

San Bruno Patch

Governor Signs Bill Giving Pipeline Victims Tax Relief

By Staff

October 20, 2010

Gov. Arnold Schwarzenegger on Tuesday signed a bill that will provide tax relief to victims of the Sept. 9 gas pipeline explosion, according to a press release from the office of Assemblyman Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo.

Assembly Bill 11 X6, co-authored by Hill and Sen. Leland Yee, allows San Bruno homeowners who had qualified for a \$7,000 state property tax exemption to still receive that write-off even if their home was among the 35 destroyed in the explosion, which killed eight people and injured dozens.

Hill said the legislation will provide "modest relief" to residents who are eligible for assistance from Pacific Gas & Electric while their insurance claims are processed.

<http://sanbruno.patch.com/articles/governor-signs-bill-giving-pipeline-victims-tax-relief>

San Francisco Examiner

Hearing Reveals PG&E, CPUC Air Concerns Behind Closed Doors

By Katie Worth

October 21, 2010

Scrutiny of PG&E's finances has increasingly been conducted under the blanket of confidentiality agreements.

In the last two instances that PG&E has asked for rate increases to help pay for improvements to its aging gas infrastructure, negotiations over those increases have been conducted behind closed doors, in confidential settlement hearings, rather than in litigation hearings open to the public.

In effect, this keeps the public from knowing what, if any, concerns the regulators paid to watch over PG&E have about how the company spends its money.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Hearing-reveals-PGE-CPUC-air-concerns-behind-closed-doors-105408313.html>

The Washington Independent

Key Federal Agency Proposes Potential Pipeline Safety Regulations

By Andrew Restuccia

October 20, 2010

The federal agency charged with ensuring the safety of the nation's pipeline system released for public comment earlier this week a proposal to overhaul pipeline safety.

The proposal, an advance notice of proposed rulemaking, lays out a number of potential issues the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, or PHMSA, may address in final regulations. Under the proposal, the public has until Jan. 17, 2011 to provide its input.

The proposal lays out a number of issues I've identified in my ongoing series on pipeline safety and the lack of oversight at PHMSA. For example, the proposal raises the possibility of requiring pipeline in rural areas to be subject to more inspections. It also floats the idea of requiring better emergency shutoff valves (as I've noted, the segment of pipeline that exploded in San Bruno last month had to be shut off manually) and strengthening standards to prevent pipe corrosion.

<http://washingtonindependent.com/101209/key-federal-agency-proposes-potential-pipeline-safety-regulations>

Broadcast Coverage

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

National Coverage

Local Coverage

(none)

Clip

KNTV-TV (NBC) CH 11, San Francisco, CA

10/20/2010, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Coverage starts at :56

Clip

KNVN-TV (NBC) CH 24, Chico/Redding, CA

10/20/2010, 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Coverage starts at :47

Clip

KNTV-TV (NBC) CH 11, San Francisco, CA

10/20/2010, 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Coverage starts at :16

Clip

KGTV-TV (ABC) CH 10, San Diego, CA

10/20/2010, 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Coverage starts at :48

Clip

KRON-TV (My Network TV) CH 4, San Francisco, CA

10/20/2010, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Coverage starts at :37

Clip

KTXL-TV (FOX) CH 40, Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, CA

10/20/2010, 9:00 - 10:00 AM

Coverage starts at :37

Clip

KTXL-TV (FOX) CH 40, Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, CA

10/20/2010, 8:00 - 9:00 AM

Coverage starts at :32