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Sent: 10/7/2010 7:16:29 AM
To: 'pac@cpuc.ca.gov' (pac@cpuc.ca.gov)
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Subject: Fw: San Bruno Media Coverage, 7 a.m. Update, Thursday, October 7

From: Redacted
To: SB FAO Key Messages Distribution List; SB MRRT; Peterson, Michael R (Corp Security) Redacted
Redacted Redacted
Sent: Thu Oct 07 07:09:04 2010
Subject: San Bruno Media Coverage, 7 a.m. Update, Thursday, October 7

San Bruno Media Update

Thursday, October 7, 2010

Updated 7:00 a.m.

Summary

The *Wall Street Journal* and *Los Angeles Times* both published articles focusing primarily on pipeline oversight and regulation while mentioning PG&E. The Associated Press updated its article on the emergency response plan, quoting NTSB as saying the plan is an aspect it is investigating. Coverage also includes a report that San Bruno officials are worried they will not receive enough funds to reimburse them for costs associated with the accident.

Developments to Date

- The city of San Bruno is currently estimating \$55 million in infrastructure damage but is unsure of costs for cleanup and staff time, both for San Bruno staff and those from neighboring cities that helped
- PG&E is providing fire departments with the locations of shut off valves
- Federal investigators are reviewing PG&E's emergency response plan
- Senate committees have come up with a proposal to consider disaster relief funding for those affected by the San Bruno accident

Print Media Coverage

6:00 a.m. – 7:00 a.m. Wednesday, October 6, 2010 to Thursday, October 7, 2010

Wall Street Journal

California Pipeline Blast Puts Focus on Oversight

By Rebecca Smith

October 7, 2010

San Francisco-based PG&E Corp.—one of the largest U.S. gas-delivery companies in terms of customers—tallied more such incidents from 2004 through the middle of this year than any other U.S. company, federal data show. Its 56 incidents included nine explosions that together injured or killed at least 16 people. Those don't include the Sept. 9 explosion of a PG&E pipeline and ensuing fire that killed eight, injured dozens and destroyed or damaged 55 homes in San Bruno

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704847104575532202549943736.html>

Los Angeles Times

San Bruno Gas Blast Gives Ammunition to Critics of Industry Risk Assessment

By Ralph Vartabedian

October 6, 2010

These experts say companies have put far too much faith in technology and inspection methods. The segment wasn't one of PG&E's top 100 safety priorities but the pipe may have been brittle and corroded by water and sewage, evidence indicates.

The inspections and analysis that PG&E conducted before the accident failed to identify the San Bruno pipeline segment as one of the 100 top safety priorities in the utility's system. That failure points to an analytical breakdown, Bea said. PG&E officials say they won't make any conclusions until after investigators determine the cause of the accident.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-brittle-pipeline-20101007,0,2977941.story>

Associated Press (updated story, also appears in SF Examiner)

NTSB examining California pipeline emergency plan

By Sharon Theimer

October 6, 2010

WASHINGTON – Federal investigators are examining whether the California utility whose natural gas [pipeline explosion](#) killed at least eight people had an adequate emergency response plan, a government spokesman said Wednesday amid disclosures that such plans are effectively withheld from the public and industry watchdogs.

City and county officials said the company didn't share its plan with them before the disaster.

The National Transportation Safety Board's investigation into the September pipeline blast in San Bruno, Calif., includes examining [Pacific Gas & Electric Co.](#)'s emergency

response plan and whether it was followed, NTSB spokesman Peter Knudson said.

http://news.yahoo.com/s/ap/20101006/ap_on_bi_ge/us_pipeline_safety

UPI.com

Suit Blames PG&E for gas explosion

By Staff

October 6, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif., Oct. 6 (UPI) -- Pacific Gas and Electric is called on to hand over \$100 million to a victims fund because of negligence in a deadly California gas explosion, a lawsuit claims.

A natural gas pipeline burst Sept. 9, sparking a massive fireball that ripped through a San Bruno, Calif., neighborhood. The explosion killed seven people and destroyed 37 homes. Authorities say internal pipeline corrosion may have led to the failure of the pipeline.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/10/06/Suit-blames-PGE-for-gas-explosion/UPI-64651286372674/

Monterey Herald.com (via Associated Press, also in San Jose Mercury News and San Francisco Chronicle)

PG&E to give maps of pipelines to fire departments

By Staff

October 6, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO—After weeks of saying it would not provide maps to fire departments pinpointing the locations of shut-off valves for its natural gas transmission lines, Pacific Gas & Electric Co. says it will provide the maps after all.

The utility said Wednesday that it will be turning over the maps to San Francisco Bay area fire departments, but is asking the departments not to release the maps to the public.

PG&E spokesman Joe Molica says the company decided to make the maps available after ongoing conversations with local officials. He says all valve locations are being made available to first responders.

http://www.montereyherald.com/state/ci_16271484?nclick_check=1

Contra Costa Times

PG&E Makes Pipeline, SmartMeter information available

By Staff

October 6, 2010

PG&E is making additional information about the utility's natural gas pipelines available online at its web site www.pge.com/pipelineplanning

Customers can see whether there are PG&E gas transmission lines close to their home and where they're located.

Maps include gas transmission pipeline segments that have been identified for engineering analysis and future work.

Customers without Internet access or who would like live support can call PG&E at 1-888-743-7431.

In Chico, customers with questions about PG&E's new SmartMeters can come to the utility's new SmartMeter Answer Center inside the PG&E office at 350 Salem St.

The center will be open from noon to 5 p.m. on today.

PG&E is in the process of installing SmartMeters throughout Butte County.

Information is available at www.pge.com/smartmeter or call the SmartMeter Hotline, 1-866-743-0263.

http://www.contracostatimes.com/california/ci_16267493

SF Appeal (via Bay City News)

San Bruno Fire: \$100 Million Suit Filed Against PG&E by Victim

By Chris Cooney

October 6, 2010

A San Bruno man filed a class action lawsuit in San Mateo County Superior Court last week alleging that Pacific Gas and Electric Co. was negligent and at fault for the Sept. 9 pipeline explosion that tore through the city's Crestmoor Canyon neighborhood.

Attorney Vahn Alexander filed the class action lawsuit on Wednesday for resident Daniele DiTripani. The suit claims he was home when the gas pipeline exploded and was injured and "suffered damages."

<http://sfappeal.com/news/2010/10/san-bruno-fire-100-million-suit-filed-against-pge-by-victim.php>

Gilroy Dispatch

PG&E Detects, repairs gas leak during regular survey

By Sara Suddes

October 6, 2010

PG&E crews conducting a survey of the integrity of Gilroy's gas lines identified a leak near Third Street and Wren Avenue but immediately restored the pipe to working order Monday, according to a company spokeswoman.

The leak was discovered in a 4-inch plastic distribution main, said PG&E spokeswoman Brandi Ehlers. Every five years, the electric company conducts surveys of all its distribution lines in an effort to proactively identify leaks or weak spots, she said.

<http://www.gilroydispatch.com/news/269302-pge-detects-repairs-gas-leak-during-regular-survey>

San Jose Mercury News

PG&E says work on high-pressure gas line under Pines was complete in 2009

By Ian Bauer

October 6, 2010

When Jim Laliberte saw Pacific Gas & Electric Co. crews show up in the summer of 2008 to inspect one of the company's high-pressure natural gas pipelines that runs underneath the sidewalk fronting his Starlite Pines home, he believed crews were there to do some preventative maintenance.

"Two years ago, gas line inspectors spent a couple of days sniffing, drilling and marking several spots that may need attention along Starlite Drive," Laliberte, 68, said.

PG&E crews painted marks along the east side of the 1700 block of Starlite Drive the location where Laliberte and his family have lived since the early 1970s above an underground high-pressure gas line that has been in the neighborhood since the late 1950s.

http://www.mercurynews.com/milpitas/ci_16270265

San Mateo Daily Journal

San Bruno damage estimated at \$55M

By Heather Murtagh

October 6, 2010

San Bruno officials are expressing worry and frustration the city would be on the hook for millions in costs related to the Sept. 9 explosion and fire after FEMA denied assistance — and are now left awaiting word from the governor's office about an appeal.

Although Fugate did not name the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, the implication was clear. PG&E has pledged \$100 million to the city and affected residents to rebuild. Of that, \$3 million was given to the city thus far. On multiple times last night, Ruane stressed the unknown final cost of the incident and said officials cannot be sure the money will be enough.

Two class action lawsuits have been brought against PG&E. Daniele DiTripani is the most recent to sue, filing a suit last week which alleges negligence in management of a pipeline causing immediate and future economic harm as well as injury to those living in the area. It asks for appropriate damages and a third-party to manage the \$100 million fund to rebuild the neighborhood.

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=142925&title=San%20Bruno%20

CBS TV online

Neighbor Network Helping San Bruno Explosion Victims

By Holly Quan

October 6, 2010

SAN BRUNO (KCBS) – A month after more than 30 homes were burned to the ground in the deadly San Bruno gas explosion and fire, there are still families living in nearby hotels. For others, a tightly-knit support network has been there to offer strength and sanity during a chaotic time.

Dinnertime at Kathy and John Fitzpatrick’s modest San Bruno home has become a larger affair over the past month. Every night since the fire someone in the community has brought over dinner to feed not just the Fitzpatrick’s, but also the newly homeless Gene and Kris O’Neil and their twin daughters, whose home was the last to burn on Glenview Drive.

Audio version available at link below:

<http://sanfrancisco.cbslocal.com/2010/10/06/neighbors-still-shelter-feed-neighbors-in-san-bruno/>

Peninsula News (via the Associated Press)

State Lawmakers Approve Disaster Relief Legislation for San Bruno Victims

By Staff

October 6, 2010

SACRAMENTO, CA -- Two state Senate committees Wednesday approved legislation to provide disaster relief for victims of the San Bruno Fire.

The legislation would allow a continuation of the \$7,000 property tax exemption for homeowners and allows businesses to deduct income loss as result of the incident.

It also includes assistance to San Mateo County, San Bruno and local schools by providing a one-year reimbursement from the state for any tax losses related to the catastrophe.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgp/story?section=news/local/peninsula&id=7710406>

Press Release (via PR Web)

San Bruno Explosion was Tragic Result of Gas Company Indifference, according to California attorney

October 7, 2010

The recent explosion in a San Bruno neighborhood, which this week prompted the first lawsuit from a San Bruno resident, was the inevitable result of indifference from officials at gas companies nationwide who are well aware of the serious risks posed by "odor fade" and corrosion leaks in natural gas pipelines, according to a Visalia attorney who has handled numerous similar cases.

The tragic accident in San Bruno occurred at about 6:15 p.m. on September 9th, when a 30-inch Pacific Gas and Electric Co. natural gas pipeline ruptured, creating a 30-foot-wide crater. The massive explosion triggered a fire that raced through a neighborhood of single-family homes, claiming four lives and destroying more than 30 houses.

<http://www.prweb.com/releases/2010/10/prweb4619184.htm>

Broadcast Coverage

National 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.

No national coverage aired within the time frame of this report

Clip

KERO-TV (ABC) CH 23, Bakersfield, CA

10/6/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Coverage ends at 1:06

Clip

KFMB-TV (CBS) CH 8, San Diego, CA

10/6/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Coverage ends at :28

Clip

KCAL-TV (IND) CH 9, Los Angeles, CA

10/6/2010, 10:00 - 10:45 PM

Coverage starts at :22

Clip

KBCW-TV (CW) CH 44, San Francisco, CA

10/6/2010, 10:00 - 10:30 PM

Coverage starts at 1:13

Clip

KGO-TV (ABC) CH 7, San Francisco, CA

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

Coverage ends at :40

Clip

KPIX-TV (CBS) CH 5, San Francisco, CA

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

Coverage starts at :58

Clip

KRCR-TV (ABC) CH 7, Chico/Redding, CA

10/6/2010, 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Full coverage

Clip

KCBS-TV (CBS) CH 2, Los Angeles, CA
10/6/2010, 5:00 - 6:00 PM

Coverage starts at :40

Clip

KPIX-TV (CBS) CH 5, San Francisco, CA
10/6/2010, 12:00 - 12:30 PM

Coverage starts at :35

Clip

KRON-TV (My Network TV) CH 4, San Francisco, CA
10/6/2010, 8:00 - 9:00 AM

Coverage starts at :51

Clip

KTXL-TV (FOX) CH 40, Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, CA
10/6/2010, 8:00 - 9:00 AM

Coverage starts at :12