

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 10/14/2010 7:50:10 AM
To: pac@cpuc.ca.gov (pac@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: FW: San Bruno Media Update 10/14 7:00 a.m.

From: Redacted

Sent: Thursday, October 14, 2010 7:38 AM

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

Subject: San Bruno Media Update 10/14 7:00 a.m.

San Bruno Media Update

Thursday, October 14, 2010

Updated 7:00 a.m.

Summary

National and local news coverage continues to be dominated by stories regarding the successful rescue of the Chilean miners and coverage around Delaware and California election candidates. Local broadcast coverage is also focusing on the closure of the San Mateo Bridge due to a crack.

News of the NTSB preliminary report continued to drive media interest. Additional stories appeared on the Pipeline 2020 program, the CPUC's independent panel launch, and concerns from South San Francisco city officials about the priority planning segment located in their area.

PG&E has contacted the *Wall Street Journal* and KGO-TV to demand corrections of misstatements in their coverage of the NTSB report. KGO-TV corrected their story for the 11:00 p.m. newscast.

Developments to Date

- The NTSB released its preliminary report on the San Bruno accident
- Broadcast and print reports say it may be several months before the cause

- of the San Bruno accident is known
- Today, an independent panel charged with investigating the accident will be named by the CPUC

Print Media Coverage

6:30 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.

Wednesday, October 13, 2010 to Thursday, October 14, 2010

Los Angeles Times

Maintenance Work Caused Gas Pressure to Rise Just Before San Bruno Explosion, Report Finds

By Rich Connell and Ralph Vartabedian

October 14, 2010

Pressure climbed to 386 pounds-per-square-inch gauge in the 30-inch San Bruno pipeline at the time of the blast, above the specified maximum operating pressure of 375 psig, the NTSB said. The pipeline operator, Pacific Gas & Electric, said the allowable pressure on the pipeline was 400 psig, the report says.

Experts said the timing of the pressure change could prove important, particularly if some other underlying weakness in the pipe is discovered. But they stressed the increased pressure was nowhere near what would typically be needed to cause a catastrophic failure. "It tells me we have some defects in that section of the pipe," said Bob Bea, UC Berkeley engineering professor.

<http://www.latimes.com/news/local/la-me-sanbruno-pipeline-20101014,0,6454827.story>

Wall Street Journal

Key Valves On Pipeline Didn't Work Before Blast

By Rebecca Smith

October 14, 2010

The National Transportation Safety Board said a voltage problem could have triggered the Sept. 9 pipeline explosion in San Bruno, Calif., that killed eight people and damaged or destroyed 55 homes.

In a preliminary report issued Wednesday, the agency said the utility that owns the pipeline, PG&E Corp., was working "just before the accident" to establish a more stable power supply to a pipeline control room in Milpitas, Calif., 40 miles south of the blast site, when it lost control of the voltage.

As a result, the utility could not regulate the position of a control valve on the 30-inch diameter pipeline where the explosion occurred and the valve moved from partially open to fully open, flooding the pipeline with natural gas.

[http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704763904575550821410429214.html'](http://online.wsj.com/article/SB20001424052748704763904575550821410429214.html)

Wall Street Journal

PG&E Outlines Steps to Boost Gas-Pipeline Safety

By Rebecca Smith

October 13, 2010

PG&E Corp. on Tuesday outlined plans to upgrade its California pipeline system to boost safety, a month after eight people were killed when one of its natural-gas pipelines exploded.

A key element will be the installation of hundreds of automatic shutoff valves, replacing manual valves that may have contributed to the high death toll in the Sept. 9 explosion in San Bruno, Calif. It took utility employees one hour and 46 minutes to navigate rush-hour traffic to reach manually controlled valves and shut off the flow of gas following that rupture.

<http://online.wsj.com/article/SB10001424052748704164004575548571152961684.html>

San Francisco Examiner

San Bruno Gas Blast Followed Pressure Buildup

By Katie Worth and Brent Begin

October 14, 2010

Mounting pressure in a major natural-gas line immediately preceded the deadly San Bruno blast, though a healthy pipeline should have been able to withstand the surge, investigators and experts said Wednesday.

The National Transportation Safety Board is investigating the failure of a 30-inch PG&E natural-gas line that exploded in the suburban Glenview neighborhood Sept. 9. The blast and ensuing conflagration killed eight people, injured dozens, and destroyed 37 homes and damaged 18.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/San-Bruno-gas-blast-followed-pressure-buildup-104918219.html>

Dow Jones

PG&E: Still Examining Cause of Pipe Blast After Prelim Report

By Joan Solsman

October 13, 2010

PG&E Corp. (PCG) said a full understanding of what caused a pipeline explosion in California last month is likely still months away, after the National Transportation Safety Board released its first report studying the incident.

The board's report, without identifying any causes, said an electrical fluctuation seemed to cause a regulating valve in the line to open fully from being partially open. It also reported an increase in pressure in the pipeline before the break.

<http://www.nasdaq.com/asp/stock-market-news->

story.aspx?storyid=201010131913dowjonesdjonline000523&title=pgandestill-examining-cause-of-pipe-blast-after-prelim-report

San Bruno Patch

Preliminary NTSB Report Reveals Problems with Pipeline Moments Before Explosion

By Martin Ricard

October 13, 2010

The National Transportation Safety Board released its first preliminary report today about the Sept. 9 pipeline explosion, revealing new details about what happened on the night of the deadly blast.

In the report, NTSB outlined how just before the accident Pacific Gas & Electric Co. was performing some electrical work 39 miles away at its Milpitas terminal on Line 132 — the same line of pipe that exploded in the Crestmoor neighborhood — when the electrical system malfunctioned, causing a regulating valve to go from partially open to fully open and allowing the gas pressure in the line to rise to 386 pounds per square inch gauge.

<http://sanbruno.patch.com/articles/preliminary-ntsb-report-reveals-problems-with-pipeline-moments-before-explosion>

The Washington Independent

PG&E Releases Pipeline Safety Plan

By Andrew Restuccia

October 13, 2010

PG&E, the owner of a California natural gas pipeline that exploded in September, killing eight people, released a plan yesterday to upgrade its pipeline system. Under the plan, the utility will consult with regulatory and industry experts on installing remote shut-off valves that would immediately seal a pipeline in the event of an explosion.

The valves were a key recommendation of the Pipeline Safety Trust and other industry watchdogs in the aftermath of the San Bruno, Calif., explosion. The San Bruno pipeline segment that exploded did not have remote shut-off valves, and PG&E employees had to drive to the shutoff point to stop the massive explosion. It took more than an hour.

<http://washingtonindependent.com/100521/pge-releases-pipeline-safety-plan>

San Jose Mercury News (via the San Mateo County Times)

PG&E faces South San Francisco pipeline concerns

By Neil Gonzales

October 13, 2010

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO — City leaders are urging the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to start repair work immediately on a South San Francisco segment of the natural gas pipeline that exploded in San Bruno last month.

PG&E initially set a 2009 date for replacing the South San Francisco segment but rescheduled the project for 2013.

However, South San Francisco Mayor Mark Addiego called for the company to give the project a high-priority standing.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_16334112

KGET TV 17

PG&E announces new plans to increase gas line safety

By Staff

October 13, 2010

PG&E has announced new plans to increase the safety of its gas pipeline system following that deadly explosion in northern California.

The utility says it's launching an effort to replace its old gas transmission pipelines that run through populated areas.

The pipeline that ruptured in September killing eight people ran beneath a residential neighborhood in San Bruno.

PG&E says it will also explore replacing manual shut-off valves with remote-controlled or automatic valves.

<http://www.kget.com/news/local/story/PG-E-announces-new-plans-to-increase-gas-line/ZyGiKmMFtU22O4Nc28q4OQ.csp>

San Francisco Examiner

Donations pour in for San Bruno victims

By Shaun Bishop

October 14, 2010

SAN BRUNO — More than \$1 million in donations have flooded in to help the victims of the Sept. 9 gas pipeline explosion and fire in San Bruno.

The Silicon Valley Community Foundation has secured more than \$420,000 in pledges to its San Bruno Fire Fund. A Red Cross spokeswoman said her agency has received around \$750,000 so far in response to the disaster — which killed eight and destroyed around three dozen homes — with more still coming in.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Donations-pour-in-for-San-Bruno-victims-104924529.html>

The Press-Telegram

State begins stepping up pipeline oversight; panel to be named Thursday

By Kristopher Hanson

October 13, 2010

A month after a natural gas explosion killed eight people and destroyed dozens of homes in a San Francisco suburb, momentum is growing to strengthen public oversight of the hazardous liquid pipelines ubiquitous in many of California's urban centers.

Beginning Thursday, an independent state panel will begin reviewing safety risks, maintenance records, pipeline infrastructure, possible violations and the track record of one of the nation's largest utilities, Pacific Gas and Electric.

http://www.presstelegram.com/news/ci_16332458

KTVU San Francisco

PG&E Tries to Reassure South SF Officials About Line 132

By Staff

October 13, 2010

SOUTH SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. -- A Pacific Gas and Electric representative faced tough questions about gas line safety Wednesday night during a meeting with the South San Francisco City Council.

City officials said they're worried that Line 132, the same one that exploded in San Bruno, will fail before it is scheduled to be repaired.

PG&E officials told the council the 50- year-old line is safe. Some council members remained skeptical.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/25386392/detail.html>

The Bay Citizen

Gas from Ruptured Pipeline Could Have Filled the Superdome

By John Upton

October 13, 2010

More than 6 percent of PG&E customers' daily natural gas needs flowed out of a ruptured pipeline and into San Bruno last month, fueling a massive fire.

It took PG&E operators 89 minutes to shut off valves at both sides of the ruptured pipeline and more than five hours to disconnect gas lines feeding nearby homes, the National Transportation Safety Board found in a preliminary report released Wednesday.

<http://www.baycitizen.org/san-bruno-explosion/story/gas-ruptured-pipeline-could-have-filled/>

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](#)

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

10/13/2010, 11:00 - 11:30 PM
Coverage begins at 2:00

Clip

KGO-TV (ABC) CH 7, San Francisco, CA
10/13/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM
Coverage ends at :51

Clip

KGPE-TV (CBS) CH 47, Fresno/Visalia, CA
10/13/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM
Coverage ends at :38

Clip

KNTV-TV (NBC) CH 11, San Francisco, CA
10/13/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM
Coverage begins at :30

Clip

KNTV-TV (NBC) CH 11, San Francisco, CA
10/13/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Coverage ends at 1:06

Clip

KOVR-TV (CBS) CH 13, Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, CA
10/13/2010, 10:00 - 11:00 PM

Coverage begins at :51

Clip

KOVR-TV (CBS) CH 13, Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, CA
10/13/2010, 10:00 - 11:00 PM

Coverage ends at :57

Clip

KGTV-TV (ABC) CH 10, San Diego, CA
10/13/2010, 7:00 - 7:30 PM

Coverage begins at :28