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Sent: 10/15/2010 8:06:11 AM
To: 'pac@cpuc.ca.gov' (pac@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: San Bruno Media Coverage, 7 a.m. Update, Friday, October 15

From: [Redacted]
To: SB FAO Key Messages Distribution List; SB MRRT; Peterson, Michael R (Corp Security); [Redact]
[Redacted]
Sent: Fri Oct 15 07:46:37 2010
Subject: San Bruno Media Coverage, 7 a.m. Update, Friday, October 15

San Bruno Media Update

Friday, October 15, 2010

Updated 7:00 a.m.

Summary

News reports of the day lead with stories of three of the 33 miners rescued from a Chilean mine having been discharged from a hospital, with the rest expected to be released by Sunday. The California gubernatorial race battle continues as Election Day approaches, with much attention being drawn to an ad from Meg Whitman about Jerry Brown's views on the death penalty.

Today's San Bruno coverage, mostly from local outlets, focused primarily on providing additional details of the CPUC's independent review panel and its efforts to investigate the San Bruno accident and review pipeline safety and maintenance programs. The panel will also examine winter gas contingency plans for San Francisco and the Peninsula with a portion of pipeline out of service. Wednesday's preliminary findings of the NTSB continued to receive some coverage.

PG&E Media Relations is contacting the San Jose Mercury News to correct its story on winter gas contingency plans, which mistook "curtailment" of non-core gas

customers to mean "cut off" gas service rather than reduce gas usage.

Developments to Date

- PG&E is developing contingency plans for winter gas flow to some businesses and other non-residential customers if the CPUC panel decides it is unsafe to increase gas pressure in pipelines

Print Media Coverage

6:30 p.m. – 6:00 a.m.

Thursday, October 14, 2010 to Friday, October 15, 2010

ABC7News.com

CPUC Names Panel That Will Investigate San Bruno Explosion

By Heather Ishimaru

October 14, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (KGO) -- The experts who will investigate the deadly San Bruno gas explosion are now in place; the California Public Utilities Commission made the announcement Thursday. Their chief objective is to find the root cause of the disaster that killed eight people. That panel will also consider whether the PUC needs to change the way it does business.

While there are already three ongoing investigations into what caused the explosion, this new one is broader. When done, it could make recommendations that together mean an overhaul of the system from management to maintenance.

PG&E has its own investigation into the San Bruno gas line explosion, the NTSB has one going, and so does the California Public Utilities Commission. Now add an independent five-member panel appointed by CPUC president Michael Peevey.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/peninsula&id=7724623>

San Jose Mercury News (also in the Vacaville Reporter, Oakland Tribune and Contra Costa Times)

PG&E Considers Plan to Cut Gas

By Steve Johnson and Joshua Melvin

October 15, 2010

Pacific Gas and Electric is mulling a plan that would likely cut off gas this winter to some businesses and other non-residential customers if an expert panel created Thursday to examine the San Bruno disaster says it is unsafe to increase gas pressure in the pipeline that exploded.

The utility's engineers are developing "contingency plans" in case the pressure can't be raised to meet the expected increased demand for gas as colder temperatures arrive, PG&E spokesman Paul Moreno said. That would likely include shutting off gas to non-core customers, like big businesses or other large customers that pay reduced gas rates in exchange for having their service curtailed during crises, he said.

http://www.thereporter.com/news/ci_16346092

San Francisco Chronicle

San Bruno Fire: Panel Named to Probe Cause

By David R. Baker

October 15, 2010

An independent panel probing last month's fatal explosion of a Pacific Gas and Electric Co. pipeline will include experts from academia and labor as well as a business executive who used to work for PG&E, state energy regulators said Thursday.

UC Davis Chancellor Emeritus Larry Vanderhoef will lead the panel, which will investigate the causes of the Sept. 9 blast and fire that leveled a San Bruno neighborhood and killed eight people.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/10/14/BAUL1FT02G.DTL>

San Mateo Daily Journal

NTSB: Malfunction Caused Gas Pressure Spike

By Bill Silverfarb

October 14, 2010

A power supply malfunction at a Pacific Gas and Electric terminal in Milpitas caused

pressure to spike, then drop dramatically in a 30-inch natural gas pipeline just as it exploded in San Bruno Sept. 9, according to the National Transportation Safety Board.

The NTSB released its preliminary report yesterday of its investigation into the integrity of the pipe and the cause of a fire that killed eight and destroyed 35 homes in the Glenview neighborhood.

Approximately 47.6 million standard cubic feet of natural gas was released as a result of the rupture, according to the report.

PG&E was working on its uninterruptable power supply, or UPS, system at the Milpitas Terminal in the hours before the explosion. The power supply from the UPS system to the supervisory control and data acquisition, or SCADA, system malfunctioned causing 24 volts of direct current to drop to seven volts of direct current to the SCADA system, according to the report.

http://www.smdailyjournal.com/article_preview.php?id=143597&title=NTSB:%20Malfunction%20

KTVU Oakland

CPUC Appoints Panel to Investigate Gas Line Rupture

By Staff

October 14, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif. -- The California Public Utilities Commission approved a resolution Thursday appointing five members of an independent review panel who will investigate a gas line rupture that tore through a San Bruno neighborhood in September.

The panelists will make recommendations for improvement of gas transmission lines owned by PG&E.

A PG&E natural gas line ruptured on Sept. 9 in the Crestmoor Canyon neighborhood, destroying 35 homes and killing eight people. Activists and concerned residents demanded an investigation of the transmission line, known as pipeline 132.

<http://www.ktvu.com/news/25397557/detail.html>

UPI.com

Gas Pipe Blast Not Due to Corrosion

By Staff

October 14, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif., Oct. 14 (UPI) -- There was no evidence of corrosion in last month's gas pipeline explosion in California but the cause of the blast remains a mystery, federal investigators say.

In a preliminary report Wednesday, the National Transportation Safety Board said the 30-inch transmission pipes that burst were under higher pressure than usual, but not by much, the San Francisco Chronicle reported.

http://www.upi.com/Top_News/US/2010/10/14/US-Gas-pipe-blast-not-due-to-corrosion/UPI-52701287112863/

UPI.com

PG&E Welcomes Probe in San Bruno Blast

By Staff

October 14, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO, Oct. 14 (UPI) -- The company responsible for a gas line that exploded in San Bruno, Calif., said it welcomed a federal report that pointed to an electrical failure on the line.

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.

The U.S. National Transportation Safety Board in a preliminary report found an electrical failure at a PG&E facility caused a pressure surge in the pipeline just before the San Bruno explosion. The report added that it took more than five hours for the company to shut off the gas after the explosion.

http://www.upi.com/Science_News/Resource-Wars/2010/10/14/PGE-welcomes-probe-in-San-Bruno-blast/UPI-71841287065226/

Bloomberg

PG&E, Atmos Energy of the U.S. Benefit From \$50 Billion Pipeline Upgrades

By Mark Chediak and Katarzyna Klimasinska

October 15, 2010

U.S. plans to upgrade the nation's aging pipeline networks, which could cost an estimated \$50 billion, will provide profit growth opportunities at regulated utilities such

as PG&E Corp. and Sempra Energy.

Safety concerns about the energy industry's 2.5 million-mile network of fuel pipelines are growing among lawmakers, regulators and consumer groups after a pipeline blast last month in a San Francisco suburb killed eight and destroyed 37 homes. Oil leaks in suburban Chicago last month and in rural Michigan in July have also focused attention on a pipeline network that in some areas was laid a century ago.

Investment could benefit utilities such as PG&E, which can pass on the costs to customers through rate increases that include an allowance for profit, Paul Franzen, an analyst at Edward Jones & Co. in St. Louis, said in an interview.

<http://www.bloomberg.com/news/2010-10-15/pg-e-atmos-energy-benefit-from-push-for-50-billion-pipeline-investments.html>

Penn Energy

NTSB releases preliminary report on PG&E San Bruno pipeline accident

By Staff

October 14, 2010

In its continuing investigation of a fatal pipeline accident in California last month, the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) has released a preliminary factual report.

On September 9, 2010, at approximately 6:11 p.m. PDT, a 30-inch diameter natural gas pipeline ruptured in a residential area in San Bruno, Calif. The accident killed eight people, injured many more, and caused substantial property damage.

Analysis of the accident facts, along with conclusions and a determination of probable cause, will come at a later date when the final report on the investigation is completed. This is a document release only. No interviews will be conducted.

http://www.pennenergy.com/index/power/display/6252665793/articles/pennenergy/power/transn_releases_preliminary.html

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

(None)

Clip

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

10/14/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Clip begins at :54

Clip

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

10/14/2010, 10:00 - 10:45 PM

Clip begins at 1:08

Clip

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

10/14/2010, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Full coverage

Clip

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

10/14/2010, 6:00 - 7:00 PM

Clip begins at 1:16

Clip

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

10/14/2010, 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Clip begins at :24