

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 10/20/2010 7:12:10 AM
To: 'pac@cpuc.ca.gov' (pac@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fw: San Bruno Media Update 10/20 7:00 a.m.

From: Redacted
To: SB FAO Key Messages Distribution List; SB MRRT; Peterson, Michael R (Corp Security); Redacted
Redacted
Sent: Wed Oct 20 07:01:05 2010
Subject: San Bruno Media Update 10/20 7:00 a.m.

San Bruno Media Update
Wednesday, October 20, 2010
Updated 7:00 a.m.

Summary

The top national news headlines throughout Tuesday and early Wednesday included stories about the Don't Ask, Don't Tell policy as well as the Pentagon shooting. Specific to California, the race between Barbara Boxer and Carly Fiorina is receiving a great deal of coverage. Related to the San Bruno accident, many print and broadcast outlets covered the Senate Energy Committee hearing as well as the restore and recovery programs PG&E is offering to residents. Meanwhile, several affected residents have filed lawsuits against PG&E, and others have signed a petition to remove the gas transmission line from their neighborhood.

Developments to Date

- A senate hearing took place on Tuesday, October 19
- Seven lawsuits filed to date against PG&E
- PG&E is offering specific restore and recovery packages for homeowners to support rebuilding and beautification efforts as well as compensate for loss of value in the event of a sale

Print Media Coverage

6:00 a.m. – 6:00 a.m.

Tuesday, October 19, 2010 to Wednesday, October 20, 2010

Los Angeles Times

California Lawmakers Call for Greater Penalties, Oversight of Pipelines After Fatal Blast

By Don Thompson

October 19, 2010

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (AP) — California lawmakers investigating a deadly pipeline explosion said Tuesday they may need to change state law to increase penalties when utilities ignore problems that lead to injuries or death.

During a legislative hearing, lawmakers criticized the state's regulatory agency for not adequately overseeing decisions by Pacific Gas & Electric Co., the utility that owned the pipeline in the blast last month that killed eight in San Bruno.

<http://www.latimes.com/business/nationworld/wire/sns-ap-us-pipeline-explosion,0,5975881.story>

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Bloomberg Businessweek (also appeared in ABC News, North County Times)

Pipeline Blast Leads to Call for Greater Scrutiny

By Don Thompson

October 19, 2010

California lawmakers investigating a deadly pipeline explosion said Tuesday they may need to change state law to increase penalties when utilities ignore problems that lead to injuries or death.

During a legislative hearing, lawmakers criticized state regulatory agencies for not adequately overseeing decisions by Pacific Gas & Electric Co., the utility that owned the pipeline in the blast.

<http://www.businessweek.com/ap/financialnews/D9IV2NJ80.htm>

San Jose Mercury News

PG&E Hammered Over Safety Issues

By Pete Carey

October 19, 2010

State legislators hammered PG&E and its regulators over safety issues in a hearing Tuesday into the destruction last month of a San Bruno neighborhood in a massive gas explosion.

The joint hearing, before the Senate committees on Energy, Utilities and Communications, and Public Safety, was the first held by the Legislature on the Sept. 9 explosion that killed eight people and destroyed 37 homes when a gas transmission line exploded.

PG&E was rapped for shifting funds it sought in past years for work on parts of the pipeline to other projects. The California Public Utilities Commission was criticized for allowing it.

http://www.mercurynews.com/business/ci_16380549?nclick_check=1

ABC7News

San Bruno Pipeline Explosion Leads to Call for Greater Scrutiny

By Nannette Miranda

October 19, 2010

SACRAMENTO, Calif. (KGO) -- California lawmakers investigating a deadly pipeline explosion may need to change state law to increase penalties when utilities ignore problems that lead to injuries or death.

Jessica Morales was one of eight people who died when a fire ripped through a San Bruno neighborhood after a natural gas transmission line exploded last month.

The 20-year-old's mother pleaded with state lawmakers to do more to protect citizens from the thousands of miles of gas lines underneath so many California homes.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgostory?section=news/state&id=7734642>

The Bay Citizen

Calls Growing for Removal of San Bruno Pipeline

By John Upton

October 19, 2010

San Bruno residents and the city's mayor repeated calls on Tuesday for Pacific Gas and Electric Company to remove a pipeline from beneath their city that exploded last month, killing eight people.

"We want that pipeline removed or capped off," San Bruno Mayor Jim Ruane said during a hearing in Sacramento on Tuesday.

Also on Tuesday, five San Bruno families sued PG&E in an effort to secure unspecified financial damages and to force the company to remove the pipeline from their city, the Chronicle reported.

<http://www.baycitizen.org/blogs/pulse-of-the-bay/calls-growing-removal-san-bruno-pipeline/>

San Jose Mercury News (also appeared in Santa Cruz Sentinel)

Lawsuits Filed Against PG&E Over San Bruno Pipeline Explosion

By Joshua Melvin

October 19, 2010

On a day that San Bruno victims recounted harrowing moments after the gas explosion, five families filed lawsuits Tuesday alleging that PG&E knew its pipeline was "defective" and posed extreme danger to the community.

At a state Senate hearing, tearful victims pressed state and utility officials to remove the pipeline from their neighborhood. One of the suits came from Susan Bullis, who lost her husband Greg, 50, son William, 17, and mother-in-law Lavonne, 82, in the Sept. 9 blast that killed eight people and leveled 35 homes. The remains of the two older Bullises were so badly burned they had to be identified using DNA technology.

http://www.mercurynews.com/breaking-news/ci_16379751

Sacramento Bee (via San Mateo County Times)

Families Sue Utility in Pipeline Blast; Mayor Criticizes Aid Plan

By Joshua Melvin

October 19, 2010

REDWOOD CITY, Calif. - Rage over the deadly natural-gas pipeline blast last month in San Bruno, Calif., came to a boiling point Tuesday with the filing of five lawsuits against utility Pacific Gas and Electric Co., tearful testimony from victims at a state Senate hearing, and continued calls to remove the pipeline from the neighborhood where it blew up.

One of the suits came from Susan Bullis, who lost her husband Greg, 50; son William, 17; and

mother Yvonne, 82, in the Sept. 9 blast that also leveled 35 homes. The remains of the two older Bullises were so badly burned they had to be identified using DNA technology.

<http://www.sacbee.com/2010/10/19/3116691/families-sue-utility-in-pipeline.html>

San Francisco Appeal (via Bay City News; also appeared on ktvu.com)

Five More Lawsuits Filed Against PG&E for San Bruno Blast

By Dan McMenamin

October 19, 2010

Five families filed separate lawsuits against PG&E today 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 today in San Mateo County Superior Court accusing the company of wrongful conduct resulting in death, injury and property loss.

<http://sfappeal.com/news/2010/10/five-more-lawsuits-filed-against-pge-for-san-bruno-blast.php>

San Francisco Chronicle

San Bruno Fire: 5 Families Sue PG&E

By Demian Bulwa

October 20, 2010

Five families victimized in the deadly natural gas pipeline explosion and fire in San Bruno took their fight to court Tuesday, filing lawsuits against Pacific Gas and Electric Co. that seek not only money but the removal of the gas line from their neighborhood.

Those filing suit in San Mateo County Superior Court included Susan Bullis, 50, who lost her husband, her 17-year-old son and her mother-in-law in the Sept. 9 fire that killed eight people and destroyed 37 homes. Another victim, Christiane Chiramberro, 58, required skin grafts to treat burns on her face.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/10/20/BA161FUT92.DTL>

Platts News Article & Story

California Senate Hearing Focuses on Gas Pipeline Oversight

By Staff

October 19, 2010

How Pacific Gas and Electric prioritizes its pipeline maintenance and replacement work and how the state can step up safety oversight came under scrutiny Tuesday at a California state Senate hearing regarding the fatal explosion of one of the utility's transmission lines last month in the community of San Bruno.

The September 9 rupture of PG&E's 30-inch diameter Line 132 and resulting fire caused eight deaths and more than 50 injuries, and left 37 homes destroyed.

<http://www.platts.com/RSSFeedDetailedNews/RSSFeed/NaturalGas/6529991>

The Bay Citizen

San Bruno Mayor: PG&E Buyouts Could Harm Community

John Upton

October 19, 2010

Offers by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. to purchase land and damaged homes from victims of last month's pipeline disaster will jeopardize efforts to rebuild a devastated community, San Bruno's mayor warned Tuesday at a joint legislative hearing about pipeline safety and the San Bruno disaster in Sacramento.

Also at the hearing, PG&E revealed that it never dispatched workers to prevent natural gas from flowing into San Bruno following the Sept. 9 pipeline explosion. A massive fire was fueled until company employees who heard about the disaster "voluntarily" disconnected the severed pipeline section 89 minutes after the blast, an official testified.

<http://www.baycitizen.org/san-bruno-explosion/story/san-bruno-mayor-pge-buyout-plan-could/>

ABC7News.com (also in San Diego Source, San Jose Mercury News and KGET TV 17)

PG&E Offers Buyout to NorCal Blast Homeowners

By Staff

October 19, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (KABC) -- Property buyouts are being offered for some residents whose homes were destroyed or damaged in last month's pipeline explosion in San Bruno.

The San Francisco chronicle reported that Pacific Gas & Electric Co. began distributing the buyout offers last week.

It's unclear how many homeowners they've approached.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kabc/story?section=news/state&id=7733746>

Central Coast News (via Associated Press and also appeared in San Jose Mercury News)

PG&E Offers Buyout to San Bruno Blast Homeowners

By Staff

October 19, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (AP) - Pacific Gas & Electric Co. is offering property buyouts and rebuilding funds to victims of last month's deadly San Bruno pipeline explosion.

PG&E spokeswoman Redacted says homeowners who agree to sell within six months will collect a \$50,000 bonus. Homeowners who want to rebuild also earn a \$50,000 bonus for finishing the project within 16 months.

<http://www.kcoy.com/Global/story.asp?S=13347450>

Modesto Bee (via the Associated Press)

5 Families Sue PG&E over Calif Gas Line Blast

By Staff

October 19, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif. -- 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.

The Sept. 9 blast killed a total of eight people and destroyed 37 homes. The cause of the pipeline rupture remains under investigation.

<http://www.modbee.com/2010/10/19/1390215/5-families-sue-pge-over-calif.html>

San Francisco Chronicle

Connecting the dots: top news stories for October 19

By Max Jacobs

October 19, 2010

PG&E is offering buyouts to people whose homes were destroyed or damaged by last month's gas-line explosion in San Bruno. They're offering additional incentives for selling quickly...

http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/blogs/kalw/detail?entry_id=74945

San Bruno Patch

Story on Deck: Legislative Hearing in Sacramento on Explosion

By Martin Ricard

October 19, 2010

State Assemblyman Jerry Hill, D-San Mateo, has called a legislative hearing at 9:30am this morning in the state capitol to question officials from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. and the state Public Utilities Commission on why the utility postponed replacing the section of pipe that exploded Sept. 9 after increasing customers' rates.

The hearing is supposed to include testimony from San Bruno officials, PG&E representatives and consumer advocates about federal and state pipeline regulations, maintenance, inspection and how gas transmission lines are financed.

In a statement, Hill said he hopes the hearing will lead changes in pipeline regulation and new legislation.

<http://sanbruno.patch.com/articles/story-on-deck-legislative-hearing-in-sacramento-on-explosion>

ABC7News.com

Personal Injury Lawsuits from San Bruno Pipeline Explosion Filed

By Heather Ishimaru

October 19, 2010

SAN BRUNO, Calif. (KGO) -- The first personal injury lawsuits from the San Bruno explosion were filed on Tuesday. One lawyer filed five lawsuits against PG&E on behalf of homeowners. At the same time, the utility company is offering homeowners buyout offers, with a \$50,000 bonus if they act quickly.

None of the families that filed a lawsuit are pursuing the buyout offers. The lawsuit accuses PG&E of negligence, called the pipe a ticking time bomb and the explosion preventable.

<http://abclocal.go.com/kgo/story?section=news/local/peninsula&id=7732988>

89.3 KPCC

California Lawmakers to Hold Hearing on San Bruno Pipeline Explosion

By Julie Small

October 19, 2010

California lawmakers will convene a hearing today on the explosion of a natural gas pipeline just south of San Francisco last month. The San Bruno blast and fire killed eight people and destroyed dozens of homes.

Members of California's state senate committees on Energy, Utilities & Communications and Public Safety want to know what went wrong in San Bruno.

Did Pacific Gas and Electric – the company that owns and operates the section of pipeline that ruptured in the residential neighborhood – properly monitor and maintain its safety? And what about the state agency that regulates natural gas distribution?

<http://www.scpr.org/news/2010/10/19/pipeline-preview/>

San Francisco Chronicle

San Bruno Fire Panel Questions PUC Enforcement

By Marisa Lagos

October 20, 2010

State lawmakers grilled California regulators and utility officials Tuesday over whether they had done enough to ensure the safety of a natural gas pipeline that exploded in San Bruno last month, killing eight people and destroying 37 homes.

The six-hour, sometimes-contentious hearing was aimed at examining the safety of gas pipelines in the state, but focused nearly entirely on the San Bruno explosion.

During the most heated exchange of the joint committee hearing, Sen. Dean Florez, D-Shasta (Kern County), challenged California Public Utilities Commission officials. He demanded to

know why the agency had failed to follow through with Pacific Gas and Electric Co. to make sure the utility upgraded the 30-inch, high pressure San Bruno pipeline that exploded on Sept. 9.

<http://www.sfgate.com/cgi-bin/article.cgi?f=/c/a/2010/10/20/MNNH1FUV1C.DTL>

San Francisco Examiner

Lawsuits Start to Pile up in Disaster's Wake

By Katie Worth

October 20, 2010

SAN FRANCISCO — Though PG&E Corp. has tried to forestall expensive lawsuits with well-publicized programs for the victims of the San Bruno fire, the flood has begun.

Five lawsuits were filed Tuesday in San Mateo County Superior Court, and at least three dozen more are expected in the next two weeks.

<http://www.sfexaminer.com/local/Lawsuits-start-to-pile-up-in-disasters-wake-105324433.html>

Fort Worth Local News

Pipeline Dangers Abound in Texas

By Brett Shipp

October 19, 2010

The gas pipeline explosion that leveled a San Francisco suburb last month did more than kill, injure and devastate a neighborhood.

It put many North Texans on edge, leaving them wondering what condition Texas pipelines are in... and could a similar tragedy happen here?

<http://www.wfaa.com/news/local/Pipeline-dangers-abound-in-texas-105303193.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

[Clip](#)

CNN

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

Coverage ends at :15

[Clip](#)

CNN Headline News

10/19/2010, 4:30 - 5:00 PM

Coverage begins at 1:06

Local Coverage

[Clip](#)

KCOP-TV (My Network TV) CH 13, Los Angeles, CA

10/19/2010, 11:00 - 11:30 PM

Coverage starts at :32

[Clip](#)

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

10/19/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Coverage starts at :31

[Clip](#)

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

10/19/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Coverage starts at :46

[Clip](#)

KNSD-TV (NBC) CH 39, San Diego, CA

10/19/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Coverage ends at :46

[Clip](#)

KGPE-TV (CBS) CH 47, Fresno/Visalia, CA

10/19/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Coverage starts at :34

[Clip](#)

KXTV-TV (ABC) CH 10, Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, CA

10/19/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Coverage starts at :26

Clip

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

10/19/2010, 11:00 - 11:35 PM

Full coverage

Clip

KOVR-TV (CBS) CH 13, Sacramento/Stockton/Modesto, CA

10/19/2010, 10:00 - 11:00 PM

Coverage starts at :24

Clip

KTVU-TV (FOX) CH 2, San Francisco, CA

10/19/2010, 10:00 - 11:00 PM

Coverage ends at 1:13

Clip

KOFY-TV (IND) CH 20, San Francisco, CA

10/19/2010, 9:00 - 10:00 PM

Coverage begins at :17

Clip

KBAK-TV (CBS) CH 29, Bakersfield, CA

10/19/2010, 6:00 - 6:30 PM

Coverage ends at :53

Clip

KION-TV (CBS) CH 46, Monterey/Salinas, CA

10/19/2010, 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Coverage begins at :12

Clip

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

10/19/2010, 5:00 - 5:30 PM

Coverage begins at :45

Clip

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

10/19/2010, 10:00 - 11:00 AM

Coverage begins at :48