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Assembly California Legislature



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March 8, 2011

Michael R. Peevey, President
Timothy Allen Simon, Commissioner
Mike Florio, Commissioner
Catherine Sandoval, Commissioner

California Public Utilities Commission
San Francisco Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

Dear Commissioners,

I am writing regarding the March 15, 2011 deadline for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to submit records to the California Public Utilities Commission (PUC) of the utility's natural gas transmission pipeline infrastructure in any high consequence areas that have not had their maximum allowable operating pressure (MAOP) established through prior hydrostatic testing.

After learning that PG&E had been increasing the pressure on certain transmission lines above the MAOP without knowing what the condition or type of pipe they had underground, I wrote to you on January 19, 2011 requesting that PG&E be required to report gas pipeline information to the PUC by February 1, 2011. The PUC, however, decided to extend PG&E's deadline to provide the documents through March 15, 2011.

Given that last month the President of the PG&E utility, Chris Johns, said that the utility had been unable to find documents for thirty percent of its 1,000-plus miles of pipeline running under urban areas, and given that the utility has recently begun an intensive record searching operation housed at the Cow Palace, I want to ensure that the PUC will take all actions within its power to require that PG&E complies with the March 15th deadline.

After communicating with the PUC yesterday morning, it is my understanding that if PG&E does not meet the March 15 deadline, the PUC will undertake the following:

- Immediately deploy PUC staff to PG&E facilities in order to obtain the necessary records and information.
- Immediately levy fines and sanctions against PG&E until they provide the necessary records and information.




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Also, should the Commission have any concerns regarding the information submitted by PG&E, I ask that it take immediate action to preserve public safety by requiring PG&E to reduce the pressure on the suspect lines until both PG&E and the Commission can verify their integrity.

I would greatly appreciate any information you can provide to confirm the information above as we work together to ensure the safety of all Californians.

Sincerely,



JERRY HILL
Assemblymember, 19th District

cc: Paul Clanon, Executive Director, California Public Utilities Commission
Edward Randolph, Governmental Affairs Director, California Public Utilities Commission