O r r i c k

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April 19, 2011

VIA E-MAIL

Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: <u>Requests for Information</u>

Dear Commissioner Sandoval:

During the April 11, 2011 Commission hearing, you asked Kirk Johnson to have PG&E provide certain information. This letter responds to your requests.

1. When was seamless pipe greater than 24 inches available?

United States Steel began producing seamless pipe up to 26-inches in diameter in 1945. Prior to that, between 1935 and 1945, the largest seamless pipe diameter was 24-inches. Before 1935, the largest seamless pipe diameter was 14-inches. (ASME Research Report CRTD Vol. 43, "History of Line Pipe Manufacturing in North America," Table C-4, p. C-13.)

2. Did PG&E receive gas odor reports prior to the San Bruno pipeline rupture?

PG&E has found no record of anyone reporting smelling gas in the affected San Bruno neighborhood from September 1 and September 9. PG&E reached that conclusion after a thorough review of all calls received by its four contact centers.

PG&E also reviewed all calls in the affected area from July 1 - Sept 9, a total of about 3.1 million calls. It found two gas leak calls – on July 23 and July 27 – at adjoining properties. A small leak was found at the meter (distribution system) of one home, which was repaired.

3. <u>How was the fact that the ruptured portion of Line 132 was buried in a roadway</u> addressed during construction in 1956?

Line 132 at the site of the rupture in San Bruno was installed before the road was built and had approximately four feet of cover. The 1955 edition of American Standards Association (ASA) B31.1.8, Paragraph 841.16 provided that pipelines in roadways be installed with at least 24



Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval April 19, 2011 Page 2

inches of cover. Current federal safety regulations require only 36 inches of cover in roadways. 49 C.F.R. § 192.327(a).

Please let us know if we can provide any additional information.

Sincerely yours,

In hide:

Joseph M. Malkin

JMM/mj

cc: President Michael R. Peevey Commissioner Timothy Alan Simon Commissioner Catherine J.K. Sandoval Commissioner Mark Ferron Paul Clanon Frank Lindh, Esq. Service list in R.11-02-019