



Redacted  
Supervising Engineer,  
Gas Engineering  
Gas Transmission and  
Distribution

77 Beale St., Rm. 1691B  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Redacted

December 11, 2009

Mr. Raffy Stepanian, Chief  
Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch  
Consumer Protection and Safety Division  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Ave., Room 2005  
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Re: California Public Utilities Commission  
Final Report of Gas Incident  
San Francisco, California – November 11, 2009

Dear Mr. Stepanian:

This letter will supplement our electronic notification of November 11, 2009, and the initial 420 report sent electronically on November 12, 2009, concerning an incident that occurred on mile point 39 on transmission line 101, San Francisco, California.

Our investigation determined that at approximately 1200 hours on November 11, 2009, a contractor, Manuel Brothers, Inc., struck a 20-inch steel transmission line while conducting horizontal boring operations to install fiber optic cables, causing gas to escape.

PG&E was notified of this incident by the contractor at approximately 1225 hours. PG&E personnel arrived on the scene at 1240 hours on November 11, 2009. Gas flow was stopped at 1800 hours on November 11, 2009 and permanent repairs were completed at 1820 hours on November 13, 2009. San Francisco Fire Department and Police were on scene.

There were no injuries or fatalities as a result of this incident. Gas service to six customers was disrupted. This incident became reportable when it was determined that damages to company property would exceed \$50,000 and major media was present.

The excavator, Manuel Brothers, Inc., notified the Underground Service Alert (USA) for a utility line marking and had a valid USA ticket (# 0331801). The facility was marked correctly. The root cause of this incident is that the excavator failed to positively locate the transmission line prior to using the horizontal boring equipment. The excavator had

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probed for the gas line using a vacuum excavator. The excavator's vacuum equipment apparently struck a nearby 60-inch concrete sewer line which it assumed was the PG&E transmission line. The excavator did not expose either the sewer line or the PG&E pipeline before the boring began. The excavator directed the bore to pass between the fiber optic bank and assumed gas pipe (sewer) line that had been probed. The excavator never actually located the gas transmission line, failed to expose the bore head at the point where passed the assumed gas pipeline and consequently struck the gas line. The PG&E mark and locate person did not offer a pre-meeting and did not notify the excavator of the presence of the high priority subsurface installation (gas transmission line). PG&E has taken corrective action with the mark and locate person and reviewed the requirements for high priority subsurface installations.

In conformance with company policy, this excavator will receive a letter identifying them as having come in contact with a utility line and describing the legal requirements for excavation work, as well as a bilingual information sheet containing clear expectations and contact information for excavation work. In addition, the excavator will be billed for the pipeline repair and restoration costs.

I respectfully call your attention to the fact that accident reports are solely for the confidential use of the Commission and its staff and are not open to public inspection (PUC GO 66-C, Public Utilities Code, Section 315 and 583), except for the copy of the D.O.T. Report made public to the United States Department of Transportation pursuant to Commission Resolution dated February 10, 1970.

Sincerely,

/S/

Redacted

Supervising Engineer, Gas Engineering

Attachment: CPUC File No. 420  
DOT/OPS File No. 7100.2

# CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Report of Gas Leak or Interruption\*  
CPUC File No. 420 FINAL

## Part I: CPUC CONTACT INFORMATION

Utility Name: <b>Pacific Gas &amp; Electric Co.</b>	CPUC Contact: Name <u>Filed Electronically</u>	Recorder <input type="checkbox"/>	FAX <input type="checkbox"/>
Contact Person <u>Redacted</u>	Date <u>11/11/09</u>	Time: (24hr) <u>14:20</u>	
375 N. Wiget Ln., Walnut Creek	CPUC Information Request: <input type="checkbox"/> Written Report <input type="checkbox"/> Sketch/Photo <input type="checkbox"/>	FD Report <input type="checkbox"/>	
Phone: <u>Redacted</u>	DOT Notified - Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	DOT Report Number: <u>923326</u>	

## Part II: INCIDENT DETAILS

<b><u>Incident Location</u></b>	<b><u>Incident Time</u></b>	<b><u>Reported to the Utility</u></b>
City/County: <u>San Francisco/San Francisco</u>	Date <u>11/11/09</u>	Date: <u>11/11/09</u> Time: (24hr) <u>12:25</u>
Address/Location: <u>Redacted</u>	Time: (24hr) <u>12:00</u>	Reported by: <u>3<sup>rd</sup> Party Contractor</u>

**Reason(s) for Reporting** (check all that apply)

Gas leak associated with:

Death <input type="checkbox"/>	Injury <input type="checkbox"/>	\$\$Damage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Media Coverage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Traffic Rerouted <input type="checkbox"/>	Area Blocked Off <input type="checkbox"/>	Building Evacuated <input type="checkbox"/>
Service Interruption <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>			Operator Judgement <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Emergency actions (describe)		
Transmission Line Test Failure <input type="checkbox"/>		Required Transmission Line Shutdown <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>				

**Emergency action required:**

**Incident Cause**

Dig In  Fire/Explosion  Construction Defect  Material Failure  Corrosion  Vehicle Impact  Suicide

UNKNOWN - MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW  Other (describe)

**Escaping Gas Involvement** (check all that apply)

Leak Only  Fire  Explosion  None

Summary (Briefly describe the incident and the probable cause.) On 11/11/09 at approximately 1200 hours a 3<sup>rd</sup> party contractor struck and punctured Line 101, a 20-inch steel gas transmission pipeline causing gas to be released. The contractor was conducting horizontal boring operations to install fiber optic cables. The area was properly delineated and correctly marked under USA ticket 0331801. The contractor did not use appropriate excavation practices while boring. The incident resulted in loss of service for six customers. San Francisco Fire Department and Highway Patrol were on scene. PG&E crews were on scene at 1240 hours on 11/11/09. Major media was present. There were no fatalities or injuries as a result of this incident. This incident became reportable when the damages to the pipeline exceeded \$50,000.

<b><u>Gas Equipment Affected</u></b> (check all that apply)	<b><u>Specification of Failed Equipment</u></b>	<b><u>Injuries and Fatalities</u></b>
Main <input type="checkbox"/> Regulator <input type="checkbox"/> Meter <input type="checkbox"/> Valve <input type="checkbox"/> Material	Steel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cast Iron <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Service Line <input type="checkbox"/> Controls <input type="checkbox"/> Service Riser <input type="checkbox"/>	Plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Copper <input type="checkbox"/>	Injuries <input type="checkbox"/> Fatalities <input type="checkbox"/>
Customer Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission Line <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Company: ( 0 ) ( 0 )
Other (describe)	Pipe Size <u>20 in</u> Operating Pressure <u>145 psig</u>	Other: ( 0 ) ( 0 )

<b><u>Dig In Information</u></b>	<b><u>Estimated Damage</u></b>
USA notification required: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Name of Excavator: <u>Manuel Brothers, Inc.</u> Damage to gas facilities: <u>\$(&gt;50K )</u>
USA notified: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Excavator Contact Person: <u>Jerry Pritchett</u> Other damage involving gas: <u>\$(0 )</u>
Facilities properly marked: Yes <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone: <u>(530) 272-4213</u> Total: <u>\$(&gt;50K)</u>

<b><u>Recovery from Incident</u></b>	<b><u>Public Agencies on Scene</u></b>	<b><u>Customer Outage</u></b>
Co Personnel on Scene (11/11/09) (12:40)	Media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Police <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Customers out of service (6)
Gas flow stopped (11/11/09) (18:00)	Fire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ambulance <input type="checkbox"/>	Customer-hours outage (194)
Service restored (11/13/09) (02:22)		

## Part III: CPUC INVESTIGATION

Is further investigation warranted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature of CPUC Engineer _____
Date incident investigated: _____	Field report attached? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> CPUC Inspector: _____

\*The information contained in this report is provided solely for the confidential use of the Commission and its staff and is not open to public inspection (PUC GO 66-C, Public Utilities Code, Sections 315 and 583).