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Sent: 10/18/2011 10:03:07 AM
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Cc: Cherry, Brian K (/O=PG&E/OU=CORPORATE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=BKC7)
Bcc:
Subject: FW: PG&E_Hall release DRAFT.doc

Mike and Paul,

Here's the latest draft of our release. Our press team is sharing this with Terrie Prosper as well. Please let me know if you would like to make any changes. Thanks.

Tom

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 18, 2011

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PG&E Taps Former NTSB Chairman as Outside Advisor on Safety Improvements

SAN FRANCISCO, Calif. – Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is enlisting former National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB) Chairman Jim Hall to serve as an outside advisor to help the utility oversee the extensive safety improvement initiatives underway within its natural gas operations.

Hall and his firm, Hall & Associates, will focus in particular on seeing that PG&E's plans are effectively addressing the safety recommendations that have emerged during the past year from the various audits and other inquiries into the San Bruno pipeline accident. These include the final reports issued by the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Independent Review Panel and the NTSB.

“It’s vital that we assure the public – and ourselves – that PG&E is taking the necessary steps to improve safety and address the issues identified by the Independent Review Panel, the NTSB and others,” said Nick Stavropoulos, the utility’s executive vice president of gas operations. “Bringing in an outside expert with former NTSB Chairman Hall’s experience and expertise is yet another action we are taking to make certain our improvement plans achieve long-term, positive change in the way we operate our gas system.”

As he evaluates PG&E’s plans, Hall will provide his views and recommendations directly to Stavropoulos. He will also share his advice and observations directly with PG&E Corporation’s chairman and CEO, and – independently -- with the executive director of the CPUC.

Hall led the NTSB under President Bill Clinton from 1994 to January 2001. Among the landmark investigations the NTSB conducted under his watch was the Olympic Pipeline accident in Bellingham, Washington.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a subsidiary of PG&E Corporation (NYSE:PCG), is one of the largest combined natural gas and electric utilities in the United States. Based in San Francisco, with 20,000 employees, the company delivers some of the nation's cleanest energy to 15 million people in Northern and Central California. For more information, visit <http://www.pge.com/about/newsroom/>.