

From: Ramaiya, Shilpa R
Sent: 12/19/2011 9:33:10 AM
To: 'Cooke, Michelle' (michelle.cooke@cpuc.ca.gov) (michelle.cooke@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc: Doll, Laura (/O=PG&E/OU=CORPORATE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=LRDD);
Horner, Trina (/O=PG&E/OU=CORPORATE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=TNHC)
Bcc:
Subject: Plastic Pipe Letter - Also West Davis

Michelle,

If you are still in the process of finalizing the letter on plastic pipe, we also just learned that there is a replacement plan underway in West Davis, but no permits yet. So this is in the same category as St.Helena. I've pasted an article from the SacBee for more detail.

Thanks.

Shilpa

PG&E Will Replace 2,000 Feet of Plastic Pipe in West Davis Neighborhood Plagued by Gas Leaks

By Loretta Kalb

Sacramento Bee, December 19, 2011

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. intends to replace 2,000 feet of gas main under residential streets where a concentration of leaks has been detected in a West Davis neighborhood, the utility said Sunday.

Responding to residents' complaints, PG&E said last month that its records show 42 gas leaks occurred in the Stonegate neighborhood in Davis over the last five years.

The utility began holding Town Hall meetings with residents, and it began monitoring for leaks on a biweekly basis.

That process revealed another five leaks. Four involved risers linked to home gas meters. One leak was found underground, PG&E spokeswoman Brittany McKannay said Sunday.

McKannay said the 2,000 feet of gas main being replaced involves the streets in the Stonegate subdivision with the greatest concentration of leaks. As that work progresses, the company also will replace the service lines that bring gas from the main to 30 affected homes.

The utility is working on getting the needed permits for the project, McKannay said. Excavation could begin in early 2012.

Much of the work will be on Marina Circle, where a concentration of leaks was detected initially. But the work also will involve Biscayne Bay Place, Secret Bay Street, Magellan Street and Chesapeake Bay Avenue, McKannay said.

Residents initially sounded the alarm after realizing that a half dozen leaks had occurred in one small area of their subdivision within 18 months.

The reports and PG&E's response followed a spate of other problems within the utility's system, including the 2010 explosion of a transmission pipeline in San Bruno, which caused eight fatalities.

There are no transmission lines under West Davis' Stonegate neighborhood.

Last October, parent company PG&E Corp. agreed to pay a \$38 million fine for the Christmas Eve 2008 blast that killed a Rancho Cordova homeowner.

In that case, and in others in Northern California, Aldyl-A plastic pipe has been implicated. The National Transportation Safety Board has recommended that the pipe be replaced.

Aldyl-A plastic distribution pipeline was implicated also in an Aug. 31 blast in Cupertino that destroyed a condominium and in a Sept. 27 rupture and fire at Cirby Way and Riverside Avenue in Roseville. There were no injuries in those cases.

PG&E has 24,816 feet of distribution pipes in the Stonegate subdivision.

Most of Stonegate's distribution pipeline is Aldyl-A plastic made by DuPont. Aldyl-A made prior to 1973 is considered most vulnerable to leaks. And about 5 percent of the Stonegate distribution pipeline is pre-1973, and PG&E plans to replace all of it over time.

Throughout PG&E's system, there are 7,900 miles of Aldyl-A pipeline, including about 1,200 miles of the plastic made before 1973.