



Annette Faraglia
Attorney at Law

Street/Courier Address:
Law Department
77 Beale Street, B30A
San Francisco, CA 94105

Mailing Address:
Mail Code B30A
P. O. Box 7442
San Francisco, CA 94120

415.973.7145
Fax: 415.973.5520
E-Mail: ARF3@pge.com

August 21, 2012

*Via Messenger and
E-Mail pac@cpuc.ca.gov*

Mr. Paul Clanon, Executive Director
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

Re: Helms Powerhouse, Unit 1 Returns to Service

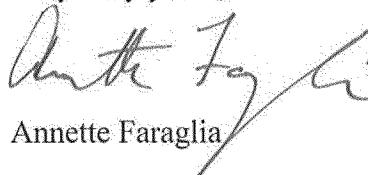
Dear Mr. Clanon:

This letter is to inform you that on August 20, 2012 at 8:44 P.M., Pacific Gas and Electric Company's ("PG&E") Helms Unit 1 was released for full service in both pump and generate modes. Helms Unit 1 has a nameplate rating of 404 MW and is part of PG&E's Helms Pumped Storage Project, FERC Project No. 2735.

On August 20, 2012, pursuant to Public Utilities Code §455.5(b) requirements, PG&E sent you a letter explaining that a November 19, 2011 operational incident occurred damaging Helms Unit 1 and that PG&E expected Unit 1 to return to service on August 20th or shortly thereafter. A copy of the August 20, 2012 letter is attached.

If you have any questions regarding Helms Unit 1's August 20th return to service, please call me at (415) 973-7145 or by e-mail at ARF3@pge.com.

Very truly yours,



Annette Faraglia

AF:bd
Attachment



Pacific Gas and
Electric Company®

COPY

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August 20, 2012

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E-Mail pac@cpuc.ca.gov*

Mr. Paul Clanon, Executive Director
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 Van Ness Avenue, 5th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102

**Re: Public Utilities Code §455.5(b) Notice Regarding Outage at Helms Power-
house, Unit 1**

Dear Mr. Clanon:

On November 19, 2011 an operational incident occurred at Pacific Gas and Electric Company's ("PG&E") Helms Pumped Storage Project, FERC License No. 2735, damaging Helms Unit 1. PG&E staff, including Redacted Senior Manager, advised the California Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") via telephone, e-mail, and website reporting about the incident. Please see the attached November 23, 2011 Incident Report describing the event. PG&E also provided the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission with an incident report and repair schedule.

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code ("PUC") §455.5(b), every electric, gas, heat, and water corporation is required to notify the Commission when any major facility has been out of service for nine (9) consecutive months. Helms Unit 1 has been out of service since November 19, 2011. Since August 19, 2012 fell on a Sunday, the nine-month Notice would be due today, August 20th. Helms Unit 1 is expected to return to service today, but in the event service is delayed for an additional day or two, PG&E is filing this Notice with the Commission to ensure §455.5(b) compliance.

If you have any questions regarding this Notice please contact me at 415 973-7145 or by e-mail at ARF3@pge.com.

Very truly yours,

Annetta Faraglia

AF:bd
Attachment

Welcome to *California*

The report of this Power Plant Incident has been submitted.

Below is the information you entered. You may want to print this page for your records.

Report Date & Time: 11/23/2011 2:47:18 PM

Company Name: Pacific Gas & Electric Company

Reported By: Redacted

Title: Sr. Manager

Phone Number: Redacted

Address: 67250 Helms Circle

City: Shaver Lake

County: Fresno

Email Address: Redacted

Plant Name: Helms PSP

Incident Date: 11/19/2011

Unit Number: 1

Incident Time: 4:21 a.m.

Capacity: 404

Description: Helms Unit 1 was damaged during an event that started on Saturday, 11/19/11. The incident started at 0421 when Unit 1 was being taken off pump mode. The Unit 1 230 kV Generator Breaker (CB-270) failed to open but reported to the control systems that it had opened. As part of normal shutdown, the exciter was de-energized and the field discharge resistor was put into the circuit to drop the magnetic field from the rotor. With the stator coils still energized, the unit motored for approximately 15 minutes. While the unit was motoring, current was induced in the field (also known as the rotor) and that in turn overheated the field discharge resistor to the point that it caught on fire and burned several holes through the exciter cabinet. There is also evidence of heating within the generator, and rubbing of rotor components on the stator. No one was injured in the event. Initial efforts have focused on making the facility safe and assessing the current conditions. The extent of repairs needed will be determined in the coming weeks.