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Bcc:

Subject: RE: I1201007 CPSD Mtn to Suspend Proceedings in Order to Facilitate Negotiations

Judge Wetzell, Parties: UWUA has not been made aware of or participated in any discussions or negotiations with CPSD or any other parties concerning any stipulation or agreement as to any matter in R.11-02-019. UWUA has participated actively in this docket with respect to Southern California Gas Company (SCG). Docket R.11-02-019 is the venue for implementing Senate Bill 705; for implementing the Commission's approach to facilitating employee communications including whistleblower protection; and for implementing an industry-wide safety culture for natural gas utilities in California. These are matters which should not be suspended or deferred for negotiations without the active participation of UWUA.

UWUA requests clarification on the scope of the proposed suspension and requests a directive to CPSD and other Commission staff and divisions concerning the matters in R.11-02-019. If the scope of the proposed suspension involves only matters related to PG&E in the consolidated dockets that are the subject of ongoing evidentiary proceedings before you, then UWUA does not object to the proposed suspension. However, if referenced negotiations affect matters involving ongoing issues in R.11-02-019 then UWUA requests notice and the opportunity to participate in those discussions.

Thank you for your consideration.

Bill Julian for UWUA in Docket R.11-02-019
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On Oct 6, 2012, at 10:14 AM, Wetzell, Mark S. wrote:

NOTICE TO PARTIES IN I.12-01-007

As explained below, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) witnesses need not appear at 9:30 a. m. Monday morning but should remain available to appear on two hours notice.

On Friday October 5, 2012, a few minutes before 5:00 p.m., the Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) served a motion requesting the immediate suspension of all proceedings in this and other related dockets in order to facilitate negotiations toward a stipulated outcome. When I became aware of the motion a few minutes after 5:00 p.m., I determined that it was too late to cancel the evidentiary hearing set for Monday, October 8, 2012 at 9:30 a.m.

This e-mail notice is issued to advise parties that I intend to convene the hearing at 9:30 a.m. Monday as scheduled and proceed with a discussion of the CPSD motion as it impacts the hearing schedule. I believe that it may be appropriate to suspend the hearings in I.12-01-007 for a very few days to provide the respective assigned administrative law judges an opportunity to develop a comprehensive and coordinated response to the CPSD motion following responsive party input. However, I am not prepared to adopt that approach until I have discussed it with parties Monday morning. Pending that discussion, I am obligated to manage the hearing schedule as if the scheduled hearings will continue over the next two weeks.

Currently, PG&E witness Jane Yura is scheduled to appear for cross-examination on Monday morning, followed by PG&E witness Kris Keas as time allows later in the day. I will not require witness Yura to appear at 9:30. However, in light of the unsettled state of affairs, I ask that witnesses Yura and Keas remain on call and available to appear on two hours notice on Monday.

Administrative Law Judge Mark Wetzell