

From: Malashenko, Elizaveta I.  
Sent: 8/21/2013 2:19:51 PM  
To: [Redacted] (/O=PG&E/OU=CORPORATE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=[Redact])  
Cc: Doll, Laura (/O=PG&E/OU=CORPORATE/CN=RECIPIENTS/CN=LRDD);  
Robertson, Michael (michael.robertson@cpuc.ca.gov); Solis, Maria  
(Maria.Solis@cpuc.ca.gov)  
Bcc:  
Subject: RE: PSEP L-114 Pipe Replacement Project (Brentwood) - re-inspection of welds

[Redac]

Can you also validate this statement:

“Since portions of the pipeline where welds need to be re-inspected have already been buried, PG&E has chosen ultrasonic testing as the NDT method. In-line inspection is an acceptable NDT method per API 1104 and also reduces the risk of damaging the pipe during excavation, which would need to take place if the welds were to be re-inspected using Radiographic Testing.”

It's something I wrote, but want to make sure my assumption is correct.

Thanks,

Liza

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***Elizaveta Malashenko***

Deputy Director

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Safety and Enforcement Division

California Public Utilities Commission

Phone: 415-703-2274

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**From:** [Redacted]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2013 9:57 AM  
**To:** Malashenko, Elizaveta I.  
**Cc:** Solis, Maria; Robertson, Michael; Doll, Laura  
**Subject:** RE: PSEP L-114 Pipe Replacement Project (Brentwood) - re-inspection of welds

Liza,

Thanks for your questions we will work to provide the answers you request.

Regards

[Reda

**From:** Malashenko, Elizaveta I. [<mailto:elizaveta.malashenko@cpuc.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Wednesday, August 21, 2013 9:55 AM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** Solis, Maria; Robertson, Michael; Doll, Laura  
**Subject:** RE: PSEP L-114 Pipe Replacement Project (Brentwood) - re-inspection of welds

[Redac

More questions.

1. I'm reading the PG&E PSEP Quarterly Reports – the one for Q1 (filed April 30) and Q2 (filed July 30). The report for Q1 talks about NDE contractor not following procedures (e.g. not setting up the perimeter correctly, incorrectly lowering NDE testing tool), but the Q1 report never mentions the “inadequate inspection and documentation” and contractor termination. That information was subsequently provided in Q2 report. My main questions are:

a. Where the NDE contractor issues mentioned in Q1 report for TCI as well or another contractor? When was the issue mentioned in Q1 observed?

b. Why did the Q1 report filed on April 30<sup>th</sup> not mention the TCI issue weld inspection issue and it was reported later in the Q2 report?

2. The account of the conversation between Modena and PG&E staff has several inconsistencies. Can you provide me the names of the staff who Modena approached and a summary of that conversation? I understand that people may not remember exactly, but I need to understand the nature of that discussion and what specifically PG&E employees said to Modena. I believe the conversation took place on April 4, 2013.

3. I'm also trying to clarify who was auditing work on March 26. Was there anybody present from CPUC or BV?

Thanks,

Liza

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**From:** Redacted

**Sent:** Tuesday, August 20, 2013 6:49 PM

**To:** Malashenko, Elizaveta I.

**Cc:** Solis, Maria; Robertson, Michael; Doll, Laura

**Subject:** RE: PSEP L-114 Pipe Replacement Project (Brentwood) - re-inspection of welds

Liza,

Here are the responses to your questions:

1. Are the 3 million of cost over-runs being funded by ratepayer or shareholder money?

The \$3 million cost overrun is being treated as an expense item and will ultimately be shareholder funded.

2. What dates did PG&E being re-inspection of TCI welds and when did the physical re-inspection end?

The first weld re-inspection was conducted by WIX on 6/24/13 using Radiography Testing (RT), and the last weld re-inspection was conducted using the Shaw AUT tool on 8/14/13.

3. Did anyone from BV approach PG&E or PG&E contractors about the TCI weld inspection issue? If so, when and who?

Yes, BV's field representative Modina Moore approached construction personnel. This occurred in the days shortly after the ATS field observations of TCI were conducted on 3/26/13, and concerned construction site activities related to the re-inspection of welds previously inspected by TCI. The same BV field representative continued to request and received oral updates from construction personnel as re-inspection activities progressed. In July, PG&E directed the BV representative to make requests for written re-inspection documentation through the established channels.

Please let me know if you need any further information.

Regards

Redac

**From:** Malashenko, Elizaveta I. [mailto:[elizaveta.malashenko@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:elizaveta.malashenko@cpuc.ca.gov)]  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2013 9:19 PM  
**To:** Redacted  
**Cc:** Solis, Maria; Robertson, Michael; Doll, Laura  
**Subject:** RE: PSEP L-114 Pipe Replacement Project (Brentwood) - re-inspection of welds

Colin,

A few additional questions.

1. Are the 3 million of cost over-runs being funded by ratepayer or shareholder money?
2. What dates did PG&E being re-inspection of TCI welds and when did the physical re-inspection end?
3. Did anyone from BV approach PG&E or PG&E contractors about the TCI weld inspection issue? If so, when and who?

Thanks,

Liza

**From:** Redacted  
**Sent:** Monday, August 19, 2013 5:07 PM  
**To:** Malashenko, Elizaveta I.  
**Cc:** Solis, Maria; Robertson, Michael; Doll, Laura  
**Subject:** RE: PSEP L-114 Pipe Replacement Project (Brentwood) - re-inspection of welds

Liza,

Please find attached a response document to your questions below.

As mentioned in our responses, PG&E will be reaching out to SED shortly with more information on this issue as it is finalized, including our extent of condition analysis and our corrective action/quality review plan for the additional noncompliant RT work performed by TCI that has been identified.

In the meantime, please let me know if you need any further information.

Regards

Colin

**From:** Malashenko, Elizaveta I. [<mailto:elizaveta.malashenko@cpuc.ca.gov>]  
**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2013 3:40 PM  
**To:** [Redacted]  
**Cc:** Solis, Maria; Robertson, Michael; Doll, Laura  
**Subject:** RE: PSEP L-114 Pipe Replacement Project (Brentwood) - re-inspection of welds

[Redacted]

Thank you for the information. I have some follow-up questions to make sure that I completely understand what's going on.

#### **Project site L-114**

- I understand that this project is installing four miles of a new 24-inch natural gas pipeline. Correct?
- When did this project begin?
- When did the welding process start & end?
- How many total welds are there on L-114?
- What is the current status of the project? What is the work that's being performed, other than re-validation of

the welding?

### **Weld Inspection Procedure**

- Is the exposure angle of 120 degrees set by the API 1104 or PG&E procedure?
- Is it technically correct to refer to Radiographic Testing as X-ray testing (and if not, what's the difference)?
- How long does it usually take for the Radiographic Testing images to become available after the images were taken in the field?
- Is using a pig instead of Radiographic Testing considered an equivalent validation?
- Is a concern that inspection of welds using a pig "will not show inspectors if there are bubbles inside the welds" and that only X-ray can provide sufficient certainty of a weld's safety?

### **Contact with TCI**

- How long has TCI been under contact with PG&E to perform weld examination?
- Out of total number of welds on L-114, how many of those were validated by TCI?
- What projects, other than L-114, has TCI been used to validate welds?
- Are any of the lines that TCI was used for in weld examination currently in service?
- What other contactors that PG&E uses to perform weld examination? WIX and anyone else?
- What's the name of the contactor that's performing the actual welding (or is it done by PG&E employees)?

### **Non- Destructive Examination (NDE) inspector**

- What is the relationship of the NDE Services Group of PG&E's Applied Technology Services (ATS) Division and the Quality Improvement group in Gas Operations?
- Did the NDE inspector observe the incorrect Radiographic Testing procedure as it was being done in the field or after the fact?
- What is the PG&E QA/QC process for Radiographic Testing in the field and the subsequent images?

### **Corrective action for issues on L-114**

- To your knowledge, when was CPUC first notified of the issue with TCI?
- How many welds that TCI validated have been re-validated to date?
- What process was used to re-validate the welds?
- Out of the re-validated welds, how many of those had issues that were identified upon re-examination?
- What steps has PG&E taken to ensure that there isn't the same quality issue with other welding validation contactors?
- What has been the impact on the project from this issue? Both in terms of schedule and cost?
- When is PG&E planning to submit the corrective action/quality review plan to the CPUC?

I have some of the answers to these questions from my staff already, but I would like to get them from you as well, just to re-validate my understanding. I would appreciate a short turn-around on these questions - in the next couple of days.

Thank you!

Liza

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**From:** Redacted  
**Sent:** Friday, August 16, 2013 2:47 PM  
**To:** Solis, Maria  
**Cc:** Malashenko, Elizaveta I.  
**Subject:** PSEP L-114 Pipe Replacement Project (Brentwood) - re-inspection of welds

Maria,

This email follows-up on questions posed at our August 5, 2013 meeting in Bishop Ranch where we reviewed weld re-inspection documentation and activities for the PSEP pipe replacement project on L-114 in Brentwood.

On March 26, 2013 at project site L-114 and as part of a routine unannounced job observation, a Non- Destructive Examination (NDE) inspector (PG&E employee) observed TC Inspection (TCI) performing Radiographic Testing (RT) in a manner not in compliance with API 1104, Section 11 (20th ed.) or their own method procedure. Specifically, the TCI two-man RT crew was producing double wall exposure/single wall viewing (DWE/SWV) radiographic images with a total of only two exposures and at exposure angles which exceeded the maximum exposure angle of 120 degrees. Please note that these inspection process failures were on new pipeline in construction, not in operation.

The PG&E NDE inspection activity noted above is part of an ongoing series of job observations of NDE vendors performing inspections across the PG&E system, and is being conducted by the NDE Services Group of PG&E's Applied Technology Services (ATS) Division as part of PG&E's Gas NDE Process Improvement Initiative, which commenced in 2012.

As a result of the observation findings, PG&E took immediate action to terminate all further TCI inspection activities on March 28, 2013. Through that date, TCI had completed the inspection of 173 welds on L-114, since the commencement of their inspections at the project site on February 18, 2013 (note: TCI inspected 9 welds on March 27, 2013 using a different TCI RT crew under the supervision of PG&E NDE inspectors. These weld inspections produced by TCI on March 27, 2013 were all completed in a code compliant manner). Weld inspection at the L-114 project site continued on March 28, 2013 with a WIX crew under PG&E NDE staff's supervision. PG&E has since removed TCI as a PG&E-approved NDE vendor.

As an immediate corrective action, PG&E has commenced re-inspection of all affected TCI-inspection at the L-114 project site and is in the process of completing analysis on this re-inspection information.

In addition, PG&E's Gas Operations has completed a detailed assessment of all RT work performed by TCI during 2012 through the termination of their services and has found additional work not in compliance with TCI's procedures or the API 1104 standard. PG&E is in the process of evaluating the radiographic images produced by TCI and developing a quality review plan for conducting redigs of some locations.

As stated above, PG&E's internal Quality Control process identified the contractor's RT non-compliance on L-114. L-114 is not in service, and the welds upon completion of re-examination will adhere to the requirements of all applicable codes and standards.

PG&E will be reaching out to SED shortly with more information on this issue as it is finalized, including our quality review plan for the additional noncompliant RT work performed by TCI that has been identified. In the meantime, please let me know if you need any further information.

Regards

Redacted

Redacted Pacific Gas and Electric Company | Manager Governance and Reporting | Pipeline Safety Enhancement Plan  
PMO | 2420E BRZ1 6121 Bollinger Canyon Rd. San Ramon CA, 94583 | Redacted

Redacted



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