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January 9, 2014

Mr. Michael Robertson  
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division  
California Public Utilities Commission  
320 West 4th Street, Suite 500  
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Re: California Public Utilities Commission  
Final Report of Gas Incident  
Oakland, California – December 10, 2013

Dear Mr. Robertson:

This letter supplements our electronic notification and initial 420 report of December 11, 2013 concerning an incident that occurred on December 10, 2013 at [Redacted] and [Redacted] in the City of Oakland.

On December 10, 2013 at approximately 0839 hours Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) was notified of a gas fire at [Redacted] in Oakland. PG&E personnel arrived on site at 0844 hours. The source of the leak was a severed 4-inch steel elbow. The elbow was retained and an analysis of the elbow was conducted. With the aid of an external contractor, PG&E's investigation indicates that external ground forces acting on the pipeline resulted in stresses that caused the fracture at the elbow. Additionally, available information from the USGS on the rate of creep of the Hayward earthquake fault in this area supports a fair amount of displacement of the fault at this location over time. A systematic review of ignition sources was also performed; the most probable source of ignition is a transitory ignition source such as a passing vehicle, static discharge or, dropped cigarette. The gas flow was shut in at 1135 hours by cutting, capping and welding the 4-inch main in 3 locations. Nineteen customers experienced gas service interruption. All affected customers were restored by 2200 hours.

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There are no injuries or fatalities and damages are less than \$50,000. This was reported to CPUC due to the presence of major Bay Area media on site.

I respectfully call your attention to the fact that accident reports are solely for the confidential use of the Commission and its staff and are not open to public inspection (PUC GO 66-C, Public Utilities Code, Section 315 and 583), except for the copy of the United States Department of Transportation (D.O.T.) Report made public to the United States D.O.T., pursuant to Commission Resolution dated February 10, 1970.

Sincerely,

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Frances Yee

Attachment

# CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

Report of Gas Leak or Interruption\*  
CPUC File No. 420 **FINAL**

## Part I: CPUC CONTACT INFORMATION

Utility Name: <b>Pacific Gas &amp; Electric Co.</b>	CPUC Contact: Name _____	CPUC Website _____	Recorder <input type="checkbox"/>	FAX <input type="checkbox"/>
Contact Person: Redacted	Date: 12/10/13	Time: (24hr) 10:13		
Redacted	CPUC Information Request: Written Report <input type="checkbox"/>	Sketch/Photo <input type="checkbox"/>	FD Report <input type="checkbox"/>	
Phone: Redacted	DOT Notified - Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> DOT Report Number: _____			

## Part II: INCIDENT DETAILS

<u>Incident Location</u>	<u>Incident Time</u>	<u>Reported to the Utility</u>
City/County: <u>Oakland/Alameda</u>	Date: <u>12/10/13</u>	<u>12/10/13</u> Time: (24hr) <u>08:39</u>
Address/Location: Redacted	Time: (24hr) <u>08:00 (est.)</u>	Reported by: <u>Oakland Fire Department</u>

### Reason(s) for Reporting (check all that apply)

<u>Gas leak associated with:</u>		<u>Emergency action required:</u>	
Death <input type="checkbox"/>	Injury <input type="checkbox"/>	\$\$\$Damage <input type="checkbox"/>	Media Coverage <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Service Interruption <input type="checkbox"/>	Operator Judgment <input type="checkbox"/>	Traffic Rerouted <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Area Blocked Off <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Transmission Line Test Failure <input type="checkbox"/>	Required Transmission Line Shutdown <input type="checkbox"/>	Other Emergency actions (describe) _____	Building Evacuated <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
		Release of Gas > 3 MMCF <input type="checkbox"/>	

<u>Incident Cause</u>	Dig In <input type="checkbox"/>	Fire/Explosion <input type="checkbox"/>	Construction Defect <input type="checkbox"/>	Material Failure <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corrosion <input type="checkbox"/>	Vehicle Impact <input type="checkbox"/>	Suicide <input type="checkbox"/>
UNKNOWN - MORE INFORMATION TO FOLLOW <input type="checkbox"/> Other (describe) _____ External Forces _____							

<u>Escaping Gas Involvement</u> (check all that apply)	Leak Only <input type="checkbox"/>	Fire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Explosion <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input type="checkbox"/>
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Summary (Briefly describe the incident and the probable cause): On December 10, 2013 at approximately 0839 hours Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) was notified of a gas fire at Redacted PG&E personnel arrived on site at 0844 hours. The source of the leak was a severed 4-inch steel elbow. The elbow was retained and an analysis of the elbow was conducted. With the aid of an external contractor, PG&E's investigation indicates that external ground forces acting on the pipeline resulted in stresses that caused the fracture at the elbow. Additionally, available information from the USGS on the rate of creep of the Hayward earthquake fault in this area supports a fair amount of displacement of the fault at this location over time. A systematic review of ignition sources was also performed; the most probable source of ignition is a transitory ignition source such as a passing vehicle, static discharge or, dropped cigarette. The gas flow was shut in at 1135 hours by cutting, capping and welding the 4-inch main in 3 locations. Nineteen customers experienced gas service interruption. All affected customers were restored by 2200 hours. There are no injuries or fatalities and damages are less than \$50,000. This was reported to CPUC due to the presence of major Bay Area media on site.

<u>Gas Equipment Affected</u> (check all that apply)	<u>Specification of Failed Equipment</u>	<u>Injuries and Fatalities</u>
Main <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Regulator <input type="checkbox"/> Meter <input type="checkbox"/> Valve <input type="checkbox"/>	Material: Steel <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cast Iron <input type="checkbox"/>	None <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Service Line <input type="checkbox"/> Controls <input type="checkbox"/> Service Riser <input type="checkbox"/>	Plastic <input type="checkbox"/> Copper <input type="checkbox"/>	Injuries: ( ) Fatalities: ( )
Customer Facility <input type="checkbox"/> Transmission Line <input type="checkbox"/>	Other <input type="checkbox"/>	Company: ( ) ( )
Other (describe) _____	Pipe Size <u>4</u> in MAOP <u>54</u> psig	Other: ( ) ( )
	Operating Pressure <u>48</u> psig	

<u>Dig In Information</u>	<u>Estimated Damage</u>
USA notification required: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Name of Excavator: _____ Damage to gas facilities: \$(20,000)
USA notified: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Excavator Contact Person: _____ Other damage involving gas: \$( 0 )
Facilities properly marked: Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Phone: _____ Total: \$(20,000)

<u>Recovery from Incident</u>	<u>Public Agencies on Scene</u>	<u>Customer Outage</u>
Co Personnel on Scene	Date: (12/10/13) Time (24hr): (08:44)	Media <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Police <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
Gas flow stopped	(12/10/13) (11:35)	Fire <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Ambulance <input type="checkbox"/>
Service restored	(12/10/10) (22:00)	Customers out of service (19)
		Customer-hours outage (200)

## Part III: CPUC INVESTIGATION

Is further investigation warranted? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/>	Signature of CPUC Engineer _____
Date incident investigated: _____	Field report attached? Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> CPUC Inspector: _____