

From: Cherry, Brian K
Sent: 6/27/2014 7:40:38 PM
To: Catherine Sandoval (cjs@cpuc.ca.gov)
Cc:
Bcc:
Subject: Fwd: PG&E Voluntary Work Stoppage

Catherine - I wanted you to be aware of an upcoming gas self-report that involves a voluntary work stoppage we announced today affecting more than 1,000 PG&E gas operations employees. Given the broad scope, our actions may receive public attention. We also made the Safety & Enforcement Division aware that this issue will come forward for their full review through the established self-reporting process which we expect to file no later than July 7.

We recently confirmed that there is a gap in the way we have been conducting employee requalifications associated with plastic heat fusion work on gas distribution pipe. Our testing procedure is consistent with code requirements which include two parts: visual inspection and destructive testing. Testing is required for initial employee qualification and then potential requalifications on an annual basis depending on employee performance. Our employees performing this work have completed an initial two-part qualification with both visual and destructive testing and we are in compliance with that requirement. And we have requalified employees on an annual basis, regardless of performance.

In that annual requalification process, however, we have been relying solely on the visual inspection test without administering the second destructive testing component and without tracking employee performance. In light of our recent awareness of this gap, effective today we have stopped all nonemergency work related to plastic fusion pipe while we move expeditiously to ensure that all employees have been fully requalified. To accomplish this we will be reprioritizing work with a smaller group of employees and contractors who have completed all testing requirements. We also have an established procedure to respond to any emergency work, including fully qualified personnel.

This gap in our employee requalification process does not signal safety concerns about the testing of work that has been completed in the field. Every plastic pipe installation is field tested (pressure and/or soap test) before it goes into service to assure safe operation.

Feel free to contact me if you have any questions.

Sent from my iPad