

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 26, 2014

David Siewert  
Transmission and Distribution District Supervisor  
Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (LADWP)  
City of Los Angeles  
P.O. Box 51111  
Los Angeles, CA 90051-5700

EA2014-016

**SUBJECT:** Audit of LADWP's Northridge District

Dear David Siewert,

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission, Zelalem Ewnetu of my staff conducted an electric audit of LADWP's Northridge District from June 23, 2014 to June 27, 2014. The audit included a review of LADWP records and field inspection of LADWP facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders. A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than September 26, 2014, of all corrective measures taken by LADWP to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions, you can contact Zelalem Ewnetu at (213) 576-7042 or [zel@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:zel@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in red ink, appearing to read "Fadi Daye".

Fadi Daye, P.E.  
Acting Program and Project Supervisor  
Electric and Communication Facility Safety Section  
Safety and Enforcement Division

Enclosure: Audit Findings

Cc: Elizaveta Malashenko, Deputy Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC  
Charlotte TerKeurst, Program Manager, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC

## AUDIT FINDINGS

The following violations were discovered during LADWP's records review.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Various
	<b>Previous LADWP Visit Details:</b>	Various
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Late Work Orders</u></b></p> <p>GO 165, Section III-C, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For all inspection records shall specify...items requiring corrective action... as well as the scheduled date of corrective action.</i></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 31.1, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use ... to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.</i></p> <p>Our audit discovered numerous repair work orders that were not completed by their scheduled date.</p>		

2.	<b>Location:</b>	Various
	<b>Previous LADWP Visit Details:</b>	Various
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p data-bbox="224 527 456 562"><b><u>Late Inspections</u></b></p> <p data-bbox="224 600 1422 674"><i>General Order 165, Table 1, requires electric utilities to conduct detailed inspections on their overhead and underground facilities at least on 5-year and 3-year intervals, respectively.</i></p> <p data-bbox="224 716 1482 787">LADWP records indicated that eleven overhead and underground facilities missed their inspection cycles.</p>		

The following violations were not documented and/or addressed by LADWP during its last detailed inspection as required by General Order (GO) 165:

<b>3.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 110536M
	<b>Previous LADWP Visit Details:</b>	02/07/14
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Illegible High Voltage Sign</u></b>		
General Order 95, Rule 51.6-A, states in part:		
<i>Poles which support line conductors of more than 750 Volts shall be marked with high voltage signs...with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.</i>		
The high voltage sign on the pole was damaged and illegible.		

<b>4.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 116061M
	<b>Previous LADWP Visit Details:</b>	03/07/14
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Loose Guy Wire</u></b>		
General Order 95, Rule 56.2, requires utilities to maintain guy wires taut.		
The guy wire was not taut.		

<b>5.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 123387M
	<b>Previous LADWP Visit Details:</b>	01/24/14
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Conductor Clearance</u></b>		
<p>General Order 95, Rule 54.8-B2b, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Over private driveways or lanes or other private areas accessible to vehicles [ground clearance of service drops] ... may be reduced for insulated services that conform with Rule 20.9-G to not less than 10 feet.</i></p> <p>The ground clearance of the service drop over a private driveway was 8 feet and 6 inches.</p>		

<b>6.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 171701M
	<b>Previous LADWP Visit Details:</b>	01/14/14
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Third Party Notification</u></b>		
<p>GO 95, Rule 18-B, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>If a company, while performing inspections of its facilities, discovers a safety hazard(s) on or near a communications facility or electric facility involving another company, the inspecting company shall notify the other company and/ facility owner of such safety hazard(s) no later than 10 business days after discovery. The notification shall be documented.</i></p> <p>A communications cable was cut and hanging from the pole. LADWP did not document the condition and notify the communications company.</p>		

<b>7.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 670750H
	<b>Previous LADWP Visit Details:</b>	01/17/14
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Damaged Ground Wire and Molding</u></b>		
<i>General Order 95, Rule 31.1, states in part:</i>		
<i>Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use ... to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.</i>		
The ground wire and molding were damaged.		

<b>8.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 56822M
	<b>Previous LADWP Visit Details:</b>	02/04/14
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Guy Wire Clearance</u></b>		
<i>GO 95, Rule 38, Table 2, Case 18-C, requires utilities to maintain three inch separation between supply guy wires and communication wires.</i>		
Communication wires and LADWP guy wires were in contact.		