

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



November 3, 2014

Todd Dusenberry  
Compliance Manager  
Vernon Gas and Electric (VG&E)  
4305 Santa Fe Avenue  
Vernon, CA 90058

EA2014-021

**SUBJECT:** Electric Audit

Dear Mr. Dusenberry:

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 VG&E from August 18, 2014 to August 22, 2014. The audit included a review of VG&E records and field inspection of VG&E 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 December 4, 2014, of all corrective measures taken by VG&E 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.  
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 VG&E's records review.

<b>1.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Various
	<b>Previous VG&amp;E Visit Details:</b>	Various
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	08/18/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Incomplete Inspection Records</u></b>		
<p>General Order 165, Section III-C, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>For all inspections records shall specify the circuit area, facility or equipment inspected, the inspector, the date of the inspection, and any problems identified during each inspection, as well as the scheduled date of corrective action.</i></p> <p>VG&amp;E detailed inspection records of overhead and underground facilities did not specify the scheduled date of corrective action.</p>		
<b>2.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Poles Numbered 672281E, 672268E, 672270E, 672273E, 672274E, 672275E, 672278E, 672282E, 672286E, 672291E and 672296E.
	<b>Previous VG&amp;E Visit Details:</b>	04/13/12
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	06/23/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Overloaded Poles</u></b>		
<p><i>General Order 95, Rule 44.1, requires electric utilities to maintain a minimum loading safety factor of 2.67 for their wood poles in Grade A construction.</i></p> <p>VG&amp;E pole loading records indicated that the poles had buckling (vertical loading) safety factors less than 2.67.</p>		

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

<b>3.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 3228VP
	<b>Previous VG&amp;E Visit Details:</b>	06/26/14
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	08/22/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Inaccurate Loading Calculation</u></b></p> <p>General Order 95, Rule 44.2, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Any entity planning the addition of facilities that materially increases loads on a structure shall perform a loading calculation... Such loading calculations shall be based on existing condition and proposed configuration...</i></p> <p>VG&amp;E's pole loading calculation did not include secondary electric conductors attached to the pole, and included three down guy wires that were not attached to the pole.</p>		

4.	<b>Location:</b>	Poles Numbered 1763VP, 1764VP, 1765VP, 1766VP, 1767VP , 10382EV and 5850EV
	<b>Previous VG&amp;E Visit Details:</b>	Various
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	08/18/14 through 08/20/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Third Party Notification</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 18-B, states in part:</p> <p><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>Communication cables on the poles had broken lashing wires. VG&amp;E did not notify the communication company about the condition.</p>		

5.	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 5897EV
	<b>Previous VG&amp;E Visit Details:</b>	06/11/13
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	08/19/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<p><b><u>Third Party Notification</u></b></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 18-B, states in part:</p> <p><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 communication company guy guard was damaged. VG&amp;E did not notify the communication company about the condition.</p>		

<b>6.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Poles Numbered 5896EV and 5879EV
	<b>Previous VG&amp;E Visit Details:</b>	06/11/13
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	08/19/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Damaged Pole Steps</u></b>		
General Order 95, Rule 31.1, states in part:		
<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 pole steps were damaged.		

<b>7.</b>	<b>Location:</b>	Poles Numbered 5879EV and 13EV
	<b>Previous VG&amp;E Visit Details:</b>	06/11/13
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	08/19/14
<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>		
<b><u>Loose Guy Wires</u></b>		
<i>GO 95, Rule 56.2, requires utilities to maintain guy wires taut.</i>		
The guy wires attached to the poles were not taut.		

8.	<b>Location:</b>	Pole Number 10515EV
	<b>Previous VG&amp;E Visit Details:</b>	05/03/13
	<b>Date of CPUC Inspection:</b>	08/19/14
	<b>Explanation of Violation(s):</b>	
	<p><b><u>Damaged Ground Molding</u></b></p> <p><i>General Order 95, Rule 31.1, states in part:</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><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>The ground molding was damaged.</p>	