

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 18, 2016

SA2016-004

Brian Beem
Assistant General Manager
Lassen Municipal Utility District
65 S. Roop Street
Susanville, CA 96130

SUBJECT: Audit of Lassen Municipal Utility District (LMUD)

Dear Mr. Beem:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Jamie Lau of my staff conducted a Substation audit of LMUD on July 12, 2016. The audit included a review of LMUD's records and field inspections of its substation facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of General Order 174. A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than August 18, 2016, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by LMUD to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, please contact Jamie Lau at (415) 703-2233 or jamie.lau@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fadi Day".

Fadi Day, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division
California Public Utilities Commission

Enclosures: CPUC Audit Findings

Cc: Elizaveta Malashenko, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Charlotte TerKeurst, Program Manager, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC
Jamie Lau, P.E., Utilities Engineer, CPUC

AUDIT FINDINGS

I. Records Review

During the audit, my staff reviewed the following records:

- Monthly inspection records from June 2015 to May 2016.
- Substation equipment testing results.
- New construction records

II. Records Review – Violations List

GO 174, Rule 30.1, General, states:

Each Operator shall establish, update as needed, and follow an Inspection Program. At a minimum, this Program shall specify for each piece of equipment and system listed in [Rule 32.1](#):

- *Inspection activities*
- *Frequency of Inspections*
- *Record keeping and retention*

LMUD did not have an inspection program specifying inspection activities, frequency of inspections, and record retention practice.

GO 174, Rule 33.1, Records, states:

Electronic or hard copy records of completed Inspections shall include, at a minimum:

- *Inspector name or identification*
- *Inspection date*
- *Brief description of identified discrepancies*
- *Condition rating (where applicable)*
- *Scheduled date of corrective action (where applicable)*

LMUD does not document the condition rating and scheduled date of corrective actions as a result of its substation inspection or trouble calls.

GO 174, Rule 40, Annual Filings, states:

40.1) No later than July 1st of each year, each Operator shall transmit to the Utilities Safety and Reliability Branch (USRB) an Inspection Program Summary.

Changes to the Inspection Program shall be reflected in the Inspection Program Summary, including the effective date of the change. Should no changes occur since the previous filing, the Operator shall transmit written correspondence confirming that no changes were made to the Program.

40.2) No later than July 1st of each year, each Operator shall transmit to the CPSD a report summarizing completed and past due Inspections for the prior calendar year.

LMUD has not submitted any annual filings to the CPUC.

III. Field Inspection

The following are the facilities we inspected during the field inspection:

Name of Substation	Highest Operating Voltage	Address
Richmond Substation	60 kV	436 Richmond Rd, Susanville
Milwood	60 kV	475-681 Grove St, Susanville
Chestnut	60 kV	591 Harrison St, Susanville
Johnstonville	60 kV	706-100 Hwy 395, Susanville
Lambert	60 kV	471-275 Lambert Ln, Susanville
Five Mile	60 kV	691-935 River Bench Rd, Susanville
Coppervale	60 kV	468-100 Hwy 36, Westwood
Westwood	60 kV	462-885 Birch St, Westwood

IV. Field Inspection – Undocumented Violations List

We observed the following violations during the field inspection. None of the violations were documented and/or addressed by Charter during its last inspections:

GO 174, Rule 12, General, states in part:

Substations shall be designed, constructed and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to promote the safety of workers and the public and enable adequacy of service.

Chestnut Substation

- Fences in the substation were not grounded.
- An insulator on the transformer had two skirts chipped.

Coppervale Substation

- No warning sign on a substation fence.

Westwood Substation

- A ground wire attached to Transformer “3750” was placed above grade across a walkway creating a tripping hazard
- Recloser “W1” had a leaky oil valve.