

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



November 1, 2023

EA2023-1078

Paul Marconi
President and Treasurer
Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.
42020 Garstin Drive
P.O. Box 1547
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

Subject: Electric Audit of Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.

Mr. Marconi:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Mily Vaidya and Sultan Tipu of my staff conducted an electric distribution audit of Bear Valley Electric Service (BVES), Inc. from July 10, 2023 to July 14, 2023. The audit included a review of BVES' records and field inspections of BVES' facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders (GOs). A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than December 1, 2023, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by BVES to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, you can contact Mily Vaidya at (213) 999-8528 or Mily.Vaidya@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

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

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

Enclosures: Audit Findings

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Nika Kjensli, Program Manager, ESRB, SED, CPUC
Mily Vaidya, Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC

AUDIT FINDINGS

I. Records Review

During the audit, my staff reviewed the following records:

- Overhead and underground detailed inspections records.
- Completed and pending corrective action work orders.
- Safety hazard notifications.
- Pole loading calculations records.
- Intrusive testing records.
- Vegetation management records.
- BVES' documented inspection program.

II. Field Inspections

My staff inspected the following facilities during the field inspection:

No.	Structure ID.	Type of Structure	Location
1	15135BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
2	5182BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
3	5183BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
4	10228BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
5	8919BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
6	15078BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
7	11261BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
8	9018BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
9	9357BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
10	12422BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
11	15276BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
12	10979BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
13	10442BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
14	9385BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
15	15077BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
16	9667BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
17	14722BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
18	13040BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
19	13045BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
20	15778BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
21	14110BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
22	62914CIT	Pole	Big Bear Lake
23	15081BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
24	15082BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
25	15300BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
26	15320BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
27	3585BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
28	15321BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
29	5584BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
30	37510CIT	Pole	Big Bear Lake
31	CTC37509	Pole	Big Bear Lake
32	10917BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
33	CIT37508	Pole	Big Bear Lake
34	North of #88BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
35	15209BV	Pole	Big Bear Lake
36	CTC63210	Pole	Fawnskin
37	12721BV	Pole	Fawnskin
38	15648BV	Pole	Fawnskin
39	16050BV	Pole	Fawnskin

40	6521BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
41	14790BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
42	8192BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
43	14789BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
44	14788BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
45	14787BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
46	14786BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
47	14785BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
48	12267BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
49	14784BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
50	14783BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
51	14782BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
52	14781BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
53	14780BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
54	15814BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
55	5026BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
56	15813BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
57	15812BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
58	8812BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
59	15811BV	Pole	Sugarloaf
60	2324CTC	Pole	Sugarloaf
61	7950BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
62	7951BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
63	8026BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
64	8027BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
65	8028BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
66	8029BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
67	8340BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
68	6518BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
69	6517BV	Pole	Baldwin Lake
70	11275BV	Pole	Big Bear City
71	31753BV	Pole	Big Bear City
72	4166BV	Pole	Big Bear City
73	4165BV	Pole	Big Bear City
74	15319BV	Pole	Big Bear City
75	5212BV	Pole	Big Bear City
76	6160BV	Pole	Big Bear City
77	6161BV	Pole	Big Bear City
77	8707BV	Pole	Big Bear City
78	CIT37485	Pole	Big Bear City
79	12095BV	Pole	Big Bear City
80	J013 Big Bear Blvd	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake
81	75 Big Bear Blvd	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake

82	None, front of Dominos, BBL Blvd	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake
83	75, Front of Sugarloaf Cordwood Co.	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake
84	Next to 75, BB Blvd & StanfieldCutf	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake
85	Sundance & Silverstone cross St.	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
86	65 Virginia Street, Next to Comm-3	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
87	Between 136 & 137 Virginia St	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
88	Between 49 & 50 Virginia St	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
89	40 Dorson St	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
90	34 Dorson St	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
91	22 Lapaz St	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
92	17 Lapaz St	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
93	11 Lapaz St	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
94	7 Lapaz St	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
95	42126 Big Bear Blvd. – T143	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear City
96	PMS 3407	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake
97	50 B.B. Lake Blvd	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake
98	J023 BB Lake Blvd	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake
99	45, Next to Pole 9667BV	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake
100	Homestreet Bank, BBL Blvd	Pad-mounted Transformer	Big Bear Lake

III. Field Inspection - Violations List

My staff observed the following violations during the field inspections portion of the audit:

GO 95, Rule 51.6-A: High Voltage Marking of Poles, states in part:

Poles which support line conductors of more than 750 volts shall be marked with high voltage signs. This marking shall consist of a single sign showing the words "HIGH VOLTAGE", or pair of signs showing the words "HIGH" and "VOLTAGE", not more than six (6) inches in height with letters not less than 3 inches in height. A pair of signs may be stacked to a height of no more than 12 inches. Such signs shall be of weather and corrosion-resisting material, solid or with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.

The high voltage signs on each of the following BVES poles were damaged and/or missing:

- Pole 15135BV
- Pole CTC63210
- 5584BV

General Order 95, Rule 37 - Minimum Clearances of Wires above Railroads, Thoroughfares, Buildings, Etc., Table 1, Case 14, Column E requires the minimum radial clearance of bare supply conductors of 750-22,500 Volts from vegetation in the Fire Threat District to be 48 inches.

BVES primary conductors supported on Pole number 5371BV had less than 48 inches of radial clearance from vegetation.

GO 95, Rule 56.2, Uses (Guy Wires), states in part:

Guys shall be attached to structures, as nearly as practicable, at the center of load. They shall be maintained taut and of such strength as to meet the safety factors of Rule 44.

The BVES down guy wire supporting each of the following poles was not taut:

- 15320BV
- 15321BV

GO 95, Rule 31.1, Design, Construction, and Maintenance, states in part:

Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.

The following poles are “buddy poles” and should be removed:

- 15648BV
- 14789BV
- 12267BV
- 5026BV
- 8812BV
- 23924CTC
- 10228BV
- 3585BV
- 11275BV

GO 95, Rule 84.6-B, Ground Wires, states in part:

Ground wires, other than lightning protection wires not attached to equipment or ground wires on grounded structures, shall be covered by metal pipe or suitable covering of wood or metal, or of plastic conduit material as specified in Rule 22.8–A, for a distance above ground sufficient to protect against mechanical injury, but in no case shall such distance be less than 7 feet.

The ground moulding on each of the following poles was damaged or missing:

- 7950BV
- 8028BV
- 11261BV
- 10980BV
- 9667BV
- 5584BV

GO 95, Rule 31.1, Design Construction and Maintenance, states in part:

Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.

The “eye” of the BVES down guy anchor supporting Pole number 9667BV was buried.

GO 95, Rule 91.3-C, Stepping, states in part:

Where installed, the lowest step shall not be less than 8 feet from the ground line, or any easily climbable foreign structure from which one could reach or step. Above this point steps shall be placed, with spacing between steps on the same side of the pole not exceeding 36 inches, at least to that conductor level above which only circuits operated and maintained by one party remain. Steps or fixtures for temporary steps shall be installed as part of a pole restoration process. Steps shall be so placed that runs or risers do not interfere with the free use of the steps.

The lowest pole step on Pole number 8028BV was less than 8 feet from the ground line.

GO 128, Rule 32.7, Covers, states in part:

Manholes, handholes, and subsurface equipment enclosures while not being worked in, shall be securely closed by covers of sufficient strength to sustain such loads as may reasonably be imposed upon them and arrangements shall be such that a tool or appliance shall be required for their opening and cover removal.

The ground cover next to Pad-mounted transformer T138 did not have any bolts to securely close it.