

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 18, 2023

SA2023-1060

Mel Stark  
Principal Manager, T&D Compliance Integration  
Southern California Edison  
1 Innovation Way  
Pomona, California 91768

**SUBJECT:** Substation Audit of Southern California Edison's Devers Switching Center

Mr. Stark:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), James Miller of my staff conducted a substation audit of Southern California Edison's (SCE) Devers Switching Center from May 15, 2023 to May 19, 2023. The audit included a review of SCE's records and field inspections of SCE's 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 January 18, 2024, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by SCE to remedy and prevent such violations. Please note that ESRB will be posting the audit report and your response to our audit on the CPUC website. If there is any information in your response that you would like us to consider as confidential, we request that in addition to your confidential response, you also provide us with a public or redacted version of your response that can be posted publicly on our website.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, please contact James Miller at (213) 660-8898 or [James.Miller@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:James.Miller@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: CPUC Audit Findings

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC  
Nika Kjensli, Program Manager, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC  
Majed Ibrahim, Senior Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC  
James Miller, Utilities Engineer, ESRB, SED, CPUC

## **AUDIT FINDINGS**

### **I. Records Review**

During the audit, my staff reviewed the following records and documents:

- Current Substation Inspection Procedures
- Current Substation Equipment Testing Procedures
- Substation Inspection Records
- Oil Sample Testing Results
- Infrared Inspection Records
- Recent Open and Completed Work Orders Generated from Inspections

## II. Field Inspections

My staff inspected the following substations during the field inspections:

Substation Name	Location	City
Altwind	TBD Garnet Rd., 1 Mi. W/O Indian Ave.	Garnet
Banning	TBD Lincoln St., 1/4 Mi. E/O San Gorgonio Ave.	Banning
Banwind	TBD S/O Fwy-10, W/O Hwy-111 In Whitewater Wash	Palm Springs
Blast	TBD On AES property, South of Garnet, West of Indian Rd.	Palm Springs
Bottle	14020 Near 14258 Elm St. C/O Bonita Ave.	Cabazon
Cabazon	TBD Bonita Ave. S/S 200' W/O Broadway	Cabazon
Coffee	TBD Camino Aventura., 200 Yards W/O Palm Dr.	Desert Hot Springs
Concho	76055 Country Club Dr., E/O Del Safari Dr.	Palm Desert
Defrain	TBD Defrain Blvd. And Sixth Ave.	Blythe
Dunes	TBD Hobson Way., W/O Neighbors Blvd.	Blythe
Indigo	TBD W/O N. Indian Ave, S/O 18Th Ave, Adjacent To 19Th Ave	North Palm Springs
Mountwind	TBD Garnet Rd W/O Indian Av, Adjacent To Altwind Sub	Garnet
North Intake	TBD Hwy 95, 10 Mi. N/O Blythe, .25 Mi. W/O Palo Verde	Blythe
Olive Lake	TBD Olive Lake Blvd., And I-10	Blythe
Palm Springs	TBD Andreas Rd. Between Palm Canyon Dr And Indian Ave.	Palm Springs
Palm Village	TBD 500 Ft S/O Hwy 111 And 600 Ft E/O Deep Canyon Ranch Rd.	Palm Desert
Pan Aero	TBD N/O I-10 Fwy, W/O White Water Wash	Palm Springs
Renwind	TBD Whitewater Canyon	Palm Springs
Sandwind	TBD N/O I-10 Fwy W/O Highway 62, Top Of Whitewater Hill	Palm Springs
Seawind	TBD N/O I-10, W/O Whitewater Wash	Palm Springs
Second Avenue	TBD C/O Second Ave. & Intake Blvd.	Blythe
Silver Spur	TBD S/E Corner Of Arrow Trail And Little Bend Trail	Palm Desert
Sunny Dunes	TBD Calle Encilia & Camino Parocela, 1/2 Blk E/O Indian Ave	Palm Springs
Tamarisk	TBD Plumley Rd. 350 Ft. W/O Converse Rd.	Cathedral City
Thornhill	655 Calle Amigos	Palm Springs
Whitewater	TBD I-10, 1-1/2 Mi. E/O Hwy 111	Whitewater

### III. Field Inspections – Violations List

My staff observed the following violations during the field inspection:

**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.*

*Design, construction, and maintenance should be performed in accordance with accepted good practices for the given local conditions known at the time by those responsible.*

Facilities at the following substations were not maintained for their intended use:

#### **Blast Substation**

1. The northeast corner of the MEER building was missing a portion of its grounding wire.

#### **Whitewater Substation**

2. The substation's gate's locking mechanism was damaged.

#### **Banning Substation**

3. The Devers-Windpark 115 kV circuit breaker's door gasket was damaged.
4. The No. 2 Bank North 115 kV circuit breaker's door gasket was also damaged.

#### **Pan Aero Substation**

5. Rodent damage was observed in the relay cabinet.

#### **Mountwind Substation**

6. The northeast leg of an A-frame had a cut grounding wire.

#### **Thornhill Substation**

7. The perimeter fence barb wire was damaged.
8. A trench cover was out of place causing the trench to be exposed.

#### **Eisenhower Substation**

9. The No. 3 Bank 115/33 kV transformer was leaking oil.
10. The oil level gauge on the No. 4 Bank 115/33 kV transformer indicated that the oil level was too high.

#### **Tamarisk Substation**

11. A ground wire for the capacitor bus disconnect had been cut.

**Dunes Substation**

12. The guard chain under the fuses at this substation had broken.

**Defrain Substation**

13. The insulators on the south side of the 12 kV position disconnects were damaged.

**Second Avenue Substation**

14. An insulator on the operating bus disconnect B-phase was damaged.