



VIA ELECTRONIC MAIL

October 8, 2025

Rickey Tse, P.E.
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

PUBLIC VERSION

Re: Charter Communications, Inc. Response to Report Communications Infrastructure Provider (CIP) Audit of Charter's Crescent City Service Area

Dear Mr. Tse:

This letter is submitted in response to the Safety and Enforcement Division's Electric Safety and Reliability Branch ("ESRB") September 9, 2025 report on *Communications Infrastructure Provider (CIP) Audit of Charter's Crescent City Service Area* ("Audit Report"). Charter Communications, Inc., on behalf of its pole attachor affiliate ("Charter") has reviewed the Audit Report and the issues raised in the report and, as of the time of this filing, has made all repairs or notified third parties where issue owner is a third party, in response to the "Field Inspection" and "Observation" portions of the Audit Report. A confidential spreadsheet is attached which summarizes each field issue and indicates the repairs made, if needed for compliance, and the date completed. See **Confidential Attachment 1**. Further, this letter addresses issues raised in the "Records" section of the Audit Report. The redacted public version of this letter and attachment are also attached.

The Audit Report features confidential information and Charter requests that the Commission not disclose the confidential unredacted Audit Report given that such confidential information was provided with a declaration supporting a request for confidential treatment, and General Order 66-D and Public Utilities Code Section 583 dictates that such information cannot be disclosed without a Commission order. Please note that both this letter and the attached documents are also confidential. Enclosed is a declaration supporting Charter's request for confidential treatment of both the information in this letter as well as the attached confidential documents.

Charter would welcome the opportunity to discuss with you to clarify our responses prior to any subsequent report or reply related to this audit. If you have questions regarding this response, please reach out to Torry Somers (torry.somers@charter.com) and me (ryan.lindsay@charter.com).

Sincerely,

/s/ Ryan Lindsay

Ryan Lindsay
Senior Manager, Construction

Enclosures

- Confidential Attachment 1 – Documentation of Corrections Responding to Audit Report
- Confidential Attachment 2 – Additional Patrol Inspection Log (February 2025)

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division
Fadi Daye, Program and Project Supervisor, ESRB
Yi (Rocky) Yang, Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor), ESRB
Stephen Lee, Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor), ESRB
Samuel Mandell, Utilities Engineer, ESRB
Torry Somers, Charter
Lisa Ludovici, Charter

(Response to Audit Report Begins on Next Page)

RESPONSES TO AUDIT REPORT

I. Records Review

- A. **ESRB Finding:** *ESRB reviewed Charter's Crescent City area corrective notifications from March 2020 through March 2025 and found that Charter failed to assign both priority levels and corrective action due dates to its identified violations and Safety Hazards. GO 95 Rule 18 and Charter's own policy requires using prioritization codes and assigning due dates for the corrective action of identified GO 95 violations and Safety Hazards. Charter's Crescent City region must begin tracking priorities and repair timelines to ensure the safety and reliability of its communication system.*

CHARTER RESPONSE:

Charter has corrected all safety hazards identified in its pre-audit data inspection records. [BEGIN CONFIDENTIAL]

[REDACTED]

[END CONFIDENTIAL]

Charter continually evaluates its auditable maintenance program technical inspection record-keeping practices and will further evaluate its practices in light of the recommendations made in this Audit Report.

- B. **ESRB Finding:** *During the field audit, ESRB identified 22 unique overhead GO 95 violations out of 31 total violations (or 71%) in non-High Fire Threat District (HFTD) areas. Charter's CPUC Inspection Compliance Program requires patrols for all communication lines throughout the State every 20 years. However, GO 95, Rule 31.2 requires the frequent and thorough inspection of lines to ensure that they are in good condition. ESRB's finding rate of 71% in non-HFTD areas where Charter patrols every 20 years indicates that Charter's current inspection program for its non-HFTD areas is insufficient for complying with GO 95, Rule 31.2.*

CHARTER RESPONSE:

As an initial matter, the finding does not explain the methodology used to identify compliance with Rule 31.2. The finding references a "71%" figure, which purports to be the ratio of unique violations to total violations identified in non-HFTD areas; however, there is no explanation as to how such ratio provides an indication of compliance with Rule 31.2.

Furthermore, we note that GO 95 does not require a specific timeline for inspections of facilities in non-HFTD areas. Charter conducts patrol (and detailed) inspections in accordance with Charter's inspection program which is the only requirement in non-HFTDs. Nevertheless, Charter continually evaluates its inspection program practices and will further evaluate its practices in light of the recommendations made in this Audit Report to further improve public safety.

II. Field Inspection and Observations

A confidential spreadsheet is attached which summarizes each “Field Inspection” and “Observations” issues identified in the Audit Report and indicates the repairs made and/or third-party communications made, if needed for compliance, and the date completed. See **Confidential Attachment 1**.

DECLARATION OF TORRY R. SOMERS SEEKING CONFIDENTIAL TREATMENT

I, Torry R. Somers, declare as follows:

1. I am Vice President, State Regulatory Affairs, of Charter Communications, Inc. (“Charter”) and am authorized to make this declaration.
2. Charter is submitting its spreadsheet response (“Response”) to the Safety and Enforcement Division Audit Report of the Crescent City Region, with this request for confidential treatment made pursuant to Section 3.2 of General Order (“GO”) 66-D.
3. **Audit Information:** I am informed and believe that the Public Records Act, including but not limited to California Government Code §§ 7923.600, 7929.215, and 7930.100 protects against disclosure of investigatory information, which includes the type of audit information set forth in the attached.
4. **Critical Infrastructure Information:** The Response contains sensitive information regarding Charter’s network infrastructure. I am informed and believe that the California Public Records Act protects against disclosure of confidential “utility systems development” data, like the data contained herein. California Government Code § 7927.300. Moreover, I am informed and believe that state law protects against disclosure that is prohibited under federal law—federal law protects against the disclosure of information regarding critical infrastructure (6 U.S.C. § 673), which has been found to include communications network information like the information being submitted here. The information is not customarily in the public domain and is not solely related to the location of a particular physical structure that is visible with the naked eye. The enclosed infrastructure information is critical to our nation’s communications networks, and disclosure of these records could harm public safety and network reliability by exposing to attack specific locations, operations, and functionalities of communications and utility infrastructure.
5. **Trade Secret:** The Response contains confidential network and operational information that is not disclosed to the public. This Response contains information that reveals unique planning, design and implementation efforts used to provide safe, reliable and competitive service to consumers in these areas. I am informed and believe that this information has significant value to Charter. This information would, if disclosed, provide access to information that would harm the private economic interests of Charter and could jeopardize the security of its network. I am informed and believe that the information provided constitutes a trade secret as defined by California Civil Code § 3426.1 and California Evidence Code Section 1061 — California Government Code §§ 7927.605 and 7930.105 exempts from public disclosure competitively sensitive information that constitutes a trade secret.
6. **Public Interest Not to Disclose:** The Response contains competitively sensitive material, and critical information not available to the public, that would be harmful to Charter if publicly disclosed, which weighs in favor of non-disclosure under California Government

Code § 7922.000. In contrast to the direct harm that Charter would suffer from disclosure — by losing its competitive advantage with respect to operations and network design and management, and jeopardizing the safety of its network — there would be no apparent benefit to the public from disclosure of the responses. Further, a failure to preserve the confidentiality of the records would discourage compliance with disclosure requirements and undermine the Commission’s ability to perform its duties.

7. Employee Information: The Response contains sensitive personal information regarding Charter’s employees, and I am informed and believe that such information is protected from disclosure under California Government Code § 7927.700.
8. To the extent that there is a need to make contact regarding potential release of information, such contact should be made to Torry Somers, torry.somers@charter.com or Charter’s counsel, zzankel@jenner.com.

I affirm and declare under penalty of perjury under the laws of the State of California, including Rule 1.1 of the CPUC’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, that to the best of my knowledge, all of the statements and representations made in this declaration are true and correct.

Executed on this 8th day of October, 2025 at El Segundo, California.

/s/ Torry R. Somers

Torry R. Somers