

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
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July 9, 2020

EA2020-856

Gerry Lehmann
Manager of Compliance Management
San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E)
904 West Main Street
El Cajon, CA 92020

SUBJECT: Audit of SDG&E Northeast District

Mr. Lehmann:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission, James Miller of my staff conducted the records review part of SDG&E Northeast District's audit in June 2020. The field inspections part of the audit will be rescheduled to a future date.

The review of the SDG&E Northeast District records identified multiple violations of one or more General Orders (GOs). A copy of the records review findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than August 10, 2020, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by SDG&E to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, please contact James Miller at (213) 266-4715 or 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
James Miller, Utilities Engineer, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC

RECORD REVIEW AUDIT FINDINGS

I. Records Review

During the audit, my staff reviewed the following records:

- Patrol Maps
- Cancelled Orders Report
- Completed Repair Orders
- Overhead and underground detailed inspection records
- Late Inspections
- Late Repair Orders
- Notifications of Non-Conformance
- Patrol Inspections Report
- Pole Loading Calculations Report
- Safety Hazard Notifications
- Work Orders Created Report

II. Records Review – Violations List

My staff observed the following violations during the records review portion of the audit:

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.

GO 95 Rule 18, Resolution of Potential Violations of General Order 95 and Safety Hazards, states in part:

Each company (including electric utilities and communications companies) is responsible for taking appropriate corrective action to remedy potential violations of GO 95 and Safety Hazards posed by its facilities.

SDG&E's procedure requires either 6 or 12 months for the completion of work orders that do not pose an immediate safety or reliability hazard, depending on the level of fire risk in the area. From 2014 to 2020, SDG&E failed to complete 620 work orders by their scheduled due date for corrective action.

GO 95, Rule 31.2, Inspection of Lines, states in part:

Lines shall be inspected frequently and thoroughly for the purpose of ensuring that they are in good condition so as to conform with these rules. Lines temporarily out of service shall be inspected and maintained in such condition as not to create a hazard.

GO 165, Table 1, Distribution Inspection Cycles, requires utilities to conduct detailed inspections of its distribution facilities, as necessary, to ensure reliable, high-quality, and safe operation.

From March 2014 to March 2020, SDG&E failed to detail-inspect 56 utility poles in the Northeast District by SDG&E's inspection due date.