



National Transportation Safety Board

Washington, DC 20594

Office of the Chairman

MAR 20 2013

The Honorable Edmund G. Brown, Jr.
Governor of California
State Capitol, Suite 1173
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Governor Brown:

Thank you for your January 18, 2013, letter to the National Transportation Safety Board (NTSB), responding to Safety Recommendation P-11-21, stated below. This recommendation was issued to the state of California on September 26, 2011, as a result of our investigation of the September 9, 2010, natural gas pipeline rupture that occurred in a residential area in San Bruno, California.

P-11-21

Expediently evaluate the authority and ability of the pipeline safety division within the California Public Utilities Commission [CPUC] to effectively enforce state pipeline safety regulations, and, based on the results of this evaluation, grant the pipeline safety division within the California Public Utilities Commission the direct authority, including the assessment of fines and penalties, to correct noncompliance by state regulated pipeline operators..

The NTSB is pleased that California enacted several statutes and took a series of administrative steps to strengthen CPUC's enforcement authorities, including the assessment of fines and penalties and its regulatory oversight of pipeline operators. Because these actions satisfy the intent of Safety Recommendation P-11-21, it is classified "Closed—Acceptable Action."

Thank you for your commitment to pipeline safety.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Deborah A.P. Hersman". The signature is stylized and fluid.

Deborah A.P. Hersman
Chairman

13-306