

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



November 23, 2010

Honorable Alex Padilla, Chairman
Senate Committee on Energy, Utilities and Communications
State Capitol, Room 2195
Sacramento, California 95814

Dear Senator Padilla:

Thank you for your November 10, 2010, letter on the number of pipeline inspectors at the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), asking the CPUC to hire additional inspectors in the current fiscal year.

As I testified in response to your question at the October 19th joint Senate hearing on natural gas transmission pipeline safety in California, the CPUC was already seeking to hire four additional gas pipeline inspectors in the next fiscal year. In your letter you asked that the CPUC find funding in this year's budget to hire the new inspectors right away. This has been done, and with the approval of the Department of Finance the CPUC will administratively establish four vacant positions in the current fiscal year for this purpose.

We began advertising the new positions today and I expect to fill them without delay.

Thank you for your support in ensuring a safe natural gas transmission system in California.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Clanton".

Paul Clanton
Executive Director