

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

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October 8, 2019

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Subject: Providing medical baseline customer information to local first responders

To Pacific Gas and Electric, Southern California Edison, and San Diego Gas & Electric:

The California Public Utilities Commission is concerned about the health and welfare of the residents of California when a utility initiates a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) protocol and wants to ensure that regulated utilities provide medical baseline information to county and tribal government emergency response personnel. By this letter I am directing Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) to provide medical baseline information to county and tribal government emergency response personnel when a PSPS protocol is initiated until further notice.

The Commission has already stated, "It is essential to identify customers dependent upon life sustaining medical equipment that requires electricity so that the electric investor owned utilities and public safety partners can assist those customers in advance of and during a de-energization and re-energization event." (D.19-05-042, Finding of Fact 14.)

While in the ordinary course of business, a utility would share this information with county and tribal government emergency response personnel pursuant to a memorandum of understanding or non-disclosure agreement, the imminence of PSPS events and the large number of residents that will be impacted, call for an immediate order to share this potentially lifesaving information. PG&E, SCE and SDG&E should provide necessary medical baseline information on a confidential basis to emergency response personnel of county and tribal governments who are anticipated to be impacted by PSPS events for the sole purpose of protecting the safety and welfare of those customers. This data shall not be used for any other purpose and the utilities shall take appropriate measures to ensure that the data is shared confidentially.

I am issuing this directive, under the authority granted by Commission Policy CL-1, which states:

“it is the Commission’s policy that:

4. The Executive Director shall have authority to act expeditiously and in coordination with other agencies of the State of California in emergencies endangering the public health, safety and the environment.”

I intend to obtain ratification by the full Commission of the actions directed by this letter at a future Commission meeting.

Thank you for your efforts to ensure the health, safety, and wellbeing of the residents of California.

Sincerely,



Alice Stebbins
Executive Director

cc: Elizaveta Malashenko, Deputy Executive Director