

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 23, 2019

Mr. Michael Lewis  
Senior Vice President of Electric Operations  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Mail Code B32  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, California 94177

SUBJECT: Initial Safety Certification

Dear Mr. Lewis:

Under Chapter 79 of Statutes of 2019, Assembly Bill (AB) 1054 and corresponding Public Utilities (PU) Code § 8389, the Executive Director of the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) is required to issue an Initial Safety Certification to electric corporations that meet specific documentation criteria. This letter represents the Executive Director's certification that Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has met all the relevant requirements of PU Code § 8389 regarding its Initial Safety Certification.

PG&E submitted the necessary document and materials on August 2, 2019. Guidance as to what documentation must be submitted to the Executive Director's Office was provided via letter on July 12, 2019. After review of the submittal and validation that the information submitted is factual, the Commission staff find that the requirements of the Commission's guidance and PU Code § 8389 have been satisfied.

Regarding PG&E's safety culture assessment, the Commission has also ordered PG&E, after review of the Northstar recommendations, to implement the findings of Northstar in the May 8, 2017 report in D.18-11-050 and continues to exam the safety culture of PG&E in I.15-08-019. Although PG&E has also expressly agreed to implement all the recommendations in the May 8, 2017 and March 29, 2019 NorthStar Reports, the Commission will review PG&E's updates on its implementation progress in its next quarterly report and take all necessary action to expedite and enforce the implementation of the NorthStar report findings.

The Commission is also aware that the federal court monitor overseeing PG&E's criminal probation recently completed an audit of PG&E's vegetation

Mr. Michael Lewis  
August 23, 2019  
Page 2

management program that found numerous problems in PG&E's inspection practices and record keeping systems. The Commission will closely monitor PG&E's responses to the deficiencies found in the audit and to any corrective actions ordered by the federal court. The Commission will also continue to take all necessary steps in other open proceedings that address PG&E's actions and behavior, such as the Locate and Mark investigation (I.18-12-007), the 2017 Wildfire investigation (I.19-06-015) and the Ex Parte Violations investigation (I.15-11-105).

This Initial Safety Certification is valid for twelve months and has only the force and effect given to it by PU Code §§ 451.1(c) and 8389. Prior to the expiration of this twelve-month period, PG&E shall submit a request for a Safety Certification for the following twelve-month period to the Wildfire Safety Division as mandated by AB 1054 and any Wildfire Safety Division guidance or Commission orders that may be established. In subsequent reviews of safety certifications, the Wildfire Safety Division and Commission will consider additional guidance regarding PU Code § 8389.

Sincerely,



Alice Stebbins  
Executive Director

cc: Elizaveta Malashenko  
Deputy Executive Director for Safety and Enforcement