

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
Safety and Enforcement Division
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch

Incident Investigation Report

Report Date: 09/04/2015

Investigator: Jamie Lau

Incident Number: E 20150727-02

Utility: PG&E

Date and Time of the Incident: 7/20/2015, 9:30:00 PM

Location of the Incident: Lot east of Hwy 505 (between Tower 1/10 and 1/11)
Vacaville ,CA
County: Solano

Summary of Incident:

On July 20, 2015, an airplane struck PG&E's facility causing damage over \$50,000. There were no injuries reported. My investigation did not find any violation of the Commission rules by PG&E.

Fatality / Injury: There were no injuries or fatalities reported.

Property Damage:

Utility Facilities involved: Vaca Suisun, 115 kV Circuit

Witnesses:

<i>Name</i>	<i>Title</i>	<i>Phone</i>
1 Dave Rogers	Fire Captain	707-449-5452
2 [REDACTED]	Compliance Specialist	925-768-6603

Evidence:

<i>Source</i>	<i>Description</i>
1 Vacaville Fire Department	Report #15-0041997
2 PG&E	Final Report
3 PG&E	Data Response

Observations and Findings:

On July 20, 2015, at 2130 hours, an aircraft snagged a PG&E static wire in the City of Vacaville. The static wire includes a fiber optic cable. The static wire is placed on top of the towers for lightning arrestor purposes and carries no voltage. The incident caused damage over \$50,000 to PG&E's facilities. No outage or injuries reported as a result of the incident. The affected wire was attached to transmission towers 1/11 and 1/10. The 115 kV circuit attached to the same towers was not affected as a result of the incident.

A witness reported the incident to the City's fire department, and the fire department notified PG&E of this incident.

GO 95, Rule 37, Column E, Case 4 requires a 115 kV conductor to have a minimum vertical clearance of 25 feet above areas capable of being traversed by vehicles. PG&E measured the height of the conductors between two attached towers. The lowest attachment height was measured 64 feet.

GO 95, Rule 37, Column B, Case 4 requires a wire with 0-750 volts drop to have a minimum vertical clearance of 15 feet above areas capable of being traversed by vehicles. PG&E measured the height of the static wire as 85 feet.

The incident caused the static wire to break. PG&E temporarily secured the wire to the tower and made the area safe. On July 27, 2015, PG&E installed a temporary pole to support the wire. Permanent repairs are scheduled by October 2015.

The information reported by PG&E was consistent with the information found on City of Vacaville's fire department report. I did not find any NTSB report pertinent to this incident.

Preliminary Statement of Pertinent General Order, Public Utilities Code Requirements, and/or Federal Requirements:

General Order

GO Rule

1 GO95

Rule 37, Column E, Case 4

2 GO95

Rule 37, Column B, Case 4

Conclusion:

This incident was caused by an airplane damaging a PG&E owned static wire.

My investigation did not find any violation of the Commission rules by PG&E.