



U.S. Department of Transportation
Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration

1200 New Jersey Avenue,
SE Washington, DC 20590

October 30, 2020

Ms. Rachel Peterson
Acting Executive Director
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102
rachel.peterson@cpuc.ca.gov

Re: Docket No. PHMSA-PHMSA-2020-0122
Public Utilities Commission of the State of California - Resolution M-4845

Dear Ms. Peterson:

On September 18, 2020, pursuant to 49 United States Code (USC) § 60118(d), the Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration (PHMSA) received a letter from the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California (Commission) notifying PHMSA that the Commission granted a waiver of 49 Code of Federal Regulations §§ 192.723 (b)(1), 192.723 (b)(2), and 192.481(a), to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

The Commission's waiver dated September 10, 2020, will allow PG&E to continue to adjust specified pipeline operations and maintenance (O&M) survey activities due to COVID-19 public safety concerns. PG&E is required to provide an update on its waiver request before the extended deadline date of October 29, 2020. By September 30, 2020, and every six months thereafter until it no longer needs a "Can't Get In" (CGI) deadline extension related to COVID-19, PG&E shall provide the Safety and Enforcement Division of the Commission (SED) with an update on its CGI challenges due to shelter-in-place, including the status of the CGI backlog, its workplan to clear the backlog, and any resource constraints impacting its progress. The SED has the authority to approve or deny any subsequent extension requests for these O&M surveys based upon, and geographically limited to, the existence of such challenges in a specified locality through December 31, 2021.

Pursuant to 49 USC § 60118(d), PHMSA does not object to issuance of this waiver by the Commission for the PG&E pipeline facilities, provided PG&E complies with the conditions set forth in the waiver. PHMSA requests that a copy of the Commission's final waiver to PG&E be forwarded to PHMSA within 30 days of issuance.

If you wish to discuss this or any other pipeline safety matter, my staff would be pleased to assist you. Please contact Senth White, Director of Engineering and Research Division, at 202-366-2415, for technical matters.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Alan K. Mayberry". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial "A" and "M".

Alan K. Mayberry,
Associate Administrator for Pipeline Safety