

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 12 2012

Lorraine A. Kocen
State Government Affairs
Verizon California, Inc.
2535 W. Hillcrest Drive
Newbury Park, California 91320

CA2012-011

SUBJECT: Audit of Verizon Wireless' Los Angeles County Region

Dear Ms. Kocen:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission, Mahmoud Intably and Richard Kyo of my staff conducted an audit of Verizon Wireless' Los Angeles County Region from September 4, 2012, to September 7, 2012. The audit included review of records and field inspection of Verizon Wireless' facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders. A copy of the audit summary itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than November 16, 2012, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by Verizon Wireless to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions, you can contact Mahmoud Intably at (213) 576-7016 or mahmoud.intably@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "R. Stepanian", with a long horizontal line extending to the right.

Raffy Stepanian, P.E.
Program Manager
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch
Consumer Protection and Safety Division

Enclosure: Audit Summary

CC: Raymond Fugere, Program and Project Supervisor, CPUC

AUDIT SUMMARY

1.	Location:	Verizon Wireless – Los Angeles County
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 4, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Inspections not Thorough</u>		
<p>General Order (GO) 95, Rule 31.2, Inspection of Lines, States in Part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Lines shall be inspected frequently and thoroughly for the purpose of ensuring that they are in good condition so as to conform with these rules. Lines temporarily out of service shall be inspected and maintained in such condition as not to create a hazard.</i></p> <p>Verizon Wireless does not conduct a thorough inspection of its facilities. As shown in this report, we discovered GO 95 violations that were not identified by Verizon Wireless during its routine inspections.</p>		

2.	Location:	Pole No. 327655M
	Previous Verizon Visit Details:	July 20, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 4, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Damaged Ground Molding</u>		
<p>GO 95, Rule 84.6-B, Ground Wire, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Ground wires, other than lightning protection wires not attached to equipment or ground wires on grounded structures, shall be covered by metal pipe or suitable covering of wood or metal, or of plastic conduit material as specified in Rule 22.8-A .</i></p> <p>The pole had a Verizon Wireless ground wire with a damaged ground molding. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless inspected the pole.</p>		

3.	Location:	Pole No. 475591H
	Previous Verizon Wireless Visit Details:	July 20, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 4, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p data-bbox="180 573 1495 615"><u>Bent Step</u></p> <p data-bbox="180 646 1495 688">GO 95, Rule 31.1 Design, Construction and Maintenance</p> <p data-bbox="321 720 1495 835"><i>Electrical supply and communication systems shall be designed, constructed, and maintained for their intended use, regard being given to the conditions under which they are to be operated, to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.</i></p> <p data-bbox="180 867 1495 936">The pole had a bent step. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless inspected the pole.</p>		

4.	Location:	Pole No. 157485M
	Previous Verizon Visit Details:	July 20, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 4, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p data-bbox="188 562 358 594"><u>Idle Facility</u></p> <p data-bbox="188 636 837 667">GO 95, Rule 31.6 Abandoned Lines, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="321 709 1430 783"><i>Lines or portions of lines permanently abandoned shall be removed by their owners so that such lines shall not become a public nuisance or a hazard to life or property.</i></p> <p data-bbox="188 825 1446 898">The pole supported a Verizon Wireless cable that had an abandoned clamp. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless inspected the pole.</p> <p data-bbox="188 930 570 961"><u>Inadequate Climbing Space</u></p> <p data-bbox="188 1003 821 1035">GO 95, Rule 84.7, Climbing Space, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="321 1077 1406 1150"><i>The climbing space shall be kept free from obstructions excepting those obstructions permitted by Rule 84.7-E.</i></p> <p data-bbox="188 1192 1430 1266">The pole had tree branches in climbing space. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless inspected the pole.</p>		

5.	Location:	Pole No. 327659M
	Previous Verizon Wireless Visit Details:	July 20, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 4, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p data-bbox="191 617 542 646"><u>Clearance Between Wires</u></p> <p data-bbox="191 688 1224 718">GO 95, Rule 38, Minimum Clearances of Wires from Other Wires, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="321 760 1471 865"><i>The minimum vertical, horizontal or radial clearances of wires from other wires shall not be less than the values given in Table 2 and are based on a temperature of 60° F. and no wind.</i></p> <p data-bbox="191 907 1445 978">The pole had a Verizon Wireless cable touching a cable of a different CIP. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless inspected the pole.</p>		

6.	Location:	Pole No. 2171555E
	Previous Verizon Visit Details:	August 4, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 4, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Pole Needs Steps</u>		
GO 95, Rule 91.3-A1, Use of Steps, states in part:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>All jointly used poles which support supply conductors shall be provided with pole steps if vertical run or risers are attached to the surface of such pole.</i></p>		
The pole is a jointly used pole with a Southern California Edison's riser attached to the surface of the pole. However, the pole was not stepped. This violation was not documented when Verizon wireless inspected the pole.		

7.	Location:	Pole No. 4032354E
	Previous Verizon Wireless Visit Details:	August 4, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 5, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Loose Guy Wire</u>		
GO 95, Rule 86. 2, states in part:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Guys shall be attached to structures as nearly as practicable at the center of load. They shall be maintained taut and of such strength as to meet the safety factors of Rule 44.</i></p>		
The pole had a loose guy wire. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless last inspected the pole.		

8.	Location:	Pole No. 4032353E
	Previous Verizon Wireless Visit Details:	August 4, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 5, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Loose Guy Wire</u>		
GO 95, Rule 86. 2, states in part:		
<i>Guys shall be attached to structures as nearly as practicable at the center of load. They shall be maintained taut and of such strength as to meet the safety factors of Rule 44.</i>		
The pole had a loose guy wire. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless last inspected the pole.		

9.	Location:	Pole No. 4032352E
	Previous Verizon Wireless Visit Details:	August 4, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 5, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Loose Guy Wire</u>		
GO 95, Rule 86. 2, states in part:		
<i>Guys shall be attached to structures as nearly as practicable at the center of load. They shall be maintained taut and of such strength as to meet the safety factors of Rule 44.</i>		
The pole had a loose guy wire. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless last inspected the pole.		

10.	Location:	Pole No. 4032099E
	Previous Verizon Wireless Visit Details:	August 4, 2012
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	September 5, 2012
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p data-bbox="188 575 505 611"><u>Loose V-brace support</u></p> <p data-bbox="188 653 760 688">GO 95, Rule 49.2-C, Strength, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="321 726 1393 869"><i>Crossarms shall be securely supported by bracing, where necessary, to withstand unbalanced vertical loads and to prevent tipping of any arm sufficiently to decrease clearances below the values specified in Section III. Such bracing shall be securely attached to poles and crossarms.</i></p> <p data-bbox="188 911 1471 982">The pole supported a crossarm that had a loose V-brace support. This violation was not documented when Verizon Wireless inspected the pole.</p>		