

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 3, 2015

EA2015-017

Daryl Dye
Electrical Superintendent - City of Biggs
444 Fairview Drive,
Gridley, CA 95948

SUBJECT: City of Biggs Electric Audit

Dear Mr. Dye:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Jamie Lau of my staff conducted an electric audit of the City of Biggs on May 12 and 13, 2015. The audit included a review of the City of Biggs' records and field inspections of electric facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders (GOs). A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than July 6, 2015, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by the City of Biggs to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, please contact Jamie Lau at (415) 703-2233 or jamie.lau@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Fadi Daye".

Fadi Daye, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division
California Public Utilities Commission

Enclosure: Audit Findings

Cc: Elizaveta Malashenko, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Charlotte TerKeurst, Program Manager, ESRB, CPUC
Alok Kumar, P.E., Senior Utilities Engineer Supervisor, ESRB, CPUC
Jamie Lau, P.E., Utilities Engineer, ESRB, CPUC

Audit Findings

Company: City of Biggs
 Electric Audit
 Date: May 12 and 13, 2015

A.	Location:	City of Biggs
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	5/12/2015 & 5/13/2015
	Explanation of Violation(s):	
	<u>Lack of Record Keeping</u>	
	<p>GO 165, Section III-C, Record Keeping, states:</p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>The utility shall maintain records for (1) at least ten (10) years of patrol and detailed inspection activities, and (2) the life of the pole for intrusive inspection activities. Such records shall be made available to parties or pursuant to Commission rules upon 30 days notice. Commission staff shall be permitted to inspect such records consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 314 (a).</i></p> <p style="padding-left: 40px;"><i>For all inspections records shall specify the circuit, area, facility or equipment inspected, the inspector, the date of the inspection, and any problems (or items requiring corrective action) identified during each inspection, as well as the scheduled date of corrective action.</i></p> <p>The City of Biggs did not have inspection records for the following facilities:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) OH facilities in year 2012 2) Surface-mounted facilities from year 2012 and 2013 	

B.	Location:	City of Biggs
	Date of CPUC inspection:	5/12/2015 & 5/13/2015
	Explanation of Violation(s):	
	<p data-bbox="248 386 777 422"><u>Lack of Annual Reporting to CPUC</u></p> <p data-bbox="248 457 919 493">GO 165, Section III-D, Reporting, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="363 531 1243 642"><i>By July 1st each utility subject to this General Order shall submit an annual report for the previous year under penalty of perjury.</i></p> <p data-bbox="363 680 1268 900"><i>The report shall list four categorical types of inspections: Patrols, Overhead Detailed, Underground Detailed and Wood Pole Intrusive. The report shall denote the total units of work by inspection type for the reporting period and the number of outstanding (not completed) inspections within the same reporting period for each of the four categories.</i></p> <p data-bbox="248 938 1346 1005">The City of Biggs did not submit an annual report to the Commission for years 2012, 2013, and 2014.</p>	

C.	Location:	City of Biggs
	Date of CPUC inspection:	5/12/2015 & 5/13/2015
	Explanation of Violation(s):	
	<p data-bbox="250 411 690 447"><u>Past-Due Pole Replacements</u></p> <p data-bbox="250 485 1036 520">GO 165, Section III-C, – Record Keeping, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="342 558 1284 701"><i>For all inspections records shall specify the circuit, area, facility or equipment inspected, the inspector, the date of the inspection, and any problems (or items requiring corrective action) identified during each inspection, as well as the scheduled date of corrective action.</i></p> <p data-bbox="250 741 1273 777">GO 95, Rule 31.1, Design, Construction and Maintenance, states in part:</p> <p data-bbox="342 814 1252 957"><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="250 997 1398 1140">The City of Biggs had 14 pole replacement work orders past their scheduled date of corrective action. These poles were tested unsatisfactory during an intrusive pole testing done in year 2010; they were scheduled for repair within 3 years from the date of inspection. These work orders were still open at the time of this audit.</p> <p data-bbox="250 1180 1398 1253">The past-due pole replacements were on the following poles: Poles numbered 38, 83, 115, 227, 228, 235, 282, 283, 311, 314, 316, 320, 338, 391, and 395.</p>	

D.	Location:	3018 10 th Street, Biggs
	Pole No.:	3310
	Date of CPUC inspection:	5/13/2015
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p><u>Facility Not Considered For Pole Loading Calculation</u></p> <p>GO 95, Rule 44.1, Installation and Reconstruction, states in part:</p> <p><i>Lines and elements of lines, upon installation or reconstruction, shall provide as a minimum the safety factors specified in Table 4. The design shall consider all supply and communication facilities planned to occupy the structure. For purposes of this rule, the term “planned” applies to the facilities intended to occupy the structure that are actually known to the constructing company at the time of design.</i></p> <p>The City of Biggs did not include a 332 feet long primary conductor installed on this pole when it performed a pole loading calculation.</p>		

The following violations were not documented and/or addressed by the City of Biggs during its last detailed inspection as required by General Order 165:

E.	Location:	485 H Street, Biggs
	Pole No.:	2830
	Previous Visit by Utility:	1/8/2015
	Date Visited by CPUC:	5/13/2015
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Exposed Ground Wire</u>		
GO 95, Rule 54.6-B, Ground Wires, states in part:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>That portion of the ground wires attached on the face or back of wood crossarms or on the surface of wood poles and structures shall be covered by a suitable protective covering</i></p>		
The ground wire was partially exposed.		

F.	Location:	404 B Street, Biggs
	Pole No.:	108
	Previous Visit by Utility:	1/8/2015
	Date Visited by CPUC:	5/13/2015
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<u>Impeded Climbing Space</u>		
GO 95, Rule 54.7-A1, Climbing and Working Space, states in part:		
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Climbing space shall be maintained from the ground level. Climbing space, measured from center line of pole, shall be provided on one side or in one quadrant of all poles or structures.....</i></p>		
A plastic tie wrapped around this pole obstructed climbing space.		