

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 23, 2014

Paul Marconi
Operations and Planning Manager
Bear Valley Electrical Service
42020 Garstin Drive
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

CPUC ID: SA2014-009

SUBJECT: Audit of Bear Valley Electrical Service's Substation Facilities

Dear Mr. Marconi:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission, Ben Brinkman and Richard Kyo of my staff conducted an audit of Bear Valley Electrical Service's (BVES) substation facilities from November 3, 2014 to November 7, 2014. The audit included a review of BVES' records and field inspections of BVES' facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of General Order 174. A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed.

Please advise me no later than January 23, 2015, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by BVES to remedy and prevent such violations.

If you have any questions concerning this audit you can contact Ben Brinkman of my staff at (213) 576-7093 or bdb@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

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

Fadi Daye, P.E.
Acting Program Project Supervisor
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

Enclosure: Audit Findings

CC: Elizaveta Malashenko, Deputy Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Charlotte TerKeurst, Program Manager, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC
Richard Kyo, Utilities Engineer, CPUC – LA

AUDIT FINDINGS

The following violations observed by ESRB staff were not documented and/or addressed by BVES during its last inspections:

1.	Structure ID / Location:	Meadow Substation
	Previous BVES Visit Details:	October 1, 2014
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	November 4, 2014
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p><u>Missing Ground on Gate</u> GO 174, Rule 30.1, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Each Operator shall establish, update as needed, and follow an Inspection Program.</i></p> <p>BVES' Inspection Program Practice Document "BVES Operations and Planning Department Policy and Procedure 15: Substation Inspection Program", Section "Process", point 2, states, in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Qualified inspectors will annotate the General Conditions section of the Substation Inspection Sheet to document inspection of every item...When discrepancies are noted, they should be further explained in the "Notes for Items Needing Attention" section.</i></p> <p>The north side gate was missing a ground wire.</p>		

2.	Structure ID / Location:	Pineknot Substation
	Previous BVES Visit Details:	October 1, 2014
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	November 4, 2014
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p><u>Broken Pressure Relief Flag</u> GO 174, Rule 30.1, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Each Operator shall establish, update as needed, and follow an Inspection Program.</i></p> <p>BVES' Inspection Program Practice Document "BVES Operations and Planning Department Policy and Procedure 15: Substation Inspection Program", Section "Process", point 2, states, in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Qualified inspectors will annotate the General Conditions section of the Substation Inspection Sheet to document inspection of every item...When discrepancies are noted, they should be further explained in the "Notes for Items Needing Attention" section.</i></p> <p>The pressure relief flags on transformers UAV5678-0102 and UAV5678-0103 were broken.</p>		

3.	Structure ID / Location:	Bear Mountain Substation
	Previous BVES Visit Details:	October 1, 2014
	Date of CPUC Inspection:	November 4, 2014
Explanation of Violation(s):		
<p><u>Plastic Bottle in Riser Dip</u> GO 174, Rule 30.1, states in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Each Operator shall establish, update as needed, and follow an Inspection Program.</i></p> <p>BVES' Inspection Program Practice Document "BVES Operations and Planning Department Policy and Procedure 15: Substation Inspection Program", Section "Process", point 2, states, in part:</p> <p style="text-align: center;"><i>Qualified inspectors will annotate the General Conditions section of the Substation Inspection Sheet to document inspection of every item...When discrepancies are noted, they should be further explained in the "Notes for Items Needing Attention" section.</i></p> <p>A plastic bottle was wedged in between two 34.5 kV conductors emerging from the riser dip.</p>		

In addition to the noted violations, we observed the following conditions that require corrective action:

1. Several concrete substation equipment pads were experiencing deterioration.
2. The gate at Pineknot Substation was missing a grounding strap.
3. Gaps between the earth and fence were observed at Bear Mountain Substation.
4. Several ground wires at Fawnskin Substation arched 1-2 inches above the substation floor, creating a potential tripping hazard.
5. Several entries in the substation inspection sheets were entered in an inconsistent manner. For example, the "low oil" condition on the voltage regulators was inconsistently recorded on the Pineknot Substation inspection sheets dated September 2, 2014 and October 1, 2014.