

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 28, 2019

Ms. Christine Cowsert, Vice President  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Gas Asset Management and System Operations  
6121 Bollinger Canyon Road  
San Ramon, CA 94583

SUBJECT: Notice of Gas Incident Violations by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) -  
DOT Incident #1198192

Dear Ms. Cowsert,

The Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) of the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) submits the following Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV) regarding a DOT reportable incident (#1198192) that occurred on November 27, 2017. The failure of the expander plug in an abandoned service tee caused gas to migrate into the structure at [REDACTED] which later resulted in an explosion. This letter serves as a notification to you that as a result of our investigation, SED found PG&E in violation of the following:

**U.S. Department of Transportation Title 49 CFR §192.621 states in part:**

*“(a) No person may operate a segment of a high pressure distribution system at a pressure that exceeds the lowest of the following pressures, as applicable:*

*(1) The design pressure of the weakest element in the segment, determined in accordance with subparts C and D of this part.”*

**U.S. Department of Transportation Title 49 CFR §192.605(a) states in part:**

*“General. Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities...”*

A summary of the identified violations is listed in Attachment A of this letter. Please provide a written response within 30 days of the date of this letter to indicate the measures taken by PG&E to address the violations. Pursuant to Commission Decision 16-09-055, SED staff has the authority to issue citations for each violation found.

For any questions, please contact Terence Eng (415) 703-5326 or by email at [terence.eng@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:terence.eng@cpuc.ca.gov).

Sincerely,



Dennis Lee, P.E.  
Program and Project Supervisor  
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch  
Safety and Enforcement Division

CC:

Susie Richmond / PG&E  
Vince Tanguay / PG&E  
Terence Eng / SED-GSRB

ATTACHMENT: Incident with Probable Violations