

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 12, 2020

CPUC-ID: 20191030-01

Lise Jordan, Sr. Director
Regulatory Compliance and Quality Assurance
Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E)
77 Beale Street
San Francisco, CA 94105

SUBJECT: Notice of Violation (NOV)

Dear Ms. Jordan:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Rickey Tse of ESRB staff investigated an incident involving conductors slapping on PG&E's Brentwood 2112, 21 kV circuit, at 3505 Gateway Road, Bethel Island, CA. The incident occurred on October 27, 2019 and resulted in a vegetation fire and minor property damage.

ESRB's investigation determined that PG&E's secondary conductors slapped and contacted each other under high winds. The secondary conductors were in a rack configuration, which resulted in the conductors having a smaller separation distance than that of a typical crossarm construction. The line-slap resulted in sparking that caused the vegetation fire. As a result, ESRB found PG&E in violation of General Order (GO) 95, Rule 31.1, for failing to design, construct, and maintain its system to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service.

This letter serves as notification to you that our investigation identified the following violation:

GO 95, Rule 31.1, Design, Construction and Maintenance states:

"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.

For all particulars not specified in these rules, design, construction, and maintenance should be done in accordance with accepted good practice for the given local conditions known at the time by those responsible for the design, construction, or maintenance of communication or supply lines and equipment.

A supply or communications company is in compliance with this rule if it designs, constructs, and maintains a facility in accordance with the particulars specified in General Order 95, except that if an intended use or known local conditions require a higher standard than the particulars specified in General Order 95 to enable the furnishing of safe, proper, and adequate service, the company shall follow the higher standard.

For all particulars not specified in General Order 95, a supply or communications company is in compliance with this rule if it designs, constructs and maintains a facility in accordance with accepted good practice for the intended use and known local conditions.”

Please provide a response no later than March 16, 2020 by electronic or hard copy of all corrective actions and preventive measures taken by PG&E to remedy and prevent the recurrence of such a violation. If you have any questions concerning this NOV, please contact Rickey Tse at (415) 355-5581 or Rickey.Tse@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



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

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Nika Kjensli, Program Manager, ESRB, SED, CPUC
Charlotte TerKeurst, ESRB, SED, CPUC
Rickey Tse, Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor), ESRB, SED, CPUC
Nathan Sarina, Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor), ESRB, SED, CPUC