

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 10, 2020

CPUC-ID: E20191028-01

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), Charles Mee investigated an incident that occurred on October 27, 2019 at Marylinn Drive & Barker Street in the city of Milpitas. Under windy conditions, a conductor of the 21 kV Dixon Landing Feeder 2102 failed and fell to the ground, which resulted in power outage to 1,610 customers and caused four fires in the neighborhood. The Milpitas Fire Department responded and extinguished the fires.

This letter serves as notification to PG&E that ESRB's investigation identified the following violation:

**General Order (GO) 95, Rule 44.3 Replacement** states:

*"Lines or parts thereof shall be replaced or reinforced before safety factors have been reduced (due to factors such as deterioration and/or installation of additional facilities) in Grades "A" and "B" construction to less than two-thirds of the safety factors specified in Rule 44.1 and in Grade "C" construction to less than one-half of the safety factors specified in Rule 44.1. Poles in Grade "C" construction that only support communication lines shall also conform to the requirements of Rule 81.3-A. In no case shall the application of this rule be held to permit the use of structures or any member of any structure with a safety factor less than one."*

**GO 95, Rule 44.1, Installation and Reconstruction** states in part:

*"Lines and elements of lines, upon installation or reconstruction, shall provide as a minimum the safety factors specified in Table 4."*

Table 4 requires a minimum safety factor of 2 for Grade B conductors. The failed conductor was

identified as a Grade B construction; therefore, it required replacement prior to its safety factor reduced below 1.33 which is 2/3 of the minimum safety factor of 2. Since the conductor failed to withstand the wind force and fell to the ground, PG&E did not maintain the minimum safety factor of 1.33 for the conductor; therefore, PG&E is in violation of GO 95, Rule 44.3.

Please provide a response no later than August 10, 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 violation. If you have any questions concerning this NOV, please contact Charles Mee at (415) 730-7012 or [charles.mee@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:charles.mee@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  
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