



SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION  
**MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT**

---

April 2023



California Public  
Utilities Commission

# Contents

- INTRODUCTION** ..... 1
- GAS SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (GSRB)** ..... 1
  - Natural Gas Inspections (Year to Date) ..... 1
  - Natural Gas Incident Reports and Investigations in April 2023..... 2
  - Natural Gas Utility Self-Identified Violation (SIV) Investigations ..... 4
  - Customer Safety Complaints ..... 4
  - Inspection Notices / Notice of Probable Violation Letters (NOPV) ..... 4
- ELECTRIC SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (ESRB)** ..... 7
  - Electric Facilities Citations ..... 7
  - Electric and Power Plant Incidents Reported in April 2023..... 8
  - Customer Safety Complaints ..... 9
  - Notice of Violation Letters ..... 9
  - Electric Safety and Reliability: Proceedings..... 9
  - Other ESRB Activities ..... 10
- WILDFIRE SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT BRANCH (WSEB)** ..... 12
  - PSPS Activations, De-energizations & Post Event Reports - April 2023..... 13
  - PSPS-Related Proceedings and Events..... 13
  - Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings ..... 14
- Monitoring the Whistleblower Website and Safety Hotline**..... 14

**Disclaimer**

This Report was prepared by California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) staff. It does not necessarily represent the views of the CPUC, its Commissioners, or the State of California.

The CPUC, the State of California, its employees, contractors, and subcontractors make no warranties, expressed or implied, and assume no legal liability for the information in this Report.

This Report reflects Safety and Enforcement Division’s monthly work product. It has not been approved by the Commission rather it is information provided by the Division.

## INTRODUCTION

---

The CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) oversees the safety of electric and communication facilities, natural gas infrastructure and propane facilities. SED is comprised of three branches of utility engineers, analysts and investigators that focus on ensuring the safety of utility infrastructure and reducing utility caused wildfires. SED advocates for public safety through performing safety audits, conducting incident investigations, and appearing in CPUC safety proceedings. SED has the authority to issue citations with penalties against utility operators who violate public utility safety codes and requirements.

## GAS SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (GSRB)

---

The Gas Safety and Reliability Branch (GSRB) ensures that intra-state natural gas and liquid petroleum gas (LPG) pipeline systems are designed, constructed, operated, and maintained according to safety standards set by the CPUC and the federal government. CPUC gas safety engineers are trained and qualified by the federal government. The CPUC enforces natural gas and LPG safety regulations; inspects construction, operation, and maintenance activities; and makes necessary amendments to regulations. Its mission is to protect and promote the safety of the public and utility employees that work on the gas pipeline systems. April 2023 activities included:

- A. Meeting with Independent Safety Monitor (ISM)
- B. Meeting with PG&E and SoCalGas regarding Benzene Directive
- C. National Association of Pipeline Safety Representatives (NAPSR) Western Region meeting in San Diego

SED has the authority to issue citations with penalties for operator violations of public utility safety codes and requirements<sup>1</sup>. The citation process allows the CPUC to act expediently in matters where violations of state and federal rules are clear and unambiguous. Citations may arise out of an ongoing investigation into related matters when a violation is brought to the CPUC's attention directly. Previous citations can be found on the CPUC's website [here](#). There are currently no outstanding gas safety citations.

### Natural Gas Inspections (Year to Date)

The purpose of GSRB's inspections is to confirm that operators continue to construct, operate, and maintain their pipeline facilities in a manner that ensures the safety of workers and the public. In addition to routine inspections, GSRB also conducts on-site construction inspections. Typically, each inspection consists of a records review of an operator's past compliance activities, and field verifications. Results are documented in a final report and sent to the operator after the inspection. The expectation is to have a final report sent to the operator within 60 days of the inspection. GSRB will submit an Inspection Closure Letter to the operator within

---

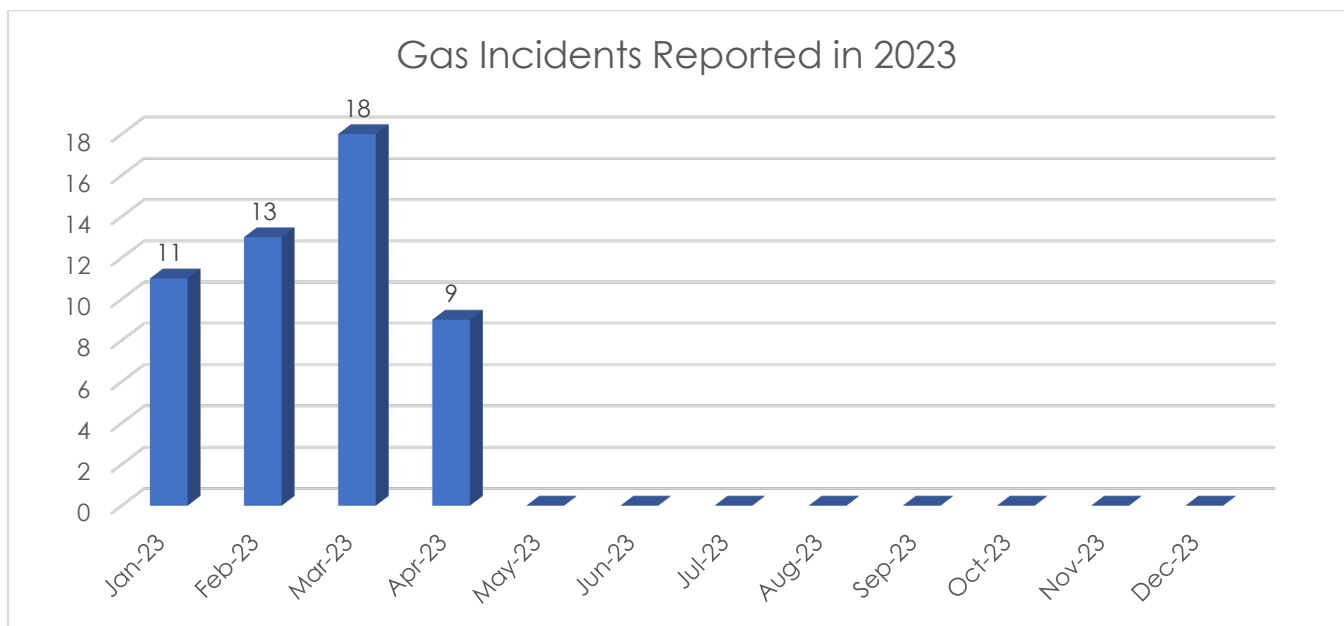
<sup>1</sup> In December 2011, the CPUC created a citation process authorizing staff to impose fines for natural gas violations.

120 days from the day the inspection is completed. The table below shows GSRB’s inspection activity year-to-date in 2023.

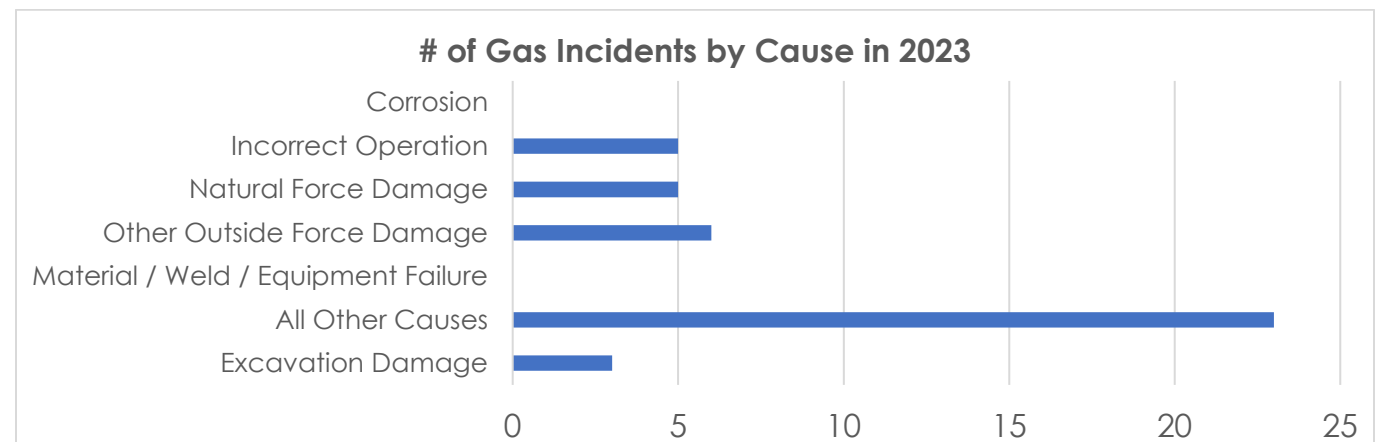
Inspections		Year to April 2023	
Conducted		19	
Final Report Completed		9	

### Natural Gas Incident Reports and Investigations in April 2023

As of April 30, 2023, GSRB Staff received reports of 51 incidents. All reported incidents are assigned to GSRB engineers to investigate and prepare a final report. The report indicates if there were any violations of GO 112-F by the operators. Operators report incidents based on criteria outlined in GO 112-F.



The bar chart below shows the 51 incidents by cause as of April 2023.



The table below shows the 51 incidents by incident level and status.

Status	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	TOTAL
Open	7	11	7	0	25
Closed	25	1	0	0	26
TOTAL	32	12	7	0	51

The table below describes the four incident levels and provides the timeframes/guidelines for incident reports to be completed and closed from the date of assignment of an investigation.

Levels	Definition of Incident Levels	Guidelines
1	Did not result in injury, fatality, fire or explosion; may be due to an unrelated event outside of the Operator's control.	60 days
2	Did not result in injury, fatality, fire or explosion; may or may not have caused a release of gas, have been reported due to Operator judgment.	120 days
3	Resulted in a release of gas but did not result in injury, fatality, fire or explosion.	150 days
4	Resulted in injury, fatality, fire or explosion caused by release of natural gas from the Operator's facilities.	≥ 180 days

## Natural Gas Utility Self-Identified Violation (SIV) Investigations

There were no Self-Identified Violations reported to GSRB in April 2023.

## Customer Safety Complaints

GSRB received and investigated five (5) new customer complaints in April.

One (1) complaint was closed after GSRB referred the reporting party complaint to more appropriate agencies for assistance. One (1) complaint was addressed after GSRB prompted the IOU to remediate an abnormal operating condition.

The remaining three (3) complaints are being investigated and listed as: public complaint regarding a post-construction pothole, customer complaint regarding pipeline placement and safety history, and a whistleblower complaint.

## Inspection Notices / Notice of Probable Violation Letters (NOPV)

SED may issue an NOPV based on an investigation, customer complaint, or inspection for a violation of an applicable law or regulation. In April, GSRB issued 3 inspection notices and 0 NOPV letters.

- April 10 – SoCalGas Operation & Maintenance Procedures and Emergency Plan inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- April 10 – PG&E Operator Qualification Program inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- April 11 – SDG&E Operation & Maintenance Procedures and Emergency Plan inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.

## Natural Gas Safety and Reliability Proceedings

**Aliso Canyon Investigation (I.19-06-016) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen / ALJs Hecht / Poirier) (SED Advocacy):** On October 28, 2022, SED, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and the Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates) filed a joint motion for adoption of a comprehensive settlement agreement of this Order Instituting Investigation/Order to Show Cause. In response, several parties filed comments. Pending.

**Mobile Home Parks (MHP) Utility Conversion Program (D.20-04-004) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen / ALJ Hecht) (SED Advocacy):** On April 24, 2020, the Commission issued Decision 20-04-004 which established the Mobile Home Park Utility Conversion Program (MHP-UCP) which authorizes IOUs to install new gas and electric utility systems in mobile home parks to replace master-metered utility systems. The program goal is to convert 50% of all mobile home spaces by the end of 2030 according to a risk-based priority ranking system developed by GSRB. GSRB received forms of intent from 986 mobile home communities before the deadline on March 31, 2021. SED created a risk-prioritization list which included new applicants,

and parks still on the Pilot list from 2015, and ranked them according to their utility system’s risk of failure. SED has delivered the priority list to all participating investor-owned utilities, and the utilities are currently working with MHP Owners to plan and execute conversion projects. There are currently 586 “Category 1” parks, which have a total of 37,890 spaces. SED estimates the utilities will start the conversion process with these Category 1 Parks sometime before the second priority list is produced in July 2025.

In February 2023, the utility companies filed their required MHP-UCP Annual Reports, which track (among other things) the numbers of MHP spaces converted to direct service for gas and electric, both to the meter (TMM) and beyond the meter (BTM), and the cost of those conversions, as described in the table below:

Utility	Electric Spaces Converted (TMM)	Electric Spaces Converted (BTM)	Gas Spaces Converted (TMM)	Gas Spaces Converted (BTM)	Total Cost
Bear Valley Electric	0	0	n/a	n/a	\$0
Liberty Electric	0	0	n/a	n/a	\$0
PacifiCorp	0	0	n/a	n/a	\$0
PG&E	1,412	1,411	1,567	1,547	\$95,073,681
SCE	1,322	1,297	n/a	n/a	\$20,722,490
SoCal Gas	n/a	n/a	1,713	2,024	\$22,936,007
SDG&E	1,371	1,313	883	857	\$34,622,156
Southwest Gas	n/a	n/a	732	731	\$6,031,204

The full reports can be found on the MHP-UCP webpage: <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/regulatory-services/safety/mhp/mobilehome-park-utility-upgrade-program>

In accordance with Ordering Paragraph #4 of D.20-04-004, SED is required to post a list of the MHPs that were re-prioritized in the prior year due to extenuating circumstances by April 1. Extenuating circumstances allowing for adjustment of prioritization lists include wildfire (or other large-scale fire incident), earthquake, destructive flooding, other natural disasters, public unrest or riot, and catastrophic damage from foreign objects (such as aircraft crash or train derailment). Four MHPs were reprioritized in 2022, and SED has posted the list of parks, and the reason for re-prioritization on the MHP-UCP webpage, under the heading “List of Reprioritized Parks.”

**PG&E Locate and Mark Practices OII (I.18-12-007) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Allen) (SED Advocacy):** On February 20, 2020, the Commission issued Decision 20-02-036 which closed this Investigation but via the Settlement between Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), the Commission’s Safety and

Enforcement Division (SED), and the Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE), the Commission ordered several shareholder-funded gas and electric System Enhancement Initiatives.

On August 21, 2020, SED selected a consultant for the Compliance and Ethics Corrective Action Program Audit. On October 15, 2020, SED selected a consultant for the Locate and Mark Compliance Audit and the Locate and Mark Field Audit. On November 17, 2020, PG&E submitted its proposed methodologies for SED review and approval. On January 12, 2021, SED responded to PG&E's proposed methodologies review request. On February 4, 2021, PG&E informed SED about a request from its 3rd Party consultant for the Locate and Mark Field Audit to solicit input from another external party (Exponent) to further develop its sampling methodology. SED responded on February 4, 2021. PG&E submitted its first Locate and Mark Annual Report in accordance with Commission Decision (D.) 20-02-036 on April 26, 2021.

On June 4, 2021, the Locate and Mark Field Audit consultant submitted their methodology and SED approved this proposed methodology on July 13, 2021. The Locate and Mark Field Audit consultant has performed a pilot Locate and Mark Field Audit and implemented some improvements to the program that are described in a letter submitted to SED on August 25, 2021. On September 16, 2021, the Locate and Mark Field Audit consultant provided SED with the format of the Semi-Annual Report for the compliance audit using field reviews of a random sampling of gas and electric Locate and Mark tickets. On October 15, 2021, PG&E shared with SED its Enhanced Review of Cultural Survey Results, and the Compliance and Ethics Corrective Action Program Audit consultant also provided their audit reports to SED and PG&E.

On December 20, 2021, PG&E met with SED to inform it of the status of the Locate and Mark OII Settlement implementation plan. On January 13, 2022, PG&E provided its response to the reports issued by the independent consultant on the results of their review of PG&E's Corrective Action Program (CAP) and Compliance and Ethics Helpline Program. According to its response, PG&E plans to implement all nine CAP-related recommendations by 2023 and all Helpline-related recommendations. On January 19, 2022, the Locate and Mark Field Audit consultant notified SED that they have implemented some additional improvements to the program. On February 17, 2022, the Locate and Mark Field Audit consultant submitted the Semi-Annual Report. On April 25, 2022, PG&E submitted its Locate and Mark Annual Report. The reporting period for this Annual Locate and Mark Report is January 1, 2021 through December 31, 2021.

On June 30, 2022, PG&E provided an update to SED on the timing of PG&E's planned completion of the Helpline-related recommendations. On August 24, 2022, the Locate and Mark Field Audit consultant submitted the Semi-Annual Report.

On September 30, 2022, PG&E provided an update to its June 30, 2022 letter regarding timing of the implementation of the Ethics and Compliance Helpline-related recommendations issued by the independent consultant.

On April 24, 2023, PG&E submitted its Locate and Mark Annual Report. The reporting period for this Annual Locate and Mark Report is January 1, 2022 through December 31, 2022.



## ELECTRIC SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (ESRB)

The mission of ESRB is to enforce state statutes and regulations regarding the safety and reliability of electric facilities, communication facilities, and power plants that are within the jurisdiction of this Commission in California, to ensure that the facilities are operated and maintained in a safe and reliable manner to protect and promote the public health and safety, and to facilitate an environment inside and outside of the Commission that increases the safety and reliability of these facilities. April 2023 activities are below and include:

- Conducted 3 Communication Infrastructure Provider (CIP) audits, 2 Electric Distribution audits, 1 Transmission audit, 2 Substations audits, and 3 Power Plant audits.
- Issued 1 Communication Infrastructure Provider (CIP) audit report, 5 Electric Distribution audit reports, and 1 Power Plant audit report.
- ESRB reviews daily outage reports from power plants. Outages could be forced or planned. ESRB reviews the status and cause of each outage, may issue data requests related to the status and cause of each outage, and will follow up with power plants regarding the outage as necessary. In April 2023, ESRB monitored the status of 10 planned outages and 14 forced outages reported by natural gas and renewable energy power plants.

### Electric Facilities Citations

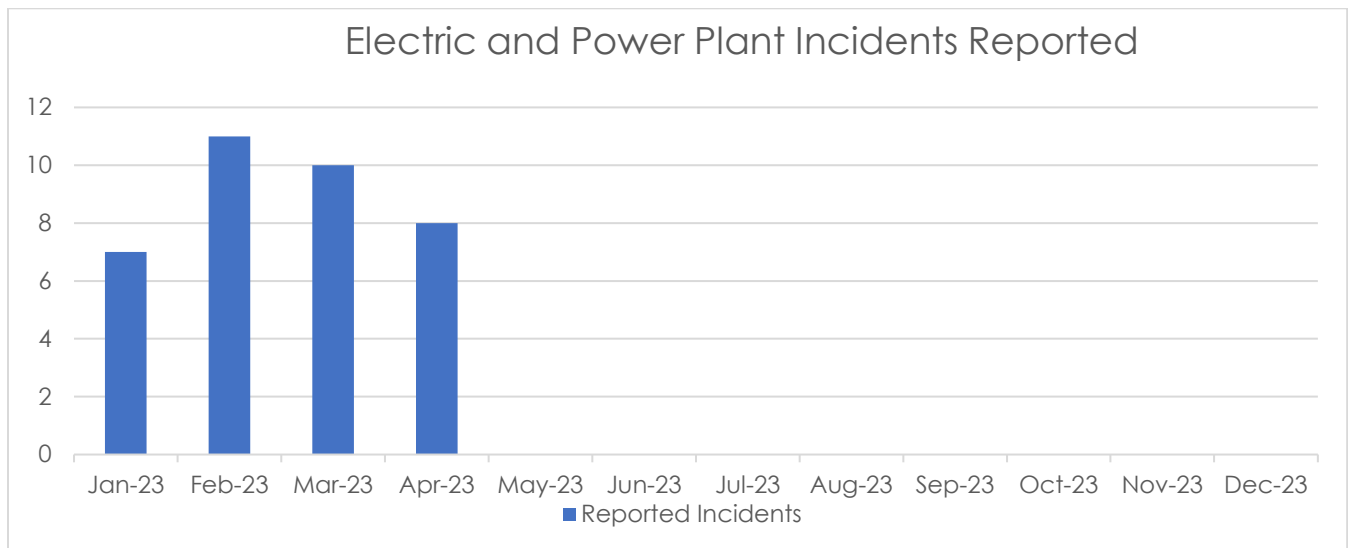
SED has the authority to issue citations with penalties for electric utilities and Communication Infrastructure Providers (CIPs) for violating Commission General Orders (GO) and Public Utility Code (PU Code) rules. Citations may arise from violations discovered during incident investigations, audits, customer complaint investigations, whistleblower investigations, or other safety matters that are brought to the attention of SED.

The table below shows the status of citations issued by SED in 2022. SED has not yet issued a citation in 2023. All SED citations related to electric and communication facilities can be found on the Commission’s website [here](#).

Citation Number	Utility	Amount	Violations	Date Cited	Description	Status
D.16-09-055 E.21-10-001	PG&E	\$100,000	General Order (GO) 95, Rule 38, Minimum Clearances of Wires from Other Wires	10/21/2022	Failing to maintain minimum clearance between conductors on the same crossarm.	Paid on November 18, 2022.
D.16-09-055 E.22-11-001	SCE	\$1,020,000	General Order (GO) 95, Rule 31.1, Design, Construction and Maintenance	11/15/2022	Failing to install and maintain its 66 kV conductor and insulator adequately and safely.	Paid in December 2022.
D.16-09-055 E.22-12-001	SCE	\$4,500,000	Three violations of General Order (GO) 95, Rule 31.1, Design, Construction and Maintenance	12/16/2022	Failing to follow its Contractor Safety Management Standard (CSMS) which may have resulted in a fatal injury.	Pending.

## Electric and Power Plant Incidents Reported in April 2023

ESRB received 8 electric incident reports in April 2023.



## Electric Facilities and Power Plant/Generation Incident Investigations

Incident status		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total <sup>2</sup>
Total open incidents	Electric Facilities	3	15	62	51	131
	Generation	0	0	2	0	2
Total incidents reported in 2023	Electric Facilities	1	3	21	10	35
	Generation	0	1	1	0	2
Total incidents closed in 2023	Electric Facilities	1	8	22	12	43
	Generation	1	1	1	0	3
Total open 2023 incidents	Electric Facilities	1	3	21	9	34
	Generation	0	0	1	0	1
Incidents reported in April 2023	Electric Facilities	0	1	4	3	8
	Generation	0	0	0	0	0
Incidents closed in April 2023	Electric Facilities	1	1	6	2	10
	Generation	1	1	1	0	3

<sup>2</sup> Level 1: A safety incident that does not meet Level 2, 3, or 4 criteria. Level 2: Incident involved a power interruption not due solely to outside forces (Level 2 for Generation: Incident that occurred during an Electric Alert, Warning or Emergency. Level 3: Incident involved damage estimated to exceed \$50,000 and caused, at least in part, by the utility or its facilities (Level 3 for Generation: Incident resulted in a significant outage that was due, at least in part, to plant equipment and/or operations). Level 4: Incident resulted in a fatality or injury requiring hospitalization and that was caused, at least in part, by the utility or its facilities or by equipment and/or operations (for Power Plants).

The table above shows information about ESRB incident investigations as of April 30, 2023, and incidents reported and closed in April 2023. The level designation indicates increasing severity, with Level 4 as the most severe. See footnote 2 for definitions of each level. The guidelines to close incident reports are similar to those GSRB follows (see Guidelines table in the GSRB section).

## Customer Safety Complaints

ESRB investigated 29 electric and communication safety and reliability customer complaints in April 2023.

## Notice of Violation Letters

ESRB did not issue any Notice of Violation (NOV) letters in April 2023. ESRB may issue an NOV in response to an investigation or customer complaint for a violation of an applicable law or regulation.

## Electric Safety and Reliability: Proceedings

**PG&E Locate and Mark Practices OII (I.18-12-007) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Allen) (SED Advocacy):** The Commission issued D. 20-02-036 which closed this Investigation but via the Settlement between Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E), the Commission’s Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) and the Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE), the Commission approved several shareholder-funded gas and electric System Enhancement Initiatives but with a longer compliance audit period of four years and a \$110 million total penalty.

In November 2020, ESRB staff reviewed PG&E’s One Call Concepts Timely Ticket Review Methodology and PG&E’s Field Review Methodology and provided comments to GSRB for consideration. On June 4, 2021, ICQ Professionals, LLC, submitted “Proposed Objectives, Methodology and Final Report Description for SED Consultation of Field Audits for Locate and Mark OII I.18-12-007 Settlement”. This submittal starts the process of consulting with the CPUC/SED on the objectives, methodology, and the final product description of the Field Audit of PG&E’s Locate and Mark Program by ICQ Professionals, LLC. The primary focus is to provide the sampling methodology that will be used to conduct this audit. In September, ESRB reviewed ICQ Professionals, LLC’s field audit report.

In January 2022, ICQ Professionals, LLC, revised and improved its field audit methodology for PG&E’s Locate and Mark Program. No significant updates in April 2023. Pending.

**SCE Appeal of Twentynine Palms Citation (K.18-03-008) (ALJ Kim) (SED Advocacy):** ESRB investigated an incident that occurred on August 1, 2015, in Twentynine Palms. On February 12, 2018, SED issued a \$300,000 citation to SCE for violations related to the incident. SCE appealed the citation on March 14, 2018. On October 3, 2018, SED issued an \$8,000,000 amended citation that replaced the \$300,000 citation. The amended citation was the result of new violations. Hearings were held in December 2018, February 2019, and

March 2019. Briefs and reply briefs were filed in April 2019. Awaiting a draft Resolution on the Twentynine Palms incident.

On February 24, 2023, the ALJ issued a Draft Resolution dismissing the citation. SED prepared and filed comments on the Draft Resolution to identify the flaws in the Draft Resolution. Pending.

**Creation of a Shared Database or Statewide Census of Utility Poles and Conduit (I.17-06-027); Communications Provider Access to Poles (R.17-06-028) (Commissioner Batjer/ALJ Mason) (SED Advocacy):** In 2017, the Commission opened a proceeding to address the feasibility of establishing a data management platform for pole owners and tenants to access pole data, attachment and conduit data. This investigation is being conducted in three tracks. In the current phase of the proceeding, parties addressed requirements for pole attachments via comments and are awaiting a proposed decision. On December 15, 2020, the Assigned Commissioner’s Office issued a Second Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling that outlined next steps in the consolidated Pole OII/OIR proceeding. On March 9, 2021, the ALJ issued a Ruling that requested parties to file comments by April 12, 2021, on a One-Touch-Make-Ready (OTMR) proposal.

On June 15, 2022, the Commission issued an Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling to address Track 3 issues, which relate to conduit data. Such issues will be identified by a subsequent ruling from either the Assigned Commissioner or the assigned Administrative Law Judge. The Ruling also set a procedural schedule for the One-Touch-Make-Ready Decision, the Conduit Data Ruling, and the Conduit Data Decision.

On September 16, 2022, the Commission issued a Proposed Decision that adopts CPUC staff’s One Touch Make Ready (OTMR) requirements. OTMR is an expedited process for attachment of communication facilities that require “simple make-ready” work. On October 27, 2022, the Commission issued Decision 22-10-025 which adopts, with modifications, the One-Touch Make-Ready Staff Proposal amendments to the Right-of-Way Rules. Investigation 17-06-027 and Rulemaking 17-06-028 remain open.

In November 2022, pursuant to Commission Rule 16.6, San Diego Gas & Electric Company filed a request for an extension to implement Decision (D.) 22-10-025, which requires the IOUs to establish new requirements to accommodate the placement of additional facilities on utility poles.

On December 12, 2022, the ALJ issued a Ruling setting forth questions and directives for party responses on remaining issues identified in the proceeding’s Scoping Memo and Ruling, past decisions, and recent party comments.

In January 2023, the parties to this proceeding filed their responses and comments to the questions and issues set forth in the ALJ Ruling that was issued on December 12, 2022. No significant updates in April 2023. Pending.

## Other ESRB Activities

**Progress Update for the ongoing Administrative Consent Order (ACO) agreement between SED and SCE for the 2017-2018 Southern California Wildfires:** The Administrative Consent Order (ACO) between SED and Southern California Edison (SCE) regarding the 2017-2018 Southern California Wildfires was approved by the Commission in December 2021. The ACO required that SCE pay the cost of fines, safety measures and disallowances totaling \$550 million. Of that amount, SED and SCE discussed SCE's strategies

and priorities for deploying the \$65 million in shareholder funds that were allocated specifically for safety measures.

On January 19, 2023, discussions continued to establish progress reporting criteria and timelines, and to prepare for spending the initial funds on activities in the first quarter of 2023. In addition to technical studies, data analysis, and proceeding support actions, SCE proposed that some of the funding be used for activities related to secondary firebreak protection and community protection in the form of subsidies to governmental and non-governmental entities to purchase and operate transit vans during local emergencies. SED has been meeting with SCE monthly to discuss SCE's progress with the implementation of the safety measures. No significant updates in April 2023.

**Compliance with Decision 20-05-019 regarding PG&E's 2017 and 2018 Wildfires (I.19-06-015):** On May 8, 2020, Decision (D.) 20-05-019 was issued approving a Settlement Agreement, with modifications, between SED, PG&E, Coalition of California Utility Employees (CUE), and the Office of Safety Advocates (OSA). On December 4, 2020, a Final Decision (D.20-12-015) was issued modifying D. 20-05-019 and denying rehearing of D. 20-05-019. The Decision imposes penalties on PG&E totaling \$2.137 billion consisting of \$1.823 billion in disallowances for wildfire-related expenditures, \$114 million in shareholder-funded System Enhancement Initiatives, and a \$200 million fine payable to the General Fund (the fine to be suspended). ESRB is monitoring PG&E's work to ensure compliance with the Settlement Agreement and D. 20-05-019. On February 12, 2021, and consistent with D. 20-05-019, PG&E filed its first semi-annual report which provided updates and an overview of PG&E's progress on each of the 20 corrective actions in the Settlement Agreement.

The Settlement Agreement requires PG&E to implement Safety Enhancement Initiatives (SEI). PG&E hired contractor David Mason + Associates (DMA) to conduct the independent audits under the SEI #14 which addresses Wildfire Safety audits.

SEI # 14: Independent Wildfire Safety audits requires PG&E to retain a Safety Evaluator(s), defined as an independent consultant(s), who will review PG&E's policies, procedures, practices and financial data concerning (a) PG&E's Tree Tracker Application, (b) Overhead Distribution and Transmission Preventative Maintenance Program, (c) Local Conditions Study of PG&E's territory and (d) Evidence Collection and Retention.

In March 2023, PG&E released Scope of Work and Request For Proposal (RFP) documents to bidders. The bidding closed on April 17, 2023, with only one bid received from David Mason + Associates (DMA); two other bidders dropped out at the last minute. SED and the Safety Policy Division (SPD) have reviewed the bid package and are currently determining if DMA is qualified to conduct the audit.

In April 2023, SED received and began reviewing RFPs for SEI #20. SEI #20 requires PG&E to enhance its distribution and transmission grounding. PG&E will hire a consultant to study uni-grounded equipment vs. multi-grounded equipment. PG&E received three Request for Proposals for the study. SED is in the process of reviewing the RFPs that were received in April and will evaluate the consultants before PG&E decides which consultant it will hire.

**Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee (TMCC):** TMCC is an advisory committee to help the California Independent System Operator (CAISO) develop, review, and revise Transmission Maintenance Standards. TMCC holds quarterly meetings to discuss recent improvements in construction and maintenance processes and techniques, and industry best practices. ESRB is a member of TMCC and attends meetings.

CAISO's Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee convened on April 20, 2023 for its quarterly meeting. The meetings represented an opportunity for its member agencies to share knowledge and best practices for the maintenance and upkeep of transmission and substation equipment across the state. During the meeting, members discussed substation inspection types and frequencies, comparing the practices of PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E as they meet their individual challenges concerning the many terrain types and differences in weather patterns experienced around the state. Also discussed was the evolution and further implementation of technologies employed during inspections which have now moved from pilot stage to full implementation. Advanced unmanned drones are an example of a technology that has become essential for conducting aerial inspections in hard-to-reach areas because of their relatively low cost and speed of deployment.

## **WILDFIRE SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT BRANCH (WSEB)**

---

WSEB is dedicated to the enforcement of public utility wildfire safety and Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) violations. WSEB is the lead investigator for utility incidents relating to wildfire, PSPS events and other aspects related to wildfire events. The staff conducts incident investigations and provides input into policy development.

April 2023 activities for WSEB include:

- Currently investigating thirteen (13) utility-related wildfires.
- Zero (0) PSPS events in April 2023.
- Conducted a public Joint IOUs' PSPS Post Season Workshop on April 18, 2023.
- Continued monitoring and coordinating Southern California Edison's (SCE) 2020 PSPS Corrective Action Plan implementation.

## PSPS Activations, De-energizations & Post Event Reports - April 2023

PSPS Activities	PG&E	SCE	SDG&E	Bear Valley Electric	PacifiCorp	Liberty Utilities
Total PSPS Activations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total PSPS w/ De-energizations	0	0	0	0	0	0
Total PSPS Post Event Reports Reviewed	0	0	0	0	0	0

### PSPS-Related Proceedings and Events

In August 2022, the CPUC continued to hold utilities accountable for conducting safe and appropriate PSPS events by requiring the electric IOUs to publicly present on their preparedness for PSPS events in 2022. SCE, SDG&E, and Bear Valley Electric Service presented on August 1; PG&E, PacifiCorp, and Liberty Utilities presented on August 2. The electric utilities provided updates on the status of preparation efforts and coordination with public safety partners, critical infrastructure and facilities, and customers, including those most vulnerable or with access and functional needs. The utilities presented on efforts to mitigate customer impacts and identified changes to processes or operations in 2022 based on lessons learned. The presentation from each electric IOU can be found [here](#).

**Rulemaking to Examine Electric Utility De-Energization of Power Lines in Dangerous Conditions (R.18-12-005) (President Reynolds /ALJ Kao/ALJ DeAngelis) (SED Advisory):** The Commission opened this Rulemaking to further examine policies and guidelines adopted in ESRB-8 regarding communication, notification, mitigation and other logistic and implementation issues of a PSPS event.

On July 12, 2022, Pioneer Community Energy, Sonoma Clean Power Authority, East Bay Community Energy, Marin Clean Energy, and Rural County Representatives of California (collectively, the “Joint Parties”) filed a motion requesting the Commission open an expedited track of the Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) Rulemaking (R.) 18-12-005 to address issues associated with the investor-owned utilities’ (IOU) “fast trip” settings and to adopt rules to govern these settings. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) filed responses opposing the motion. The California Energy Storage Alliance, Joint Local Governments, and Center for Accessible Technology filed comments in support of the motion.

In July 2022, Safety and Enforcement Division staff met with representatives from the Joint Parties to listen to their concerns and their recommendations. The Joint Parties’ Motion is pending Commission action.

On February 23, 2023, President Reynolds issued a Ruling pertaining the July 12, 2022 Joint Parties’ Motion. The Ruling responded to the Motion and directed CPUC staff to hold a public workshop outside the instant De-Energization Rulemaking to identify the appropriate range of issues and questions that may help the Commission form a proposed scope and actions on the emerging challenges associated with reliability, including consideration of rules for governing the electric IOUs’ fast trip programs. The workshop was held on March 17, 2023, and included presentations from each of the large electric IOUs. The workshop also included a presentation from the parties who filed the Joint Parties’ Motion.

## Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings

PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E have adjusted “fast trip” settings, also known as Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings (EPSS), on their equipment as a wildfire mitigation measure. The utilities have stated that the altered settings reduce wildfire risk, but they have resulted in unplanned outages for which advance notification is not possible. Formal guidance has been limited from the Commission regarding “fast trip” settings. Currently, President Batjer’s October 2021 letter to PG&E outlining initial expectations and imposing requirements for PG&E’s reporting of its Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings data is the only guidance issued.

PG&E’s reports and more information on PG&E’s Enhanced Powerline Safety Settings can be found [here](#).

## Monitoring the Whistleblower Website and Safety Hotline

---

The Commission regulates privately owned utilities. It serves the public interest by protecting consumers and ensuring that utility services and infrastructure are safe, reliable, and available at reasonable rates. It is charged with ensuring that these regulated service providers comply with the regulations. Whistleblower complaints can result in investigations that may involve safety and other issues. In April 2023, one (1) complete whistleblower submission was submitted online to SED.

SED received three (3) inquiries from the Safety Hotline inbox.