

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 1, 2020

G20191111-2948

Mr. Rodger Schwecke, Senior Vice President
Gas Transmission, Storage & Engineering
Southern California Gas Company
555 West 5th Street, GT21C3
Los Angeles, CA 90013

Dear Mr. Schwecke:

The Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) of the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) submits the following Notice of Probable Violation (NOPV) letter as part of its investigation of the Department of Transportation (DOT) reportable incident (DOT#1263704) that occurred on November 11, 2019, in Woodlake, CA. This incident resulted in property damage to SoCalGas facilities and cost of gas released in the amount of \$89,404.

General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, Section 192.614 states in part:

(a) Except as provided in paragraphs (d) and (e) of this section, each operator of a buried pipeline must carry out, in accordance with this section, a written program to prevent damage to that pipeline from excavation activities. For the purposes of this section, the term "excavation activities" includes excavation, blasting, boring, tunneling, backfilling, the removal of aboveground structures by either explosive or mechanical means, and other earthmoving operations.

...

And,

(c)(5) "The damage prevention program required by paragraph (a) of this section must, at a minimum...Provide for temporary marking of buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity before, as far as practical, the activity begins."

During an SED interview with SoCalGas on November 18, 2019, a SoCalGas employee stated he misread the location on the USA ticket and cleared it without conducting a field visit to provide for temporary marking of SoCalGas buried pipelines (a four-inch steel main and a one-inch steel service). SED found SoCalGas failed to provide temporary markings of its buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity. Therefore, SED finds SoCalGas in violation of 192.614 for failure to carry out a written program which requires providing temporary markings of its buried pipelines in the area of excavation.

SED found one (1) instance in which the SoCalGas employee failed to provide for temporary markings of its buried pipelines and thus violated General Order 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192, Section 192.614.

Within 30 days, please provide your response to the violation listed in this letter.

If you have any questions, please contact Desmond Lew, Utilities Engineer, at (213) 576-7020 or by email at DL4@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,



Terence Eng, P.E.
Program Manager
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

cc: Troy Bauer, Manager
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