

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 12, 2024

TA2024-1124

Melvin Stark
Principal Manager, T&D Compliance Integration
Southern California Edison Company (SCE)
1 Innovation Way
Pomona, CA 91786

SUBJECT: Transmission Audit of SCE's San Joaquin Transmission Grid

Mr. Stark:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Calvin Choi and Norvik Ohanian of my staff conducted an electric transmission audit of SCE's San Joaquin Transmission Grid from March 4-8, 2024. The audit included a review of SCE's records and field inspections of SCE's facilities.

During the audit, my staff identified violations of one or more General Orders (GOs). A copy of the audit findings itemizing the violations is enclosed. Please advise me no later than May 13, 2024, by electronic or hard copy, of all corrective measures taken by SCE to remedy and prevent such violations.

Please note that ESRB will be posting the audit report and your response to our audit on the CPUC website. If there is any information in your response that you would like us to consider as confidential, we request that in addition to your confidential response, you also provide us with a public or redacted version of your response that can be posted publicly on our website.

If you have any questions concerning this audit, please contact Calvin Choi at (213) 219-3034 or Calvin.Choi@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Fadi Daye".

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

Enclosures: CPUC Audit Findings

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Nika Kjensli, Program Manager, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC
Calvin Choi, Utilities Engineer, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC

AUDIT FINDINGS

I. Records Review

During the audit, my staff reviewed the following records:

- Patrol & Detailed Inspection Records
- Repair Notifications
- Vegetation Management Records
- Third Party Notifications
- Infrared Testing Records
- Intrusive Test Records
- Structural Load Calculations
- Foundation Resistance Test Records

II. Records Review – Violations List

My staff observed the following violations during the records review portion of the audit:

GO 95, Rule 18-A: Resolution of Safety Hazards and General Order 95 Nonconformances, states in part:

Each company (including electric utilities and communications companies) is responsible for taking appropriate corrective action to remedy potential violations of GO 95 and Safety Hazards posed by its facilities.

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

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.

SCE's records indicated that from 2019 to 2023, SCE had 1352 overhead repair notifications that were completed or pending completion past SCE's scheduled due date for corrective action.

III. Field Inspection

My staff inspected the following structures during the field inspection portion of the audit:

No.	Structure ID.	Type of Structure
1	Rector/Springville #1 M167- T3	Tower
2	Big Creek 4/Springville M60-T2	Tower
3	Big Creek 4/Springville M60-H1X	Tower
4	Big Creek 3/Springville M168-T1	Tower
5	4140998E	Pole
6	1666508E	Pole
7	633815E	Pole
8	2299611E	Pole
9	2299612E	Pole
10	2299613E	Pole
11	2299614E	Pole
12	Big Creek 3/Rector #1 M62-T3	Tower
13	Rector/Springville M9-T3	Tower
14	Big Creek 3/Rector #1 M62-T2	Tower
15	Rector/Springville M9-T4	Tower
16	Big Creek 3/Rector #1 M62-T1	Tower
17	Rector/Springville M10-T1	Tower
18	Rector/Springville M10-T5	Tower
19	Big Creek 3/Rector #1 M61-T3	Tower
20	Big Creek 3/Rector #1 M61-T1	Tower
21	Big Creek 1/Rector M61-T1	Tower
22	Big Creek 3/Rector #1 M60-T8	Tower
23	Big Creek 1/Rector M60-T8	Tower
24	4012594E	Pole
25	4451306E	Pole
26	Rector/Vestal #2 M73-T4	Tower
27	Rector/Vestal #1 M73-T4	Tower
28	Rector/Vestal #2 M73-T5	Tower
29	Rector/Vestal #1 M73-T5	Tower
30	Rector/Vestal #2 M73-T6	Tower
31	Rector/Vestal #1 M73-T6	Tower
32	Rector/Springville M147-T2	Tower
33	Big Creek 4/Springville M80-T4	Tower
34	Rector/Springville M147-T3	Tower
35	Big Creek 4/Springville M80-T3	Tower
36	4683635E	Pole
37	4685867E	Pole
38	4685866E	Pole
39	1554967E	Pole
40	1554968E	Pole

41	1554969E	Pole
42	1554970E	Pole
43	1554971E	Pole
44	1554972E	Pole
45	1554973E	Pole
46	1554974E	Pole
47	4685758E	Pole
48	1554976E	Pole
49	804580E	Pole
50	804579E	Pole
51	2299339E	Pole
52	2299346E	Pole
53	804576E	Pole
54	2299340E	Pole
55	804574E	Pole
56	2299347E	Pole
57	Rector/Vestal #1 M75-T2	Tower
58	Rector/Vestal #2 M75-T2	Tower
59	2299341E	Pole
60	804571E	Pole
61	804570E	Pole
62	804569E	Pole
63	Rector/Vestal #1 M75-T1	Tower
64	Rector/Vestal #2 M75-T1	Tower
65	Rector/Vestal #1 M75-T3	Tower
66	Rector/Vestal #2 M75-T3	Tower
67	V6001397	Vault
68	V6001396	Vault
69	V22030	Vault

IV. Field Inspection – Violations List

We observed the following violations during the field inspections portion of the audit:

GO 95, Rule 51.6-A, Marking and Guarding, High Voltage Marking, states in part:

Poles which support line conductors of more than 750 volts shall be marked with high voltage signs. This marking shall consist of a single sign showing the words “HIGH VOLTAGE”, or pair of signs showing the words “HIGH” and “VOLTAGE”, not more than six (6) inches in height with letters not less than 3 inches in height. Such signs shall be of weather and corrosion–resisting material, solid or with letters cut out therefrom and clearly legible.

The high voltage signs on each of the following poles were damaged:

- 4140998E
- 2299347E
- 2299341E

GO 95, Rule 56.2, Overhead Guys, Anchor Guys and Span Wire, states in part:

Guys shall be attached to structures, as nearly as practicable, at the center of load. They shall be maintained taut and of such strength as to meet the safety factors of Rule 44.

The down guy wire supporting each of the following poles was loose:

- 633815E
- 1554976E

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

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.

The following facilities required maintenance:

- Big Creek 4/Springville M60-T2 – the tower had a bent member.
- Big Creek 1/Rector M60-T8 – the tower had a bent member.
- Rector/Vestal #1 M73-T6 – the tower had a bent member.

GO 95, Rule 61.6-A, Towers, Marking and Guarding, Marking, states in part:

All towers shall be equipped with signs designed to warn the public of the danger of climbing same. Additionally, such signs shall include a graphic depiction of the dangers of falling or electrocution associated with climbing the towers. Such signs shall be placed and arranged so that they may be read from the four corners of the tower.

“No climbing” signs on the following towers were missing or not visible from all corners of the towers:

- Big Creek 4/Springville M60-T2
- Rector/Vestal #2 M73-T4