



SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION MONTHLY PERFORMANCE REPORT

November 2020



California Public
Utilities Commission

Contents

INTRODUCTION	1
Notes from SED Director Lee Palmer	1
COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERING PARAGRAPHS (COPS)	2
GAS SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (GSRB)	3
Natural Gas Citations	3
Natural Gas Inspections (Year to Date)	4
Natural Gas Incident Reports and Investigations through November 30, 2020 ..	4
Natural Gas Utility Self-Identified Violation (SIV) Investigations	6
Customer Safety Complaints	6
Inspection Notices / Notice of Probable Violation Letters (NOPV)	6
Natural Gas Safety and Reliability: Proceedings	6
ELECTRIC SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (ESRB)	8
Electric Incidents Reported through November 30, 2020	8
Electric Facilities and Power Plant/Generation Incident Investigations	9
Customer Safety Complaints	9
Notice of Violation Letters	9
Electric Safety and Reliability: Proceedings.....	10
Other Activities	11
Wildfire Safety and Enforcement Branch (WSEB)	12
PSPS Activations, De-energizations & Post Event Reports - November	12
Summary of PSPS Events in November	13
PSPS Related Proceedings	13
Monitoring the Whistleblower Website	13
Statistics – November 2020	13

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This Report reflects Safety and Enforcement Branch’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.

Notes from SED Director Lee Palmer

The Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) remained on track during the month of November to complete scheduled audits, inspections, and continue on-going investigations. Our priority remains the regulation of safe and reliable service to all customers throughout California.

SED also conducted timely field operations, audits, inspections, and investigations while complying with COVID-19 safety precautions¹. The table below lists SED audits conducted in November:

Gas Safety Reliability Branch Audits	Electric Safety Reliability Branch Audits
SoCalGas Distribution: Southeast - Inland East	AT&T - Ventura County
PG&E Public Awareness	Cox Communications’ Rancho Palos Verdes (RPV) - Orange County region
City of Palo Alto (Damage Prevention)	CA Valley Solar Audit
City of Redding (Damage Prevention)	PG&E - Fresno
City of Redding (O&M, Emergency Plan, & Comprehensive Standard Transmission)	Bear Valley Electric Service (BVES) - Big Bear Lake
PG&E Diablo Division	AT&T – Kern County
Central Valley Gas Storage	Frontier - Goleta

Other key highlights during November include:

- **Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB):**
 - Began its investigation of three (3) utility-related wildfire incidents.
 - Conducted seven (7) audits: one (1) electric distribution audits, four (4) Communication Infrastructure Provider audits, one (1) electric transmission audits, and one (1) power plant audit.
- **Gas Safety and Reliability Branch (GSRB):**
 - Continued discussion with PHMSA and SoCalGas regarding SoCalGas’s waiver request on select compliance activities that could be delayed without creating a significant safety risk.

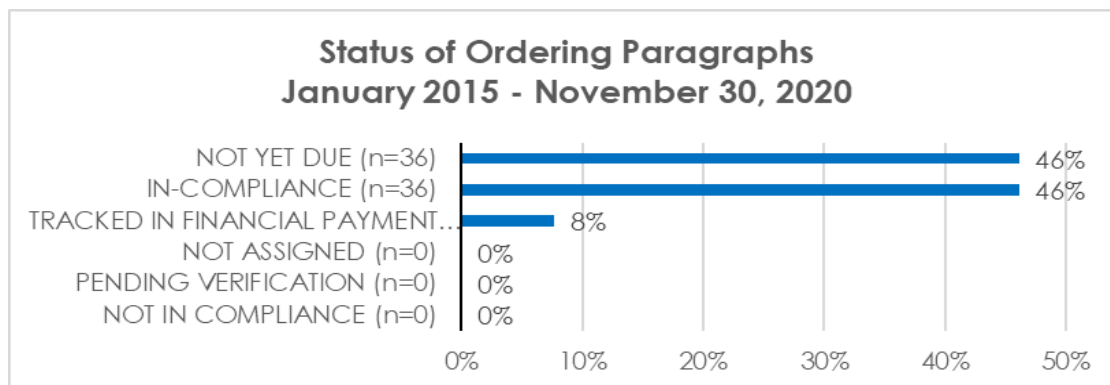
¹ To protect staff, SED ensures that investigators obtain and use PPE during audits, limits the number of personnel at audit sites, and has increased using electronic records to conduct audits.

- Discussed with PG&E the Locate and Mark Ticket Management and OII Update, and other safety items.
- Worked on six (6) audits: three (3) large operator, and three (3) municipalities.
- **Wildfire Safety and Enforcement Branch (WSEB):**
 - During the month of November SED focused on four (4) Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events by two major Investor-Owned Utilities within California. SED continued to take an active role in coordinating with not only the regulated utilities, but also with state and local partners such as CALFIRE and Cal OES. PG&E conducted zero (0) PSPS events, SCE conducted three (3), and SDG&E conducted one (1) (notification only). Overall, 22,539 customers in SCE’s territory in 12 counties were de-energized including, 743 medical baseline customers and zero (0) tribes.
 - WSEB participated in several CPUC proceedings, including the 2019 PSPS OII and the SCE Petition to Modify the High Fire Threat Districts Map.
 - In conjunction with ESRB, WSEB continued nine (9) investigations into utility-related wildfires.

COMPLIANCE WITH ORDERING PARAGRAPHS (COPS)

The Compliance with Ordering Paragraphs (COPS) database is designed to assist CPUC staff in tracking compliance with Ordering Paragraphs (OPs) of regulated entities with Commission decisions. Each month various agency staff use COPS to identify and enter into the database relevant OPs, verify and document compliance, and produce reports summarizing compliance with OPs.

Between January 1, 2015 and November 30, 2020, SED had 78 total entries in the COPS system with 36 (46%) reaching compliance, 36 (46%) not yet due for compliance, and 0 (0%) out of compliance. All 78 (100%) SED Ordering Paragraphs are assigned to staff. The chart below shows statistics from January 2015 through November 2020².



² The category of “tracked in financial payment tracker” (FPT) is used to monitor compliance with financial payments to the Commission. The FPT category is verified and deemed “in compliance” and is listed as “in compliance” on this chart.

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.

Natural Gas Citations

GSRB has the authority to issue citations with penalties for operator violations of public utility safety codes and requirements³. 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 or when a violation is brought to the CPUC's attention directly. The table below shows the status of citations issued by GSRB to date in 2020. The citations can be found on the Commission's website [here](#).

Citation Number	Utility	Amount	Violations	Date Cited	Description	Status
G.20-04-001	PG&E	\$900,000	192.13(c), 192.621	4/14/20	PG&E failed to follow its pipe abandonment procedures, leading to incident	Paid
G.20-06-001	PG&E	\$600,000	192.605(b)(3)	6/16/20	PG&E failed to include a partial copper service line in its replacement program.	Paid
G.20-07-001	SoCalGas	\$300,000	192.605(a) – 3 instances	7/15/20	SoCalGas failed to follow its emergency / incident procedures	In appeals process
G-20-08-001	Glenview Mobile Lodge	\$50,000	192.605(a), 192.605(b)(3), 192.616(j), 192.723(b)(2), 192.747(a), 192.805, 192.1015(a), 192.357(a), 192.479(a), & 192.353(a)	8/24/20	The MHP failed to remediate violations discovered during an inspection	Pending

³ In December 2011, the CPUC created a citation process authorizing staff to impose fines for natural gas violations.

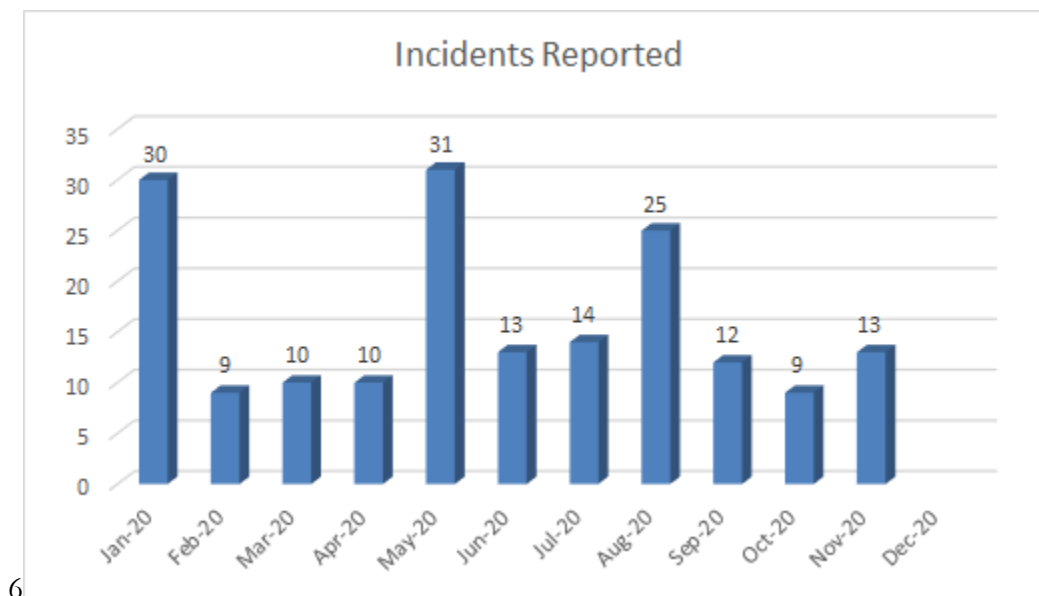
Natural Gas Inspections (Year to Date)

2020 Year-to-Date	
Conducted	58
Final Report Completed	39

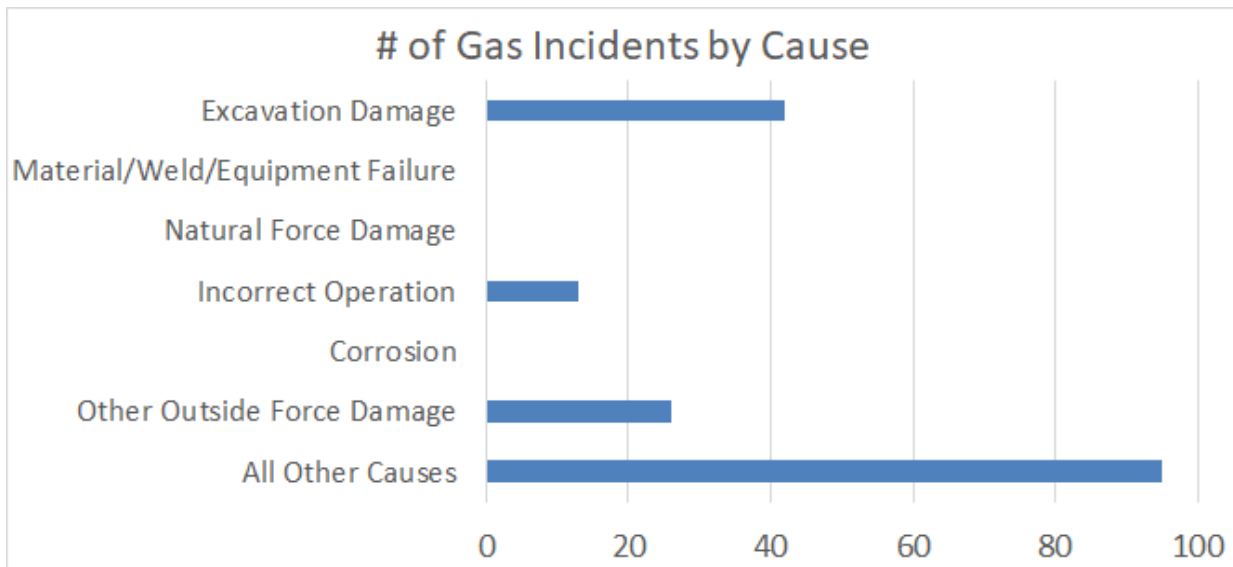
The purpose of GSRB’s inspections is to confirm that operators continue to construct, operate, and maintain their pipeline facilities in a manner that ensures the safety of workers and the public, while providing adequate and reliable service. In addition to routine inspections, GSRB also conducts construction/site inspections as resources permit. Typically, each inspection consists of records review of an operator’s past compliance activities and field verifications, respectively. Results are documented in a final report and sent to the operators after the inspections. The expectation is to have a final report sent to the operator within 60 days of the inspection. All issues should be properly closed out and an Inspection Closure Letter is issued to the operator within 120 days from the day the inspection is completed. Although there are deviations expected from time-to-time for business reasons, late inspections should be the exception and not the norm.

Natural Gas Incident Reports and Investigations through November 30, 2020

As of November 30, 2020, GSRB Staff received 176 incidents year-to-date. All reported incidents are then assigned to GSRB engineers to investigate and prepare a final report. The report indicates if there was any violation of GO 112F committed by the operators. Operators report incidents based on PHMSA guidelines.



The natural gas incidents reported chart shows an increase in incidents reported between October and November. There does not appear to be an underlying trend for incidents reported throughout the year.



This bar chart above shows the 176 incidents by cause as of November 30, 2020. The table below shows the 176 incidents by level and status.

	Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	TOTAL
Open	68	76	7	4	155
Closed	2	19	0	0	21
TOTAL	70	95	7	4	176

The table below provides a summary description of the 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

Two Self-Identified Violations were reported to GSRB in November: one by PG&E for missing distribution pipeline markers and the other by SoCalGas for a SoCalGas contractor not following SoCalGas Gas Standards during a service abandonment procedure.

Customer Safety Complaints

GSRB received and investigated nine (9) new customer complaints in November.

Three (3) complaints were closed without further action. Two (2) were unsubstantiated and one (1) was the customer's responsibility. The remaining six (6) complaints are being investigated and are listed as follows: abandoned propane tank, residential development concern, exposed pipe, gas leaks, tree removal, and noise level of the incoming gas line to a multi-story condominium complex.

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 November, GSRB issued 6 inspection notices and 2 NOPVs (with 5 probable violations).

- November 2 – Southern California Gas Company Northwest-Central Coast Distribution Area inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- November 6 – Alpine Natural Gas' Emergency Plan and Public Awareness Program inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- November 12 – SoCalGas' Playa Del Rey Storage Facility inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- November 12 – Southwest Gas Company's Distribution Integrity Management Program inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- November 13 – San Diego Gas and Electric Company's Operator Qualification Program inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- November 18 – Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Control Room Management Program inspection letter – 0 probable violations found.
- November 19 – Southern California Gas Company's and San Diego Gas and Electric Company's Gas Transmission Integrity Management Program inspection letter – 4 probable violations found.
- November 20 – Pacific Gas & Electric Company's Transmission Integrity Management Program – HCAs and other Miscellaneous Items inspection letter – 1 probable violation found.

Natural Gas Safety and Reliability: Proceedings

Aliso Canyon OII (I.19-06-016) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJs Hecht/Poirier) (SED Advocacy): Aliso Canyon OII (I.19-06-016) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJs Hecht/Poirier) (SED Advocacy): SED and parties continued to engage in settlement discussions and prepare for evidentiary hearings. In an ALJ ruling dated October 15, 2020, evidentiary hearings are expected in early first quarter of 2021. The hearing will be held remotely due to COVID 19 restrictions. In accordance with the ALJ Ruling, SoCalGas created a publicly accessible website to post all public testimony in this proceeding. The website can be found at: <https://www.socalgas.com/regulatory/i19-06-016>.

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 D.20-04-004 which established the Mobilehome Park Utility Conversion Program which authorizes IOUs to install new gas and electric utility systems in mobilehome 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. SED will be testing the new risk-rank model in January 2021 and will have it finalized before the end of the MHP Utility Conversion Program application period. SED has updated the MHP utility conversion application documents and confirmed the utilities' new program management contact information for applicants. SED has sent applications (called Forms of Intent) to the listed owners of all jurisdictional master-meter gas operators and has posted the Form of Intent to the MHP Upgrade webpage on the CPUC Website.

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 (D.20-02-036) which ordered several shareholder-funded gas and electric System Enhancement Initiatives. On August 21, 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 Locate and Mark Field Audit. On November 17, PG&E submitted its proposed methodologies for SED's review and approval.

Line 1600 Pipeline Safety Enhancement Program (PSEP) Application (A. 15-09-013) (Commissioner Randolph/ALJ Stevens) (SED Advisory) As required in Decision D.20-02-024, the Applicants (SoCalGas/SDG&E) filed a compliance filing on August 12, 2020 on cost forecast information, cost estimating methodology, etc., for the SED-approved [Line 1600] hydrostatic test or replacement plan. (This concluded the requirements of D. 18-06-028 and compliance with the Ordering Paragraphs.)

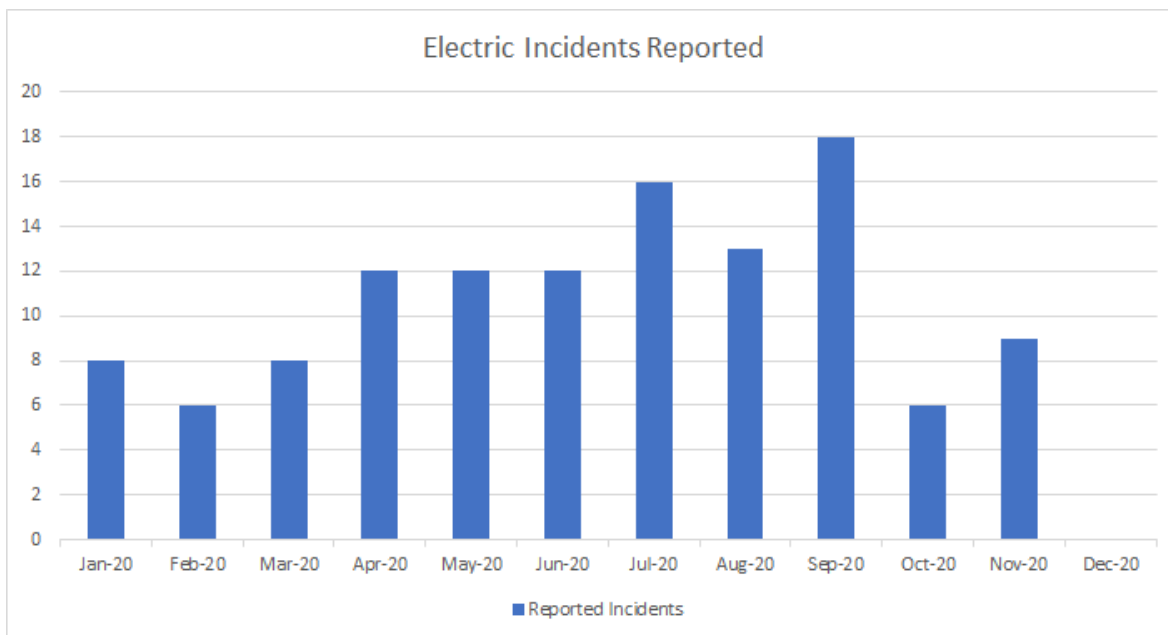
ELECTRIC SAFETY AND RELIABILITY BRANCH (ESRB)

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. November activities are below:

- Issued 3 electric distribution audit reports, 1 substation audit report, and 1 transmission audit report.
- Performed 1 electric distribution audits, 4 Communication Infrastructure Provider audits, 1 electric transmission audit, and 1 power plant audit.
- Monitored 23 planned outages and 4 forced outages reported by natural gas and renewable energy power plants.

Electric Incidents Reported through November 30, 2020

ESRB received 9 electric incident reports in November and closed 7 previously reported electric incidents.



Electric Facilities and Power Plant/Generation Incident Investigations

ESRB		Level 1	Level 2	Level 3	Level 4	Total ⁴
Total open incidents in 2020	Electric Facilities	67	15	56	70	147
	Generation	1	0	3	1	5
Total incidents reported in 2020	Electric Facilities	6	17	53	45	121
	Generation	1	0	5	0	6
Total incidents closed in 2020	Electric Facilities	12	23	58	42	135
	Generation	0	0	3	0	3
Total open 2020 incidents in November 2020	Electric Facilities	3	9	41	35	88
	Generation	1	0	3	0	4
Incidents reported in November 2020	Electric Facilities	0	2	6	1	9
	Generation	1	0	2	0	3
Incidents closed in November 2020	Electric Facilities	1	1	3	2	7
	Generation	0	0	0	0	0

The above table shows information about ESRB incident investigations as of November 30, 2020. The level designation indicates increasing severity, with Level 4 as the most severe. Please see footnote 4 for detailed definitions of each level. The guidelines to close incident reports are similar to those GRSB follows (see Guidelines table on page 5).

Customer Safety Complaints

Investigated 10 electric and communication safety and reliability customer complaints.

Notice of Violation Letters

ESRB issued 3 Notice of Violation (NOV) letters in November. ESRB may issue an NOV in response to an investigation or customer complaint for a violation of an applicable law or regulation.

⁴ 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).

Electric Safety and Reliability: Proceedings

PSPS Order Instituting Investigation (I.19-11-013) (Commissioner Batjer/ALJ DeAngelis) (SED Advisory). This OII was initiated by the Commission on November 13, 2019 to determine whether California's investor-owned electric utilities prioritized safety and complied with the Commission's regulations and requirements with respect to their Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) events in late 2019. This OII is a companion to R.18-12-005, the Commission's rulemaking to examine the practice of utility de-energization of powerlines during dangerous conditions. On November 16, 2020, parties filed reply comments regarding the Phase 2 Scoping Memo and Ruling. Pending.

PG&E's 2017 Wildfires OII (I.19-06-015) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Park) (SED Advocacy): On May 8, 2020, a Final 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). This decision imposes penalties 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). In mid-2020, SED began implementing OP 1(h) of D.20-05-019 and consulted with PG&E on the format, content and treatment of the quarterly electric maintenance reports and "near hit" data required by the settlement agreement. SED and SPD have been working to select a consultant to perform a Root Cause Analysis (RCA) for each of the wildfires. Pending.

PG&E Locate and Mark Practices OII (I.18-12-007) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Allen) (SED Advocacy): D.20-02-036 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.

Rulemaking to Evaluate the Mobilehome Park Pilot Program and to Adopt Programmatic Modifications (R.18-04-018) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen /ALJ Hecht) (SED Advisory): ESRB's role in this proceeding is to address the conversion of electric master metered MHPs to direct service by an electric utility. The Commission issued D. 20-04-004 on April 24, 2020, adopting most of the language in the proposed decision. SED, Energy Division, and Housing and Community Development will convene workshops within six months from the effective date to discuss mobile home electrification topics. On September 15, 2020, the Commission held a workshop on the Building Decarbonization Proceeding Phase II Staff Proposal and the Mobilehome Electrification Topics and Tenant Protections. Also, in September 2020, all the parties responded to PG&E's August 2020 submittal of a supplemental advice letter (AL) regarding tariff revisions. The AL reflects changes to the program from a pilot program to a full-scale, ten-year program per D. 20-04-004. 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. 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. Pending.

Physical Security of the Electric System and Disaster and Emergency Preparedness (R.15-06-009) (Commissioner Rechtschaffen/ALJ Kelly) (SED Advocacy): On May 22, 2015, the Commission issued an Order Instituting Rulemaking regarding policies and regulation of physical security for electric supply facilities and to establish standards for disaster and emergency preparedness plans. This rulemaking was conducted in two phases. Phase I addressed physical security for electric supply systems and was resolved by D.19-01-018. Phase II addresses disaster and emergency preparedness plans for electrical corporations and regulated water companies. On July 1, 2020, the Safety Policy Division (SPD) submitted a letter dated June 26, 2020 from the Deputy Executive Director of Safety & Enforcement and Safety Policy enacting the Interim Trial Procedures (ITP) to allow Commission staff to receive and review the major utility deliverables required by D.19-01-018. On July 10, 2020, the six IOUs submitted their Preliminary Assessments under the ITP process to SPD and subsequently presented their briefings regarding their Preliminary Assessment submissions to SPD and SED staff. Three IOUs submitted supplemental filings and met with SED and SPD to discuss their filings. On November 19, 2020, the Commission issued D.20-11-048 which extends the statutory deadline for Phase II to May 30, 2021. Pending.

Other Activities

2019 Wildfires: In October 2019, California experienced devastating wildfires. In Northern California, the Kincade Fire burned more than 76,800 acres. The fire destroyed and damaged about 260 structures and caused injuries to two firefighters. In Southern California, the Saddle Ridge Fire, the Easy Fire, and the Maria Fire, burned more than 17,000 acres. The fires destroyed and damaged many structures and caused one fatality and 8 injuries to firefighters. SED is currently working closely with CAL FIRE and other agencies to investigate PG&E, SCE, and the communications companies' compliance with the Commission's safety rules.

2020 Wildfires: In 2020, California again experienced devastating wildfires. In Southern California, the Bobcat Fire, which started in September 2020 burned about 116,000 acres, damaged 47 structures, destroyed 170 structures, and resulted in 6 injuries. The Silverado Fire which started in October 2020 near Santiago Canyon Road and Silverado Canyon Road in the unincorporated area of Orange County, burned approximately 14,000 acres and injured two firefighters. ESRB and WSEB are working closely with CAL FIRE, the United States Forest Service (USFS) and other agencies to investigate SCE, and communications companies' compliance with the Commission's safety rules.

The Slater Fire started on September 9, 2020 in Butte County near the town of Happy Camp. The fire killed two people and injured three. It burned approximately 156,000 acres and damaged 197 residences and 243 structures. In Northern California, the Zogg Fire, which began on September 27, 2020 in Igo, Shasta County, resulted in four fatalities, one injury, 27 damaged structures and 204 destroyed structures.

Compliance with D.17-09-024 regarding Long Beach Incident: D.17-09-024 adopted a Settlement Agreement between SCE and SED. Under the settlement, SCE paid a \$4 million penalty and will spend \$11 million on various system enhancement projects in Long Beach intended to reduce the chance of public

injury, reduce the risk of future system failures, and improve the utility’s operational awareness and network maintenance. ESRB is monitoring SCE’s work to ensure compliance with the settlement agreement.

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.

Wildfire Safety and Enforcement Branch (WSEB)

SED’s WSEB is dedicated to the enforcement of public utility wildfire safety and Public Safety Power Shutoffs (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 audits, incident investigations, and provides input into policy development. October activities for WSEB include:

- Observed and monitored 4 separate PSPS events.
- Continued 9 Wildfire Investigations.
- Participated in various CPUC proceedings.

By way of background, PSPS events are primarily divided into three phases:

1. Initial notification and scope by the IOUs to the CPUC, SED, CalOES and the communities,
2. An actual PSPS event when De-Energization occurs, and
3. Restoration and an after-action review and report.

PSPS Activations, De-energizations & Post Event Reports - November

WSEB	PG&E	SCE	SDG&E	Bear Valley	Pacific Corp	Liberty
Total PSPS Activations	0	3	1	0	0	0
Total PSPS w/ De-energization	0	3	0	0	0	0
Total PSPS Post Event Reports Reviewed	3	1	1	0	0	0

Summary of PSPS Events in November

Utility	Dates	Total Customers Impacted	Medical Baseline Customers	Number of Counties Impacted	Number of Tribes Impacted
SCE	Nov. 3-7	1,335	18	3	0
SCE	Nov. 14-18	517	12	4	0
SCE	Nov. 24-28	20,687	713	5	0
SDG&E	Nov. 26-28	0	0	0	0
Total		22,539	743	12	0

PSPS Related Proceedings

Rulemaking to Examine Electric Utility De-Energization of Power Lines in Dangerous Conditions (R.18-12-005) (President Batjer/ALJ Poirier /ALJ Stevens) (SED Advisory): This Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) was opened to further examine policies and guidelines adopted in ESRB-8 regarding communication, notification, mitigation and other logistic and implementation issues of a Public Safety Power Shutoff (PSPS) event. Currently, there are two tracks in this OIR:

1. Continued examination of utility de-energization/PSPS practices and guidelines. Comments on the SED Report and how it can inform the PSPS guidelines are due December 2, 2020.
2. An Order to Show Cause (OSC) on why PG&E should not be sanctioned for violations of P.U. Code 451, D.19-05-042 (Phase I) and ESRB-8 concerning three PSPS events in October 2019. Opening Briefs were due October 30, 2020 and Reply Briefs were filed on November 17, 2020.

PSPS Order Instituting Investigation (I.19-11-013) (Commissioner Batjer/ALJ DeAngelis) (SED Advisory). This Investigation was initiated to determine whether California’s investor-owned electric utilities (IOUs) that experienced PSPS events in late 2019 prioritized safety and complied with the Commission’s regulations and requirements in ESRB-8 and D.19-05-042 (Phase 1 PSPS Guidelines).

Monitoring the Whistleblower Website

The Commission regulates privately owned electric, natural gas, telecommunications, water, railroad, rail transit, and passenger transportation companies. It serves the public interest by protecting consumers and ensuring that utility services and infrastructure are safe, reliable, and available at reasonable rates. The Commission is charged with ensuring that these regulated service providers comply with the regulations. Whistleblower complaints can result in Commission investigations that may involve safety and other issues.

Statistics – November 2020

For November 2020, no whistleblower complaints were submitted online to SED.