

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 20, 2021

Non-DOT Q2-Q3 2020

Mr. Rodger Schwecke
Senior Vice President and Chief Infrastructure Officer
Southern California Gas Company
555 West 5th Street, GT21C3
Los Angeles, CA 90013

SUBJECT: Notice of Gas Incident Violations for Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas)

Dear Mr. Schwecke:

The Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) submits the following Notice of Probable Violations (NOPV) for Non-DOT reportable incident investigations completed in Q2 and Q3 of 2020. This letter serves as notification to you that as a result of our investigations, SED found SoCalGas in violation of the following:

1. **General Order (G.O.) 112-F, Reference Title 49 Code of Federal Regulations (CFR), Part 192, §192.605(a) states in part:**

“(a) General. Each operator shall prepare and follow for each pipeline, a manual of written procedures for conducting operations and maintenance activities and for emergency response. For transmission lines, the manual must also include procedures for handling abnormal operations.....”

2. **G.O. 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192, §192.614(c)(5) states:**

“(c) The damage prevention program required by paragraph (a) of this section must, at a minimum:

(5) Provide for temporary marking of buried pipelines in the area of excavation activity before, as far as practical, the activity begins.”

The summary of the identified violations is listed in Attachment A of this letter. Please provide a written response within 30 days of receipt of this letter indicating the measures taken by SoCalGas to address the violations noted in the “Attachment A” of this letter.

Thank you for cooperation in these investigations. If you have any questions, please contact M. Mohammad Ali, Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor) at (916) 928-2109 or by email at ma5@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Mahmoud Intably".

Mahmoud (Steve) Intably, P.E.
Program and Project Supervisor
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

Attachment

cc: See next page

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Claudia Almengor
Associate Governmental Program Analyst
Gas Safety and Reliability Branch
Safety and Enforcement Division

Attachment A
List of Incidents with Probable Violations

PUC ID	Date	Address	Utility	Third Party Entity	Investigative Finding	Code Violation(s)
G 20200113-2975	1/13/2020	2100 E. Cross Ave, Tulare, Tulare County	SoCalGas	N/A	<p>On January 13, 2020, at approximately 0755 hours, SoCalGas was notified of an under-pressure event at 2100 E. Cross Ave., Tulare that resulted in service interruption to 18 customers for approximately 26.5 hours. On January 8, 2020, SoCalGas’s crew was performing an annual inspection (to check and service) on a distribution plug valve # 38-543-150. SoCalGas’ crew encountered an Abnormal Operating Condition (AOC) (hard to operate) while exercising the valve and failed to return the valve to its original position “As Found” condition (full open position) resulting in an under-pressure event and service interruption to SoCalGas customers. SED investigation found that SoCalGas’ crew failed to follow SoCalGas’ Gas Standard 184.16 – Valve Inspection and Maintenance – Distribution, §4.2 to return the valve to the “As Found” condition (fully open position). Therefore, SED finds SoCalGas in violation of G.O. 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192, §192.605(a) for failure to follow Gas Standard 184.16 to return the valve to the “As Found” condition (full open position) after completing the annual inspection.</p>	G.O. 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192, §192.605(a).

G20200203-2998	02/03/2020	11200 Olive Drive, Bakersfield, Kern County	SoCalGas	Crown Engineering	On February 3, 2020, at approximately 1130 hours, Crown Engineering, (a third-party contractor) was performing boring operations to install communications line when the boring tool damaged a SoCalGas' 6-inch plastic gas main resulting in an unintentional release of natural gas into the atmosphere. There were no fatalities, injuries, fire, or service interruption reported as the resulted of this incident. SED investigation found that SoCalGas failed to locate and mark the 6-inch plastic gas main within the delignated area heading East crossing Jewetta Ave. North of Olive Dr. Bakersfield, thus in violation of G.O. 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192, 192.614(c)(5).	G.O. 112-F, Reference Title 49 CFR, Part 192, §192.614(c)(5).
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