

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



May 5, 2015

CPUCID: E20140515-01

Melvin Stark
Manager, Maintenance and Inspection
Southern California Edison
3 Innovation Way
Pomona, CA 91786

SUBJECT: Notice of Violation

Dear Mr. Stark:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch of the California Public Utilities Commission, Richard Kyo of my staff conducted an investigation of an incident that occurred on May 15, 2014, at 6439 Danby Avenue, Whittier. A fault current caused an SCE AWG No. 6 copper conductor to fail and fall to the ground. A person contacted the downed conductor and was electrocuted.

General Order (GO) 95, Rule 31.1, 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.

Our investigation revealed that the copper conductor failed at its connection to an aluminum connector due to high contact resistance between these two components, and not because of the size or duration of the fault current. Aluminum connectors are installed and maintained with the intent to create a low resistance contact between the aluminum connector and any associated conductors. When the contact area between the aluminum connector and copper conductor began to degrade, and the contact resistance began to increase, the aluminum connector no longer operated as intended. Therefore, SCE is in violation of GO 95, Rule 31.1, for not maintaining the aluminum connector for its intended use.

Please advise me no later than June 8, 2015, of corrective measures taken by your company to prevent the recurrence of such incidents in the future. If you have any questions, you can contact Richard Kyo at (213) 576-7081 or richard.kyo@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Fadi Daye".

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

Cc: Elizaveta Malashenko, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Charlotte TerKeurst, Program Manager, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC
Richard Kyo, P.E., Utilities Engineer, Electric Safety and Reliability Branch, CPUC
Janine Watkins-Ivie, Director of Regulatory Compliance, SCE