

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 24, 2020

CPUC-ID: 20191027-01

Rex Knowles, Director - Government Affairs
Verizon Wireless
375 West Trimble Road
San Jose, CA 95131

SUBJECT: Notice of Violation (NOV)

Dear Mr. Knowles:

On behalf of the Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) of the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), Rickey Tse of ESRB staff investigated an incident involving electrical contact between Verizon's communication cable lash wire and PG&E's Rossmoor 1104 12 kV circuit which started a fire. The incident occurred on October 27, 2019 near the intersection of Pleasant Hill and Condit Road in Lafayette, California.

General Order 95, Rule 38, Table 2: Basic Minimum Allowable Clearance of Wires from Other Wires at Crossings, in Midspans and at Supports, Case No. 8 (Communication Conductors and Service Drops), Column F (7,500 - 20,000 Volts) states:

"Vertical separation between conductors and/or cables, on separate crossarms or other supports at different levels (excepting on related line and buck arms) on the same pole and in adjoining midspans shall be 72 inches."

ESRB's investigation determined that Verizon's communication cable did not meet the minimum allowable clearance requirement. ESRB determined that Verizon's cable had approximately 1 ½ feet of horizontal clearance, and no vertical clearance, from PG&E's conductors where the cable and conductors made contact. The communication cable is essentially at the same height as the conductors. Further, the vertical distance between their attachment points on Pole #110458878 is only approximately 4 feet. This is less than 72 inches, or 6 feet as required. Therefore, ESRB found Verizon in violation of General Order (GO) 95, Rule 38 for failing to meet the minimum allowable clearance.

Please provide a response no later than April 23, 2020 by electronic or hard copy of all corrective actions and preventive measures taken by Verizon to remedy and prevent the recurrence of such a violation. Please note that although Verizon has been given 30 days to respond, it has a continuing obligation to comply with all applicable GO 95 requirements. The 30-day period does not alter this continuing duty.

If you have any questions concerning this NOV, please contact Rickey Tse at (415) 355-5581 or Rickey.Tse@cpuc.ca.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Banu Acimis".

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

Cc: Lee Palmer, Director, Safety and Enforcement Division, CPUC
Nika Kjensli, Program Manager, ESRB, SED, CPUC
Charlotte TerKeurst, ESRB, SED, CPUC
Fadi Daye, Program and Project Supervisor, ESRB, SED, CPUC
Rickey Tse, Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor), ESRB, SED, CPUC
Nathan Sarina, Senior Utilities Engineer (Supervisor), ESRB, SED, CPUC