



Circle the Wagons SDG&E

The Perfect Corporate Cover Up

Presented by:

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San Diego Gas & Electric

“The Witch Creek Fire 2007”

“The Cedar Fire 2003”

“The Paradise Fire 2003”

HOW DID IT HAPPEN?

Is there a link that started them all?

Circle the Wagons

SDG&E

The Perfect Corporate Cover UP

The Witch Creek Fire

San Diego California

Transmission Line 637

October 2007

There comes a time in each of our lives, where an event will take place that will require each of us to decide what our next course of action will be. That decision will define who and what type of an individual we are. Imagine we are placed in a position where we need to decide whether we go along with the status quo, or go against the grain and go public with a story that could prove to be devastating to a public utility.

Hello my name is Ed Clark. I have been in the Electrical Utility business since 1980. While working for Southern California Edison Company I obtained my Bachelor of Science degree (Electrical Engineering) in 1984 from Long Beach State. I started up my own high voltage Electrical Contracting Company in 1990 and started testifying as an Electrical Expert in 1995. My technical experience combined with my education has proven to be unique and unmatched by most who testify as an electrical expert witness in the Electrical Utility arena.

We live in a society that Corporate America is run by lawyers. Corporate decisions at the executive level are made based on exposure and liability to the Corporation. Often time's, executive officers are faced with difficult decisions that could determine financial success or failure of the Corporation and influence stock prices that affect investors that trusted their judgment.

Most of the time, corporate executives can legally hide behind their lawyer's advice and make decisions that are not always in the best interest of the public and or rate payers, even though they are aware of the consequences to others.. If a particular business decision proves to be a bad decision, a dispute would eventually get resolved in some type of civil court. For large companies, civil litigation is a way of doing business. Rarely are consequential or punitive damages assessed or paid even when companies intentionally make decisions that can bring harm to others. Civil litigation is a way utilized in Corporate America to defer cost and exposure to a company, especially if the exposure is substantial.

Settling cases out of court allows both parties to have some kind of control over the outcome. Experts and consultants that are involved with cases that settle out of court, often never find out the outcome of a particular case because settlements are usually confidential. When you are hired as an expert witness, you are hired because you are an expert in your field.

What would you do, if you came across a scenario, as an expert witness, where you feel that decisions are intentionally being made that are not in the interest of public safety? What would you do if you discover decisions are being made where the corporate bottom line is more important than protecting the community they serve? What would you do if you find yourself in a situation that you have discovered a very basic design problem that appears to have gone undetected for years and proved to be the source of large wild fires? More importantly, what would you do if your gut instinct is telling you that this problem has been discovered before, by Utility employees, and you believe conscious decisions have been made "not" to remedy the cause of Wild Fires to protect the public, for fear of being held liable for catastrophic destruction and death resulting from the fires? What would you do if you determine it was easier for SDG&E to allow an innocent man to falsely be accused of starting the 2003 Cedar Fire in San Diego, than to come forward and admit to the cause of the fire? What would you do if you believe that public utility executives at San Diego Gas and Electric, along with the executives of its parent company Sempra Energy, chose to hide behind pending litigation as an excuse not to fix a basic design problem, that is causing wild fires in San Diego County? What would you do when you realize the 2007 Witch Creek Fire should never have happened

if the executives of SDG&E and its parent company Sempra Energy would have put public safety first?

More importantly, what would you do, if you took steps to expose the Corporate Cover Up of SDG&E to the two state agencies, the California Public Utilities Commission and Cal Fire, and the two agencies refuse your request for a meeting of the minds with all parties involved in order to resolve and protect the community? What would you do once you discover and determine in your mind that the magnitude of a corporate cover up extends up and into the very government agencies that are suppose to protect the community? What would you do if you determine that the magnitude of the problem is so big that nobody believes you and therefore cannot comprehend? What would you do if you determine that the corporation has so much power financially via political contributions, tax and advertising dollars, charity etc. that they utilize their financial strength as leverage to keep people from talking? And finally what would you do, if your plea to the President of the United States, the Vice President and the Governor of California, via letter certified mail, requesting Federal intervention in this matter goes unanswered?

It is not a function of “IF” it is “When” will the next fire start in San Diego County caused by a design problem SDG&E refuses to address. Those within SDG&E who have intentionally chosen not to resolve and protect the public, along with the government officials in the PUC and Cal Fire conspiring to cover this up, should be held accountable and charged to the full extent of the law.

What you are about to read is what appears to me to be one of the largest corporate cover ups in American history, that has to do with home land security and insurance fraud putting corporate bottom line profits ahead of public safety. It is a sad day when those who are elected to lead will not get involved for fear of what it would do to their political career.

October 25, 2007
25 days after the start of the Witch creek Fire

This story stems from my experience while investigating the 2007 Southern California Wild Fires. Electrical overhead power lines have been known to cause fires for a variety of reasons like, car hit poles, birds making contact with power lines, equipment failures, high winds, trees, etc. On October 25, 2007, I received a phone call from a law firm that I have done a substantial amount of Expert Witness work over the past several years. This law firm does the subrogation work for a large out of state, insurance carrier. When an insurance company has paid to rebuild a home caused by a fire, if the cause was by a third party, the insurance company will file a law suit in an effort to recover their money. This is called a subrogation case. I was asked to investigate all of the Southern California fires that could potentially be caused by Electrical utilities. These California fires included the Canyon (Malibu) Fire, the Magic (Magic Mountain) Fire, the Rice (Rice Canyon) Fire, and the Witch (Witch Creek) Fire.

Upon visiting the site of the Witch Creek Fire on October 25, 2007 accompanied by two experienced Arson investigators, we drove to the site to be believed as the point of origin, or where the Witch Creek fire originated. As we drove up to the 69kv line known as Transmission Line 637, I noticed that the cables utilized to support the pole in high winds known as down guys, were tied together with a common bolt on the pole, which is wrong and a violation of GO-95 clearance requirements. GO-95 is referred to as California Public Utilities Commission General Order 95. GO-95 is the California Standard for the construction and maintenance of Utility owned facilities.

DOWN GUY CONSTRUCTION

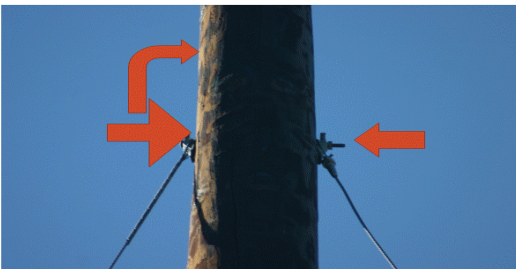
1. Attached at same location on pole
“WRONG”

2. Insulators not utilized!
“WRONG”



Attaching each down guy to the same bolt on the pole allows a path for Electricity resulting from ground current in the ground traveling in one anchor up the conductor and down the other side through the other anchor.

Down Guys Attached at the Same Point :
“WRONG”



**“ Must have
12 inches
Vertical
Clearance or
use
Insulators”**

As we were walking to the pole, I pointed out the design flaw to the other two investigators and explained what we would find at the point of attachment where the down guy attaches to the actual anchor in the ground.

The utilities utilize covers over the down guys typically to protect the down guy cables at ground level and to make the cable visible to the public to help prevent accidents. Upon opening the covers, we discovered large deposits of black carbon that was proven to contain all the elements of an Electrical Arc by an independent third party laboratory. SDG&E responded to the media and referred to these black marks as manufactures paint. You decide. Why would SDG&E intentionally lie to the media?



Lab Reports show the following:

O,C,Si,Fe,Zn,Al,Ca,Mg,K, i

Note: This particular sample was from the **"CEDAR
FIRE"**

Lab results high contents of Carbon from ARCING

The problem that exists is that we have discovered arcing at a location that if designed properly, would never and should never arc. Arcing shown above was found at a variety of locations with black marks in the exact same location on the inside of the covers. You can see the independent lab results in the above picture. The elements are surely not elements found in black paint as represented by SDG&E spokesperson.

**Down guys attached at the same point
allows current to flow:**

LOOSE CONNECTIONS = ARCING



The design allows for ground current caused by a system disturbance, to flow in one anchor and out another because two down guys are tied together with a common metal bolt creating a path for Electrical Current to flow. With this design, current can also be caused just from induction from the 69kv line under heavy loaded conditions.

The result of this design error causes arcing to occur at ground level where dry grass is growing.



**Dry Grass
+
Arcing
FIRE**

At several locations dry grass was found growing up into the areas where arcing was found.

The results of a design that allows for electrical current to flow at a location where dry brush is present when you have the perfect storm, i.e. Low humidity, high winds, hot and dry weather you get a fire!

In the following photo you can see the burn trail originating at the down guy anchor, with the wind moving right to left.

START OF Witch FIRE!!!!!!!!!!



and spreading rapidly below. This picture below is the same location taken from opposite side.

START OF Witch FIRE!!!!!!!!!!



Upon discovering a utility design flaw that is causing arcing at ground level where dry grass is present, I immediately informed the law firm I was retained by, that I have no choice, due to public safety, but to present my

findings as soon as possible to San Diego Gas and Electric in order for SDG&E to make immediate repairs prior to the summer dry months to prevent future fires.

A meeting was subsequently set up with SDG&E on December 17, 2007. Since I have 25 + years experience in Utility Operations, I understand the responsibilities of Utility employees. Consequently, I requested SDG&E to have present at the meeting a Transmission Engineer, a Protection Engineer, an Executive Officer along with their Corporate attorney in order for SDG&E to collectively have the combined experience and knowledge to understand the technical nature of the design error found as well as the potential magnitude of the financial exposure to the utility. A meeting was ultimately scheduled for December 17, 2007 at the Sempra Energy Corporate Headquarters located in San Diego.

Upon my original investigation, I had found ground rods that were found at various locations along Transmission Line 637.

Ground rods found at various locations??



At first, I found the location of the ground rods odd, because the placement of the ground rods does not conform to any rules in GO-95. But at this particular time I did not think too much about the significance of the location of the ground rods.

Back on November 5, 2007 we investigated the Rice Fire in Fallbrook and re-visited the Witch creek Fire to meet with the Property owner.

Upon locating the point of origin (start of Fire) on the Rice fire, we noticed the trees that had been cut down by contractors that worked for San Diego Gas and Electric.



Tree Branches that had fallen into a distribution line had been cut up by contract tree trimming crews.



Signs left behind by SDG&E not to touch cut up wood.

During the course of our investigation we met the caretaker for the property who lived up the hill. He showed us around and shared a horrific story of the woman who lived on the property.

Her family had lived at this location for several generations. Her previous ancestors had built a small dam in a creek just down the hill from her house to dam up the water in order to pump water up the hill into a storage tank to service their house with water. As a little girl, she grew up playing in the creek.

On the day the Rice Fire started, the winds were howling. All of the sudden she hears a loud crack. As she went to the door to look outside, the winds blowing approx. 80 mph right at her, she sees where the trees had broke off and fallen into the power line. She sees arcing and sparking and the start of what is known as the Rice Fire. Without hesitation, she runs down the hill, and jumps into the creek and starts covering herself with mud to try to insulate herself as a blazing forest fire goes right over the top of her as she is laying in shallow water covered with mud in the creek.



As the fire passes, she sits in the creek and watches everything she owns burn to the ground.



Following the conclusion of our investigation of the San Diego Rice Fire, we head down to meet the property owner where the Witch creek Fire started in an effort to see what other investigators had shared with him regarding the cause of the fire. The property owner escorted us back to where Cal Fire had marked the location of what they believed was the origin (start of fire). At the location he showed us, there was what appears to be a mark on the overhead 69kv power line wires.

Unfortunately, since I was at the time conducting an investigation, I could not share what I had discovered with the property owner. It was very difficult information not to share, as he was obviously curious and concerned. He commented that he recognized that I was not to impressed with the findings of Cal Fire and commented that I must know something.

While I was preparing for a presentation to SDG&E, I started looking into past fires in San Diego County to see if this design flaw may have contributed to other fires. The 2003 Cedar and Paradise fires came on the radar. I found through research on the internet that a lost hunter was blamed for the 2003 Cedar fire from shooting his gun off trying to get someone to find him. I found this hard to believe and questioned myself as to whether or not this person may have been falsely accused. My curiosity got the best of

me, so on December 15th 2007 I decided to drive back down to San Diego and investigate the cause of the 2003 Cedar Fire and the 2003 Paradise fire.

I realized that Transmission line 637 is also in the heart of the Cedar Fire. I revisited the location where a sample of the carbon residue was found. A pole with Carbon residue, with the same down guy design, resulting from an electrical arc, was also on a pole associated with the 2003 Cedar fire and not the Witch Fire. I then went to the burn area of the 2003 Paradise Fire from a map off of the internet and drove to the “up wind side”, of the fire approximately 25 miles away from the origin of the Cedar and Witch fire only to find the same design problem.

It had appeared that most all of the poles in the 2003 Paradise fire had been replaced by the utility because of the fire, with the exception of the pole at the very start of the fire. The same design was found on a 69kv line over 25 miles away, as the poles found at the Witch Creek Fire and the Cedar Fire where arcing was found at the down guy anchors.

To this date, the cause of the Paradise fire has never been determined along with approx. 30 other fires in the same area.

By December 15, 2007 the realization regarding the magnitude of catastrophic damages from property and life that SDG&E could potentially be ultimately held responsible was starting to wear on me. I was starting to feel tremendous pressure. I typically don't let things bother me, but in this case I starting having an outbreak of hives resulting from the stress. I realized that I was either the first to discover a basic construction/design error that could potentially bankrupt a public utility if found to be liable for starting the fires, or potentially uncovering “a corporate cover up” by San Diego Gas and Electric regarding the cause of the fires. I was concerned that San Diego Gas and Electric may be utilizing pending litigation as an excuse not to admit they have a problem. It appears to me that SDG&E deferred repairs following the 2003 Fires due to pending litigation, only to wait to long to fix the design, which then resulted in starting the 2007 Witch Creek Fire.

Prior to my meeting with SDG&E on December 17, 2007, I was presented with a confidentiality agreement to sign by the lawyers I was originally retained by. I would not enter into any type of a confidentiality agreement

that would prevent the public from learning what caused the fires. Do to the magnitude of the damages; the public has a right to learn the cause. I expressed my concern that the public must be made aware of my findings; do to so many being affected. It was shared with me that the strategy for our client was to present this to SDG&E and attempt a quiet settlement without having to file a law suit, thus the request for me to sign a confidentiality agreement. A confidentiality agreement would have prevented this story from getting out to the public.

As I was driving down to Sempra Energy, the parent company for SDG&E on the morning of December 17, 2007, it hit me that the ground rods I had found are in my opinion evidence that SDG&E has already known of this problem prior to the 2007 Witch Fires. I realized that if SDG&E goes out and makes repairs, they would be tampering with evidence and admitting guilt. Consequently, SDG&E may be held liable for all of the damages. So if you are an SDG&E executive, and you realize that the magnitude of the liability may be to large to handle which could potentially put your company in Bankruptcy, you could make the decision to not make repairs to prevent future fires, and only pay for cases that make it through the court system despite the threat to public safety. This defers the costs for SDG&E. and allows the corporation to survive.

I find it hard to believe, with all of the utility experts, along with SDG&E Engineers, following the 2003 fires, someone did not recognize the design problem with the down guys, since it is such a basic simple error in Transmission line design. Then it hit me. In my opinion I felt that even if SDG&E did know they had this problem and it contributed to the fires, SDG&E would not have fixed for fear of being held liable in 2003 for all the damages. Based on how SDG&E has publicly handled my report, I realize they are circling the wagons, preparing to battle in court, and will deny at all costs in order to defer the outcome through the court systems. The ground rods found at various locations, I believe are evidence that SDG&E realized there was a problem and attempted a resolution that did not work following the 2003 fires. I feel that if you find out who drove the ground rods and when, you find out when SDG&E knew of the design problem.

The meeting on the morning of December 17 2007 consisted of me and the attorney I was working for, one SDG&E attorney, one transmission engineer, one protection engineer and one engineering manager from SDG&E. I presented a power point presentation, that is on my website

www.theelectricalexpert.com, that lasted about 20 minutes. All involved in the meeting, acknowledged they understood the problem. I was thanked by the attorney for SDG&E for being so thorough and was asked to leave. Once the SDG&E employees acknowledged they understood the design problem they were directed by the attorney not to answer any more questions. No further discussions took place in my presence. I was asked to leave.

Following the conclusion of the meeting, I was informed by the lawyer I was working for that there was a scheduled conference call in a couple of days, scheduled by State investigators who were tasked with investigating the cause of the Southern California fires. The attorney I was working with told me that he was going to listen in on the conference call and not share my findings, so he would not jeopardize our clients negotiating position. I told my client that was wrong and asked for the login information via e-mail to be sent to me so I could participate in the conference call and share my findings regarding the cause of the witch creek fire with Cal Fire officials. I was not allowed to participate in the conference call. Myself and the other investigators were directed not to share our findings with Cal Fire.

Surprised at the intent to conceal evidence from State officials investigating the cause of the Witch Creek Fire by the attorneys I was working for, I voiced my intent to take this story public myself. I was told that due to my retention as an expert witness I could get sued for breach of fiduciary duty as an expert to remain silent and keep my findings confidential even though I refused to sign a confidentiality agreement.

At this point I realized the political dynamics behind this entire scenario. I realized that despite the fact that people are losing homes, and loved ones; SDG&E is hiding behind pending litigation as an excuse not to go fix a problem with their system that can prevent future fires. I was appalled that our findings were going to be withheld from those State Officials who were trying to figure out what caused the fires. As I was driving home, frustration was setting in. I feel the public has a right to believe that corporate executives in public service companies are mandated to make decisions that Public Safety comes before corporate profits. If it is found that Public Safety is not first then the officials responsible should be held accountable in a criminal court and not be able to dance behind smoke screens in a civil court room. Those attorneys within the corporation who are providing the advice for the executives to legally hide behind should be held criminally liable and lose their ability to practice law.

When I got back to my office, I was frustrated. I was feeling tremendous pressure unlike I have ever experienced. My concern for having knowledge of a catastrophic problem and apparently being the only one who has figured it out caused tremendous anxiety and concern for my own safety. I felt that unless I took a leadership role with my experience, and went public with the story, this problem never becomes known, more fires will start, more lives will be destroyed, and my own life could be in jeopardy. Consequently, I took steps that would result in my relationship with a good customer being severed. I drafted a letter to my attorneys raising my fees to a ridiculous amount of money and told them I would still take the story public.

On December 18, 2007 I received an e-mail putting my services on hold and on December 20, 2007 terminating my services, which in my mind since we did not have a confidentiality agreement in place combined with the client terminating my services, opened the door for me to share this story. At the end of the day, if a suit is filed because I have informed the public that their safety is in jeopardy then so be it, that is a battle I will be happy to take on.

Over the course of the next few days, I realized the only way to get this information to the public and ultimately in the hands of Public officials who can do something about this and force SDG&E to fix their design error is by going public. I had a website created www.theelectricalexpert.com with a power point presentation of my findings. I have not had any experience with the media and I attempted a press release that nobody showed up. On December 27th I sent e-mails to news@cpuc.ca.gov, newsdesk@la13.com, newstips@nbc-2.com, vrivera@wetip.com, LA times, and Orange county register trying to get someone to cover the story. I started calling phone numbers on the Internet of reporters that have covered stories on the witch fire.

I finally met a lady by the name of Susan, by telephone, who worked for the San Diego Union Tribune. I tip my hat to Susan for taking the time to listen and understand what I was dealing with. Susan passed the story on to Jeff McDonald a writer for the Union Tribune. Since Jeff McDonald and the Union Tribune started investigating the story, inquiries were made to the Public Utilities Commissions causing the PUC to launch their own independent investigation.

Based on the Public Utility Commission getting involved I agreed to meet with 4-engineers from the Public Utilities Commission in Los Angeles, to review my findings on 1/15/08. I started the meeting off by asking if any of them had ever worked for a Utility or been the responsible Engineer to design a pole line and or been involved with constructing a pole line. The answer was “no”. Consequently, I realized that the regulatory body tasked with oversight of Electrical Utilities does not have any electrical utility experience to help them understand this type of problem and or recognize a design error while performing an investigation.

I presented my findings and through some general discussion a lead member from the PUC mentioned that even though they agree that the GO-95 requires a three inch separation between guy wires, he commented that SDG&E may “TECHNICALLY” be in compliance even though they tied the down guys together with a metal bolt providing a path of Electricity.

This comment by a lead Engineer from the Public Utilities Commission caused me concern. The ignorant statement only supported the lack of experience in the PUC and came across as trying to protect the utility in lieu of trying to understand the problem. Guy wires are never supposed to touch, to prevent current from flowing in any way. I explained that attaching together by a metal bolt, in itself violates the rule because it provides a path for Electrical current to flow. I shared my frustration with the group. I was disturbed with the comment of “technical compliance”, especially when you realize that we are dealing with Electrical characteristics and it became obvious to me that the individuals involved did not appear to have the experience necessary to understand the difference between physical distance and Electrical Compliance. I left the meeting feeling like the PUC was there to protect the Utility from liability, rather than evaluate based on what the Electrical reason is for the three inch requirement in an Electrical Utility. I realized that the PUC works closely with all Utilities and has relationships with the Utilities and may be adverse to publicly criticizing an Electrical Utility. The PUC itself oversees the Public Utilities, the design standards and also investigates these fires.

Consequently, since this design error is so basic, and inexpensive to correct, everyone involved with investigating past and present fires, including the PUC, is questioning themselves and covering their tracks. Therefore, the PUC findings will be of great interest to me. It is difficult to explain to all affected by the fires how our industry experts overlooked something so

simple. It was shared with me that these same individuals investigated the cause of the Malibu fire. They acknowledged they realized a down guy anchor had pulled out of the ground allowing a line to fall into the canyon and start a fire. I asked if it concerned the PUC that the line was basically put back in service and repaired with the same design, with the only difference a little heavier grade guy pole. I expressed my concern that the design was inadequate and potentially a hazard to fail again. The PUC indicated they would look into it.

On February 7, 2008, I spent the day with an Engineer from the Public Utilities Commission, showing him in person all of the evidence of arcing on transmission line 637. And also showed him a pole with the same problem at the start of the 2003 Paradise fire as well as evidence on a pole associated with the Cedar Fire. Following this investigation the PUC investigator admitted in a phone interview with Jeff McDonald of the Union Tribune that arcing was present at ground level along the Transmission line 637.

On February 8, I received a phone call from Jeff McDonald of the union tribune questioning the accuracy of pole number relating to the 2003 Paradise fire. I opted to drive down to verify the pole number I had provided was correct. By this time, I was feeling tremendous pressure. The union tribune had delayed publishing this story now several weeks. What I felt was critical to the public was being overshadowed by stories like Britney Spears, the presidential elections, etc. I had never dealt with the media before and could not understand how this was not important news. As I arrived to the site of the start of the paradise fire, in order to confirm the pole numbers, I had to hike up a hillside to adjacent poles. As I got close to the pole I was attempting to get to, coincidentally a low flying helicopter flew right over the top of me. I have never experienced an anxiety attack before, but all of the sudden I asked myself what was I doing out here alone, when I am taking such a big story public. All of a sudden I was short of breath and was experiencing paranoia. I found myself scared for my safety. I could not get the pole number and down the hill fast enough. I was short of breath and as I was driving away, I was gasping for air. I actually had to pull over to regain my composure. That was an experience I never want to feel again.

Fortunately, the Union Tribune published the story on February 10, 2008 and then a follow up story on February 22, 2008. The San Diego North County Times published a story on February 23, 2008. Additionally, I went to Fox 6 news studio in San Diego for a live interview as well as a follow up

field visit. Fox 6, news aired a story in March, called “The Witch Creek Mystery”.

My initial reaction to the story published on February 10, 2008 by the Union Tribune was disappointment. Jeff McDonald had done an extensive job of research and fully understood the complexity of the story and the exposure to San Diego Gas and Electric. Following several delays of the story getting published and several levels of editing, I came to realize even the local paper struggles with coming out with a story against a company like SDG&E, with a parent company the size of Semptra Energy. I felt the frustration in talking with Jeff McDonald in a follow up conversation as we all report to someone who has the ability to pull rank and cut important details. Fortunately, Mr. McDonald was able to print a follow up story with more details on February 22, 2008 along with a story from the North County times on February 23, 2008 that set the stage for a story by Fox 6 news in March.

As a result of some media exposure, I have been able to relax and feel like now this story is in the hands of those who can do something about it. I received a phone call from a Fire Captain in San Diego who paved the way for me to attend a meeting and put on a presentation for the San Diego Fire Chiefs Association on April 3, 2008. I got the opportunity to meet a gentlemen who would be taking over May 1, 2008 a leadership role with Cal Fire in San Diego county. I expressed concern that despite the media attention, I had not been involved with any inquiries or investigations with Cal Fire as to the cause of the 2007 Witch Fire. My concern has sparked an investigation that will involve a site visit on April 16, 2008 with Cal Fire and myself.

I drove back down to San Diego on April 16, 2008 to meet with what I was told would be a team of Cal Fire Employees to investigate my findings. Upon my arrival and to my surprise Cal Fire only sent one non-Electrical investigator who coincidentally was the lead investigator of the 2003 cedar fire where a man was charged with setting the fires. Not aware that I was talking to the lead investigator of the 2003 cedar fire and expressing my concern for the man potentially being falsely accused, I was met with very negative dialogue. The Cal Fire investigator told me that the problem I was showing him was the responsibility of the PUC to address. I told him that the PUC had indicated they were waiting for a Cal Fire report. I pointed out that we have two government agencies pointing at each other and refusing to take responsibility. I asked if he could coordinate a meeting with all of us in

the room together, **He refused my request.** He said it was not his responsibility. I documented the tone of the meeting and the lack of interest in Cal Fire wanting to understand and resolve the cause of the Witch creek fire. I explained to the Cal Fire official that based on what I had seen on the internet the gentleman accused of starting the 2003 cedar fire was charged on circumstantial evidence, forced to plea bargain admitting to the fires in exchange for not serving time in the state penitentiary. Anybody in his shoes would have done the same thing if you were the only suspect. My comments were met with tremendous opposition, which set the tone for the remainder of our meeting. I offered to take the Cal Fire investigator to the start of the Cedar and Paradise fire to show him the same problem. The investigator said he was not interested and that the Cedar and Paradise fires were closed files. I asked him if it was possible that he could have made a mistake in his judgment of the lost hunter? He said no. I asked; now that you have new evidence on the Cedar Fire, that Cal Fire did not have before, is it possible since the man was prosecuted on circumstantial evidence as reported on the internet, he may have been innocent. He said no and it's a closed case. I guess one could draw the conclusion, its easier to ruin a mans life than to consider you might have been wrong or even partially wrong, which may have influenced the outcome of his case.

When all of this was going on, inquiries to SDG&E from various parties were being made and what I think is very interesting and important for the public to understand, is that although I met with Semptra Energy and three key employees with San Diego Gas & Electric who fully understood the theory and the design error made and how arcing occurs back on December 17, 2007, the response from San Diego Gas and Electric to questions from the media is through a spokesperson who will only respond to questions in writing. The responses to date have been irresponsible and are only an effort to Circle the wagons and confuse the public in an effort to divert attention and raise questions. The presentation and the evidence of arcing I presented to the employees of San Diego Gas and Electric is **non-disputable**. The evidence of arcing, i.e. black smudges are proven with lab tests that contain all the elements of an Electrical arc. The lab results were provided to San Diego, Gas and Electric, yet a spokes person tells the media the black smudges are manufactures paint.

The responses I am seeing from SDG&E and hearing there response to Fox 6 news in San Diego has raised serious concerns of ethics, integrity and responsibly by a public agency to the public. Suspicion of malicious intent to

defraud the public and lie about the cause of the Witch Creek fire is becoming more evident and real. More importantly the intent of SDG&E not to correct the problem for fear of how it would look to the public is mind boggling.

May 2008
Meeting with San Diego City Attorney

On May 2008, I received a phone call requesting my presence at a meeting at the San Diego City Attorney's office by the assistant to the city attorney. I was met by a large number of staff, along with an independent expert retained by the city. Three executives from SDG&E walked in including SDG&E attorney J.T. Thomas. Upon recognizing me, the three walked out of the room, refusing to participate. The city attorney convinced them to join us and asked me to be a silent observer. I had with me poster size photographs of where and how the Witch Creek Fire started.

The city attorney started the meeting off with a direct question to SDG&E executives, "When are you going to fix this problem?".. Mr. Thomas indicated that "SDG&E does not agree with Ed Clark and is therefore not going to make repairs outlined by Ed Clark".

Following quite a bit of tense dialogue, and as the meeting was winding down; I observed intentional misrepresentations by all three SDG&E employees. Mr. Thomas (lawyer for SDG&E) represented that PG&E and Southern California Edison agreed with the position of SDG&E regarding their design of down guy attachments.

The City attorney asked me if I had anything I would like to comment on. I of course said yes. I proceeded to correct the Protection Engineer from SDG&E on his assessment of SDG&E's ability to clear end of the line faults to prevent more fires from starting. I then turned to Mr. Thomas in disgust and challenged his comment that SCE and PG&E agreed. I told him that SCE is not going to agree with something that, by their own construction standard, directly contradicts what Mr. Thomas was saying. His comment about SCE was so surprising, the following day I sent a copy of SCE's construction standard directly on point, to everyone involved, including the

PUC, Cal Fire, the City attorney, SDG&E executives and Sempra Energy executives, thinking finally they would wake up, take a leadership role and correct the design problem. I was wrong!

Upon the conclusion of the meeting and the SDG&E executives leaving, the city attorney expressed grave concern and picked up the phone, attempted to call someone in the federal government for help. He indicated it was someone he had utilized before when state agencies didn't do their job. I was asked if I would come down to a closed door session with the City Council the following week to put on a presentation. I of course agreed, as I was pleased to finally come across someone who did not seem to be intimidated by the corporate giant.

The city attorney indicated he would follow up with me after a meeting with Sempra Energy and SDG&E that same afternoon. You can read between the lines and draw your own conclusion, but I never heard back from the city attorney after he had a private meeting with SDG&E, nor has he ever returned my phone calls.

June 1, 2008 Field Investigation

I received information of a field investigation that was going to take place commencing June 1, 2008. I found it interesting that despite what I had done, I was not notified by any of the parties, Cal Fire, the CPUC, the city attorney etc. I requested via e-mail, to the city attorney and the head of Cal Fire, that they allow my participation so that I could show everyone where the fire started. Neither Howard Windsor of Cal Fire nor the city attorney cleared the way for me to attend.

What is ironic to me is that, during the field investigation small burn marks or indication of a small electrical arc was found on the conductor, which is where the group concluded the fire originated. They concluded that the primary wires actually touched causing sparks to hit the ground and start the fire. This location is in the area where the property owner said he saw the fire within a couple of hours after the fire started. In the world of expert

consultants and investigators I have never come across one who had a protection engineering background and understood the affects of ground current during a utility ground fault. If anyone involved investigating this had a relay protection background they would understand the damage that would be done if a 69kv line came together and actually touched in a bolted phase to phase fault. The fault current would burn the line down: It would not just leave little specs of arcing. It is not uncommon during high winds for debris to blow across conductors resulting in small arcing along a power line.

Ironically, Cal Fire, the PUC, SDG&E concluded this location of little specs of arcing “must have” caused the fire. The location determined was only a couple of hundred yards away from the location I gave them a photograph of, which is exactly where the fire started.

July 1, 2008
Cal Fire Report

Nine months after the Witch Creek Fire and only three months after a field visit with me, where I showed Cal Fire in person where and how the fire started, Cal Fire published a public report of their investigation. It should be noted that Cal Fire suppressed, omitted and intentionally failed to disclose to the public, the evidence, pictures and lab results proving where and how the fires started, all of which I previously shared with Cal Fire.

I was shocked. In my opinion, the Cal Fire investigator had a strong motive to conceal the evidence since, in my opinion, he falsely accused and destroyed a man’s life over the cause of 2003 Cedar Fire. If this were to come out, no doubt the investigator and Cal Fire’s credibility would be questioned and they should be held accountable. I cannot believe the entire organization has overlooked what was presented to them. I have continually shared my findings via e-mail with who I understand is the head of Cal Fire in San Diego County, Howard Windsor. We must realize that Cal Fire

employees do not have an Electrical background, however that does not relieve them of the responsibility to procure the necessary expertise to help them investigate and understand electrical related fire.

September 2, 2008
CPUC Report

Now despite the inquiries by the media, disclosures by me, combined with physically showing an investigator from the PUC where and how the fire started and despite his statement to the Union Tribune that he physically saw signs of arcing at ground level at a location that arcing should not occur, the PUC suppressed information and failed to make any mention of arcing in their public report.

Now I am realizing that the problem in San Diego County is far greater than what anyone could imagine or even comprehend. We have two California public agencies, the PUC and Cal Fire in concert, withholding evidence of arcing on a power line location where they have been provided pictures of a burn pattern leading away from a utility down guy anchor.

February 24, 2009

On February 24, 2009, I received an email informing me of a Public Utilities Commission hearing in San Diego regarding the 2007 fires. I put together an extensive report that can be seen at www.theelectricalexpert.com, complete with exhibits. I was to be allowed three-minutes to talk.

Prior to the start of the meeting, I was sitting next to two gentlemen who were standing. One of the men was complaining that he was misinformed and arrived one hour early. As the meeting time approached, he commented to the other gentleman "Let's hurry and get this charade over so I can get home". I was later surprised to see the gentleman who made the comment

sitting on the PUC panel. He was a PUC representative and sat on the far left end of the panel as we faced them.

What I found interesting during the opening statements from the PUC, was their statement that their only responsibility was to comment on the Cal Fire report, the report that omitted all of the evidence that I had provided and of which Cal Fire was aware of. The PUC was intentionally dodging responsibility and not commenting on information in their possession.

When it was my opportunity to address the panel, I proceeded to ask what possible reason does the PUC and Cal Fire have that would cause them to conceal evidence from the public. My time was cut short and I was not allowed to address the panel. Although opening statements indicated that the PUC was here to gain knowledge from the public which could help them understand the cause of the fires, they surely did not want to hear from me. Subsequently my time was cut short and the PUC would not allow me talk. I provided, for the record, a complete exhibit list with all evidence, which can be seen on my website. I agree with the gentleman's comment above, that the hearing was a charade. The PUC was only putting on a show to try to make it look like they were interested in the community.

Fortunately, a lady by the name of Miriam Raftery called me on my way home. Ms Raftery is a reporter for East County Magazine. Following her own investigation after I took her out and physically showed her the locations, Ms. Raftery published a story in February of 2009 that was the first to publish what I had to say, the full story, and did not dance around the issues for fear of repercussions from the corporate giant, Sempra Energy

June 23, 2009
County Board of Supervisors Meeting

I was sent an anonymous email informing me of a County Board of Supervisors Meeting scheduled June 23, 2009, to discuss SDG&E's plan to cut off power during high winds and dry conditions in an attempt to prevent future fires. I presented yet another package to the Board of Supervisors, for the record, documenting why the fires were starting and that the Utility's plan is strictly smoke and mirrors to cover up the real problem. I got the

same response from the Board of Supervisors as I did with my package to the PUC, which was no response, no follow up, no questions.

October 28, 2009,
4 months later
Letter to President Obama

Now that I have exhausted all avenues to try to find someone who is concerned for the safety of the citizens of San Diego County, and without response or an attempt of resolution, I have drafted a letter to President Obama asking for federal intervention. The letter is attached in the last section of this book.

Conclusion:

Out of 165 fires SDG&E has accepted responsibility for, only four were infernos with catastrophic results. All others were localized with minimal damage. Of the 4 infernos, the Rice Fire was started by a tree breaking off in the wind, but the 2003 Cedar and Paradise fires along with the 2007 Witch Creek fire resulted from the design problem I discovered., Now the utility wants to shut power off to remote areas to prevent fires. I suggest fixing the problem that caused the fires. Step up the tree-trimming program and correct the down guy design. The 2003 Cedar, 2003 Paradise and the 2007 Witch Creek fire's would have never started if SDG&E had installed the pole line correctly.

If one takes the time to learn and understand the magnitude of what is going on in San Diego county, one can only thank God if they don't live there and pray for the ones who do. I can prove this design problem started the Cedar

and Paradise fire in 2003. Only four years later, in 2007 the same conditions existed in order for another fire, the Witch Creek fire to start. We are now in 2010, approaching the fire season. The burned grass has grown back from the 2007 fires, the design problem has not been corrected and it is just a matter of time before another devastating inferno will put the lives of everyone living in those areas, their homes and property in jeopardy again. It could be as early as this year or it may not occur for a few more years, but rest assured, it is just a matter of time and our local government agencies are letting SDG&E get away with it.

At the end of the day, it is my opinion that SDG&E has engaged in insurance fraud, since the utility knows they have a problem, and are forcing the insurance companies to pay since the insurance companies don't have the technical expertise to prove a case against the utility. Consequently, consumer insurance rates go up and the citizens of San Diego county help pay for the SDG&E corporate cover up.

I am optimistic and hopeful that the letter to the President of the United States, his Vice President and the California Governor will get attention as this is a matter of Homeland Security. At what point does the government step in when a corporate giant flexes their political and financial strength to divert attention in order to cover up and intentionally ignore a problem that puts it's citizen's safety at risk. If our own local state agencies look the other way, refuse to investigate properly and appear to be in collaboration with the corporate giant, who do you turn to for help? Not only are we threatened abroad by terrorists, but by a corporate giant here in our own homeland who is putting everyone it serves at risk. Hopefully our federal government will take notice and come to the defense of the citizens of San Diego County.

I challenge any reader, especially those involved, to prove me wrong. I have been retained many times by Sempra as an expert witness, so consequently my technical competence will not be challenged on this matter by Sempra, SDG&E or any other engineer in the country who understands the affects of ground current.

This has been a difficult journey. I have learned a lot about people. For all of you I have talked to, who have the experience, knowledge and expertise to understand this, and who agree with me, yet would not come forward for fear of repercussions, I don't know how you sleep at night.

This journey has defined a lot of people for me, including myself. There are those who have the technical competence, the internal instincts and the ability to stand strong simply because it is the right thing to do.

With one last ray of hope, on May 8, 2010, I decided to drive down to where the Paradise Fire started, to see if any changes had been made prior to printing this story. To my surprise, the very pole that I identified as starting the 2003 Paradise Fire was finally replaced by SDG&E sometime in 2010 with a new pole and new down guy design that will prevent arcing at ground level. The question is: has SDG&E fixed all of the poles along Transmission line 637 at the location of the 2003 Cedar and 2007 Witch Creek Fire?

Replacing the pole at the start of the 2003 Paradise fire should raise a lot of questions of “why now?”. Was Ed Clark right or wrong? Now that all of the existing class actions suits are settled and SDG&E paid without admitting guilt, and at minimal cost, SDG&E can now fix, the down guy design problem without additional exposure. Ultimately others had to pay the difference for what SDG&E caused. *Hence, the perfect corporate cover up.*

You can see my credentials, all of the exhibits, newspaper articles, the Fox 6 News clip, and listen to a radio interview with the Truth Brigaid, at www.theelectricalexpert.com. In the following section are copies of the letter to the President of the United States, along with meeting minutes to the PUC and Cal Fire meetings.

June 10, 2010 (8-months after letter to the President)

1. No response from President Obama or his staff
2. No response from our California Governor
3. No response from the Vice President

***It is not a function of “IF” it is a function of “WHEN”
SDG&E will cause the next fire in San Diego***

Leadership starts at the very top. When those at the top, whether elected officials, corporate or private executives, don’t have the courage to be pro-active, it leaves those who rely on them without a leader. Just look at the source of the financial crises, BP Oil crisis, Enron, etc. It all comes down to the inability to lead.

The end

Attachments

1. Meeting Minutes with the California Public Utilities Commission: Dated: January 16, 2008
2. Meeting minutes with Cal Fire
Dated: April 16, 2008
3. Letter to President Obama
Dated October 28, 2009

Edward L. Clark, Jr.

From: Edward L. Clark, Jr. [ed@theelectricalexpert.com]
Sent: Wednesday, January 16, 2008 4:36 PM
To: 'mai@cpuc.ca.gov'
Cc: 'rst@cpuc.ca.gov'; 'rgf@cpuc.ca.gov'; 'ffd@cpuc.ca.gov'
Subject: San Diego County Wild fire
Attachments: Pole placement Witch Fire.jpg; Clarification GO-95 Rule 56.doc

Meeting Held 1/15/08 Mssrs.: Raffy Stepanian CPUC Ed Clark, The Electrical Expert, San Diego Fires
Mahmoud (Steve) Antabli, P.E. CPUC
Fadi Daye, P.E. CPUC
Raymond Fugere, P.E.

Meeting was called to review findings by Ed Clark regarding the San Diego Fires.
Following Introductions, Ed Clark reviewed his credentials, background, work experience and Education.
Ed Clark asked if any participants had previously designed or built a Utility Power Line? Anser NO

Acknowledged that this meeting was for information only from Ed Clark to the PUC due to an on going investigation by the PUC.

General discussion: Reviewed report published on the internet by Ed Clark on www.theelectricalexpert.com
Reviewed Ed Clarks position regarding the PUC GO-95 specifically rule 56, (see attachment)
General Discussion commenced regarding interpretations of rule 56.
Provided lab results for verification of carbon resulting from arcing.
Had dialogue regarding a variety of potential violations like : Loose Guy wires, Qualifications of SDG&E Engineers and their responsibility to ensure safe design.
Ed Clark reviewed why he felt the only way this problem gets resolved and fixed do to the liability to SDG&E is by going public to allow the regulators and others to oversee that it gets done and not allow SDG&E to defer do to other litigation,
Ed Clark outlined that the entire system needs to be inspected, corrected and evidence preserved as soon as possible to prevent more fires.

The meeting concluded with Ed Clark making himself available for a site visit or at anytime to answer questions.

OBSERVATION: I do appreciate the opportunity to meet and explain my findings to you. However, we all have different backgrounds, so it is OK not to agree on an interpretation. With what is at stake for the communities in San Diego County I do need to share my frustration in a comment made that "technically, in your opinion, Rule 56D-2", the 3" rule is maintained by the distance of a bolt.

I just need to go on record with you, that this rule is for an ELECTRICAL UTILITY. You are all Electrical Engineers looking at an Electrical (NOT MECHANICAL) violation. We all agreed that guy wires on not supposed to come in contact to prevent circulating current. That is the reason for the 3"rule. Consequently, since a bolt was utilized to connect the two guy wires, there is ZERO Electrical distance. Consequently a violation.

It appears to me, (please don't take offense) that since you have not designed a power line before, this problem is new to you, you can only interpret based on the literal sense of the text. So with that in mind, I guess I can see how you are looking at this. Please look at the electrical interpretation of why the rule is in place. If possible go back and find who wrote the rule and have them review with you. I realize that sometimes especially when the exposure is so high to an entity, sometime we look for the Political Technicality (to be safe) rather than acknowledge a very basic error. As I indicated yesterday, if it is against the rules for them to come in contact, then it is against the rules for an Engineer to make contact intentionally through a metal object (a bolt).

One of the comments made yesterday was the responsibility of SDG&E to have competent Engineers who understand what they are designing to protect the public. I am calling on you, (for the Public) for the same level of professionalism and interpret the rule as it is intended "For an Electrical Application in a High Voltage Electrical Utility". Anything less, well you see the consequences.

The rules are not vague, I recognized th problem immediately upon visiting the site and no other Utilitiy I am aware of has had this problem.

Per your request in our meeting yesterday, please refer to the attached map.

The red line you see between pole 416685 and 416686 is the fire line from the fire department for the witch fire.

The lab results provided to you were on pole 416686 from the 2003 Cedar Fire according to arson investigators.

I would start your investigation at pole 416686 and work your way back. Open up yellow covers so you can see carbon in side the covers. Also observe the ground rod that is in the ground and ask the question when was it installed and by who? What was the reason?. Note that it is next to the guy anchor.????

Next go to pole 416685. This was one of the locations the fire actually started.

Pole 416679 is the location shown in the slide show of the Fire starting as well. This pole 416679 is the same general location that the property owner took us to and was the general location established as the point of origin. I of course am taking the position that the fire point of origin is multiple locations.

As you start at the beginning, observe all of the poles with this wrong design as far as you can drive, approx. every 3 or 4 poles.. The map attached is just a partial map, the farther you drive the more locations you can collect data and see what is going on.

You will need a 4-wheel drive truck. I would be happy to meet with you and show you around if needed.

Ed Clark

Meeting Minutes

Drafted by: Ed Clark

Date: April 16, 2008

Time: 10:30 am

Attendees: Jim Garrett, Cal Fire
Ed Clark, The Electrical Expert

Location: Site of the Witch Creek Fire
Highway 78, Drown/Tullock Property

The meeting originated at the request of Howard Windsor. Howard Windsor will take over the San Diego area Cal Fire effective May 1, 2008.

The meeting commenced at 10:30 am at the location where SDG&E has a couple poles on the ground.

Ed Clark presented (2) copies of the following documents to Jim Garrett.

1. Report from S&N Labs dated December 4, 2007
Two samples taken with test reports showing high contents of the following:
O,C,Si, Fe, Zn, Al, Ca, Ma, K, Ti
Higher to Lower in content left to right.
2. Three pictures showing burning starting at guy wire anchor.
3. Eight Pictures, various locations showing Evidence of Arcing.
4. Three pictures of three locations showing carbon residue on Down Guy Covers.

Jim Garrett: directed Ed Clark not to take any more carbon samples to prevent from tampering with evidence.

Ed Clark: Indicated he did not see any reason to visit the sight again unless Cal Fire or the PUC requires assistance.

Jim Garrett: said regarding the Witch Fire, he cannot discuss any details due to pending investigation and since Ed Clark is a potential witness. Said he can only listen to what Ed Clark has to say in an effort to gather information.



The Electrical Expert ***Forensic Analysis & Expert Witness***

Ed Clark and Jim Garrett drove to the first pole up-wind that had two down guy anchors attached, Pole Number 416679.

Ed Clark showed Jim Garrett the Pictures he was given was this same location. Ed Clark Identified the burned bush in the picture and showed Jim Garrett the Burn marks on the ground leaving the down guy anchor.

Jim Garrett asked what makes me think the Fire started there?

Ed Clark showed Jim Garrett the wind direction and stated that there is no explanation for the fire to move up wind exactly to the down guy anchor. Ed Clark showed Jim Garrett where the arcing occurs and explained why the arcing occurs because of a common bolt utilized to tie the down guys together on the pole

Ed Clark told Jim Garrett there were three other locations that it appeared the fire could have ignited. Ed Clark offered to show Jim Garrett the other locations. Jim Garrett declined and indicated he was there to only listen and understand the theory of how arcing may have occurred. He said that determining if arcing exists and gathering that type of evidence falls under the jurisdiction of the PUC and was not his expertise.

CEDAR AND PARADISE FIRE:

Jim Garrett moved the conversation to inquiries about the Cedar and Paradise Fire. Jim Garrett asked, what makes you think this design had anything to do with the Cedar Fire when a man has already been convicted of the cedar Fire.

Ed Clark stated that the Hunter may have been falsely accused and a “great escape goat for SDG&E” since it points public attention to the Hunter and not SDG&E.

Jim Garrett, took offense to the comment by Ed Clark and said again, “So you think he was an escape goat”?

Ed Clark responded with, not necessarily intentionally by the investigators. At the time of the investigation, the arcing problem was not known, consequently conclusions are drawn by investigators based on what they know or what they think at the time of an investigation. If investigators have zeroed in on a hunter, SDG&E is not going to come out and say the investigators are wrong, even if they knew of the problem because of the magnitude of Damage they don’t want to pay for.



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Ed Clark stated: that it was his review of the Hunters information on the internet that prompted his efforts to bring the information to Cal Fire for review because it was information that was apparently not available at the time. Ed Clark stated that if any of us would have been in the same situation where you are the only person being charged, and you are given an opportunity to plea bargain and admit to starting the fire to stay of the State Penitentiary, we all would have done the same thing.

Jim Garrett said to Ed Clark that he was not convincing him that this utility design problem had anything to do with the Cedar fire, that the origin is clearly documented. Ed Clark pointed out that the report provided with lab results, is a pole that he was told by other Arson investigators was a pole associated with the Cedar Fire. Jim Garrett said just because a pole with this design is in the burn area, doesn't mean it started the fire. Carbon is also caused by brush. Ed Clark responded with: a brush fire and an electrical arc will have different elements in the test results. A brush fire is not going to cause an electrical arc, only Electricity resulting from ground current or induction will cause an Electrical Arc. Jim Garrett indicated that topic was outside his expertise.

Ed Clark offered to take Jim Garrett to the pole location that he feels is associated with the Cedar Fire. Jim Garrett declined and said he did not need to see it. Ed Clark pointed out that at that location there are ground rods located next to the down guy anchor that is not consistent with GO-95 and he would like to show him because Ed Clark feels it might be an indicator that SDG&E had knowledge of arcing before the Witch Fire. Jim Garrett again declined and did not see the need to go look at that location..

Jim Garrett, said that he understands now the theory and how arcing can occur, but he is not convinced it had anything to do with the Cedar or Witch Fire because he can't understand why there are only big fires and not some small fires. Ed Clark pointed out the pictures were taken just after the Witch fire. Regardless if you understand or not, the pictures don't lie. There is not any other explanation when I can show you evidence of arcing and undisputable pictures taken immediately after the fire with burn marks leaving the anchor down wind with burn tracks that have rapidly spread.

Ed Clark stated that according to the internet, no one has ever figured out the cause of the 2003 Paradise Fire and there are approx. 30 other fires that have gone unresolved. Ed Clark indicated he printed the burn area of the Paradise Fire off the internet and went to what appeared to be the front edge of the fire, only to find the same design problem.

Additionally, Ed Clark stated that this design may only be limited to a couple of 69kv lines which would limit the number of fires caused by this design and all the conditions have to line up, i.e. low humidity, heat, high wind and extreme dry conditions.

Ed Clark offered to go show the pole at the start of the Paradise fire, to Jim Garrett. Jim Garrett declined and said the Paradise fire was determined to be Arson and the case is closed.



The Electrical Expert ***Forensic Analysis & Expert Witness***

Jim Garrett said he did not hear me saying that it is possible, that arcing may not have contributed to the Cedar Fire. Ed Clark responded with, I could understand your conclusions based on what you knew at the time. Ed Clark indicated that he is not discounting, that the hunter might be responsible for starting the fire. However based on the internet it was circumstantial evidence. Nobody witnessed the hunter starting the fire; he was just in the area. Ed Clark asked Jim Garrett if it was worth considering the possibility that the cedar fire could have started in multiple areas, just like what I have identified for the Witch Fire. That maybe the hunter was falsely accused, or even the possibility that the Hunter may not have contributed to the entire fire, maybe just a portion.

Jim Garrett Responded with NO, the case is closed. There would have been no way for us to miss this. There were too many trained people looking at this and tracking the fire.

BACK TO THE WITCH FIRE:

Jim Garrett asked if this is a State Wide Problem. Ed Clark indicated that he had not seen this design in his travels, however since it is a human error, all utilities should be reminded to review their systems.

Ed Clark said he was told that the Transmission Line 637 was currently under Cal Fire jurisdiction and de-energized. Jim Garrett confirmed THE LINE WAS DE-ENERGIZED.

ED CLARK ASKED JIM GARRETT TO TELL ALL INVOLVED THAT JUST BECAUSE THE LINE IS DE-ENERGIZED, THE DANGER OF A FIRE STILL EXISTS RESULTING FROM SYSTEM GROUND FAULTS. DEENERGIZNG THE LINE IS A FALSE SENSE OF SECURITY AND WILL NOT PREVENT ANOTHER FIRE FROM STARTING UNDER THE RIGHT CONDITIONS.

Jim Garrett asked Ed Clark who the other Arson investigators were that investigated the fires with me? Ed Clark provided names and a phone number for the other investigator who has taken a lot of samples along the pole line.

Ed Clark closed with explaining that he has now met with SDG&E, the PUC, and now Cal Fire. The results are now in the hands of the state regulators to either force SDG&E to correct or not.

Ed Clark stated that regardless of the outcome, if SDG&E insists on NOT correcting a problem that there Protection Engineering Department fully understands and is aware of, and another Fire starts and one more person gets hurt or loses a home, it should be considered an act of ARSON by SDG&E Executives.

Meeting adjourned.



The Electrical Expert ***Forensic Analysis & Expert Witness***

Conclusion – Analysis (NOT PART OF MEETING MINUTES) by Ed Clark

It is my observation that it appears to me, that we are in a pickle. The responsibilities of Cal Fire and the PUC do not overlap. On one hand I am told by the PUC, they are waiting for the results of Cal Fire. Cal Fire won't make a determination of arcing because that is the PUC responsibility and outside their expertise. The line is de-energized pending the outcome of the investigations not realizing that this will not prevent the Electrical arcing identified by Ed Clark.

On one hand, I have documented my past concerns regarding the PUC level of experience to investigate since their investigators do not have Utility experience, Engineering, designing or building power lines. On this specific issue, I get the feeling that Cal Fire is waiting to get confirmation from the PUC since it falls under their jurisdiction. The PUC has not published a report as of this date, despite me physically showing a PUC investigator in person the arcing that has occurred and the same has provided a statement to the San Diego Union Tribune confirming arcing is occurring. Both the PUC and Cal Fire are interfacing with a Utility who is supposed to be the Expert who appears to be attempting to deny, divert attention, making false statements to the media, for fear of admitting fault.

I have provided undisputable pictures with burn patterns leaving a down guy anchor in the same area as the fire has been identified as starting, and lab results providing an electrical arc is occurring.

Consequently, I feel I have done everything I can to get this, what I consider a cover up, to SDG&E, the Public, and Public officials who are supposed to protect the citizens of San Diego County.

I am optimistic and hopeful to see a meeting of the minds between the PUC and Cal Fire to bring this issue to rest and force SDG&E to make corrections before another fire is started.

Cc: Howard Windsor



The Electrical Expert ***Forensic Analysis & Expert Witness***

October 28, 2009

President Obama

The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue NW
Washington, DC 20500

Reference: **Homeland Security, Corporate Cover-up and Insurance Fraud**

Dear Mr. President,

On the two-year anniversary of one of the largest fires in Southern California history, I am calling out for your help for a Federal Intervention regarding what is, in my opinion, the largest Corporate Cover-up and Insurance Fraud Scheme in American History that threatens the citizens' lives in San Diego County.

I would like to point you to a website that I created two years ago to publicize the cause of the 2003 Cedar and Paradise fires, along with the 2007 Witch Creek fire. Please go to www.theelectricalexpert.com. This has been necessary resulting from Semptra Energy and SDG&E refusing to fix a dangerous design problem for fear of it admitting guilt.

Semptra Energy is a corporate giant in San Diego County who contributes to the local economy through taxes, advertising, etc. The California Public Utilities Commission, along with Cal Fire, has refused multiple requests for a meeting of the minds with everyone, including myself, in the same room to discuss this issue and resolve. I had an independent field trip with each organization, Cal Fire and the CPUC, where each provided one employee. Although the CPUC admitted to the problem, arcing at ground level, with the Union Tribune, both organizations failed to disclose the contents of the investigation in their public reports. The investigator for Cal Fire was the same investigator for the 2003 Cedar Fire where I feel a gentleman was falsely accused. Despite my requests to the head of Cal Fire in San Diego and the City Attorney at the time, I was not allowed access to the only field investigation where all parties were present to show how the fire started.

When you have a problem that is so big, resulting from something so simple, most cannot comprehend. By the sheer technical nature, it is easy for the utility giant to dodge, not address, and divert attention through intimidation, lawyers, the legal process, etc. The total damages from 2003 Cedar and Paradise Fires, I understand, are in the range of 4-5 billion; the 2007 fires, approximately 4 billion. I understand Semptra recently settled for policy limits of 1 billion. The balance is absorbed by the insurance companies and passed on to the citizens. It is easy to understand why Semptra has gone to great lengths to side step addressing this issue. A 1-billion-



The Electrical Expert ***Forensic Analysis & Expert Witness***

dollar settlement is better than taking the hit and possible punitive damages for intentional acts. In the meantime, this problem that is causing fires is not disclosed to new insurance carriers or corrected, setting new carriers up for catastrophic exposure as well. I presented my findings directly to SDG&E in 2007. The cost to fix the problem is approximately \$50,000, which includes the addition of a \$20 bolt on a variety of poles. To date, to the best of my knowledge, nothing has been done to correct a dangerous condition.

You can see the magnitude, the embarrassment, the exposure, and the potential impact to the local economy caused by Sempra Energy. I have gone to great lengths on my own to contact and document a paper trail to make sure the executives of Sempra Energy, SDG&E, Cal Fire, and the CPUC are aware and who is intentionally not taking action to protect the community it is chartered to serve. The impact to the Corporate bottom line or the local economy is not an excuse to look the other way and not put public safety first.

Despite the pickle that Sempra Energy has gotten themselves into, each fire gets them in deeper and deeper. More people lose their loved ones and homes. At what point are those choosing not to act get held accountable? I am calling on you, as the President of Our United States, to intervene, open a Federal Investigation in order to remedy and take action protecting a community where the utility, Sempra Energy, has full knowledge of a design problem and is intentionally not fixing because of the exposure to its bottom line.

Without help from the Federal Government on this issue, the local community does not have a chance. The CPUC and Cal Fire have employees on advisory boards of the utilities. These people all work together. The rooster is watching the hen house, and nobody will speak out and take action.

I am amazed how many people with knowledge of this, who agree, will not come out publicly against SDG&E and Sempra for fear of the repercussions. A federal investigation with testimony under oath to current SDG&E employees, attorneys, as well as past employees, and local consultants will reveal very disturbing information. Executives of Sempra, SDG&E, the PUC, and Cal Fire should all be held liable to the full extent of the law.

You don't know me. I am sure this is hard to believe. I have testified for and against Sempra as an expert on many occasions. Sempra cannot challenge my technical background on this matter, and has not made any effort to prove me wrong. I have chosen this path because it is the right thing to do. As our Commander and Chief responsible for the safety of our Nation, we have one our own, Sempra Energy, SDG&E, Cal Fire and the PUC intentionally looking the other way and putting the San Diego community in harm's way. We need your help.

Please contact me, should you have any questions.
Sincerely,

Edward L. Clark Jr.
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The Electrical Expert ***Forensic Analysis & Expert Witness***

cc: Debra L. Reed, President and CEO SDG&E
Michael R. Niggli, COO SDG&E
Dennis Arriola, Senior VP and CFO
W Davis Smith Senior VP and General Counsel
Pamela J. Fair, Vice President Environmental, Safety and Facilities

Don E. Felsinger, Chairman and CEO, Sempra Energy
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Bonnie Dumanis San Diego District Attorney

Vice President Joseph R. Biden
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Sent via e-mail

Howard Windsor, Cal Fire
Jim Garrett, Cal Fire
Raffy Stepanian, CPUC
Mahmoud Antabli CPUC
Fadi Day, CPUC
Raymon Fugere, CPUC
Larry Davis, Attorney, Sempra Energy
Miriam Raftery, East County Magazine
Jeff McDonald, Union Tribune
Brooke Beare, Fox 6 news

POWER, MONEY, & GREED



This story is true based on me, Ed Clark, investigating the cause of the 2007 fires in Southern California. This story is about a corporate utility giant putting corporate bottom line profits over public Safety. You will see two government agencies, the Public Utilities Commission and Cal Fire working in concert, concealing evidence to prevent the public from learning how the 2003 Cedar and Paradise fires started along with the 2007 Witch Creek Fire. You will see two government agencies refusing multiple requests to have a meeting of the minds with all parties involved to understand how these fires have started. It is apparent to me that Cal Fire falsely prosecuted an innocent man regarding the 2003 Cedar Fire, resulting in Cal Fire, and the PUC working in concert in what appears to be one of the largest Corporate Cover ups in modern day history.

SDG&E, a public utility has successfully utilized the legal system, manipulated the cause of the 2007 Witch Creek fire to cause insurance companies to pay for the devastation caused by a basic design error. The cost ultimately will be passed on to the citizens and ratepayers of San Diego County.