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Edward L. Clark, Jr.

From: Edward L. Clark, Jr. [ed@theelectricalexpert.com]
Sent: Wednesday, February 13, 2008 9:07 AM
To: 'mai@cpuc.ca.gov'
Subject: SDG&E

Good Morning Steve,

Thank you for taking the time to let me show you the problems I found in San Diego this past week on Transmission Line 637 and 682. As we were driving around, you had mentioned that you felt that SDG&E would ask the PUC for the money to remedy this problem to the tune of millions of dollars that would then be passed on to the rate payers. I am sure that is what SDG&E would like you to think that this problem is that extensive. Please understand I showed you approximately 10 poles on Transmission line 637 and one pole on transmission line 682. Transmission Line 637 is in the heart of the Cedar Fire and the Witch Fire. I only found one pole that I showed you on the Paradise Fire. It appears that the Paradise fire must have burned up a lot of poles since it appears most have been replaced with an adequate design already.

As you know my company had overhead line crews where I did estimating for all types of High Voltage Construction and Design. To remedy the locations I have found, by adding a \$20 bolt and separating the down guys on the pole by 12" to prevent current from flowing, would not take an SDG&E crew more than 5-days to complete all of the locations. The cost of material is one bolt per pole at approx. \$20 per bolt. The total cost of labor and material to fix all locations that I have found, should not exceed 10-20 thousand dollars depending on SDG&E loaded rates.

Do to the proximity of the points of attachment of the down guys to the primary conductors, an outage would be required on the line. Once the line is de-energized and grounded each pole should not take more than an hour on each pole for a two man crew. If SDG&E argues they need a full blown transmission crew, that is fine, once the line is de-energized they should be able to complete all of the poles on Transmission line 637 do to the simplicity, in one long day, maybe two days at most by working multiple poles at the same time. Any other poles that may be found, if any at all, can be fixed on an as found basis. I don't suspect this problem on distribution poles, only potentially 69kv lines.

I would suggest a mandate to fix this problem immediately, and report any other locations if found to evaluate the potential cause of past fires.

By just adding the bolt and separating the down guy, the existing down guy conductors can be re-connected without replacing actual down guy conductor, to prevent from removing any evidence, at ground level, do to potential pending litigation.

To me this is a small price to require SDG&E to pay when you consider the overall cost of just the Witch Fire to the community. Hopefully this will let you understand my frustration that SDG&E did not fix immediately upon me presenting this problem to them.

It is wrong for executives to hide behind pending litigation, not take immediate action when this problem was brought to their attention, when public safety is at risk.

Please call with any questions.

Ed Clark