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Edward L. Clark, Jr.

From: Edward L. Clark, Jr. [ed@theelectricalexpert.com]
Sent: ~~***~~ Wednesday, May 28, 2008 12:13 PM
To: 'mai@cpuc.ca.gov'
Cc: 'rst@cpuc.ca.gov'; 'rgf@cpuc.ca.gov'; 'ffd@cpuc.ca.gov'; 'Windsor, Howard'; 'cldavis@sempra.com'; 'jeff.mcdonald@uniontrib.com'; 'Dave Downey'; 'Brooke Beare'; 'Aguirre, Michael'; 'Welch, Clay'
Subject: Construction Standard "Guy Wires"
Attachments: Guy wire requirements.pdf

Good Morning Mr. Antabli,

Pursuant to our phone conversation yesterday, and your request, please find attached a copy of Construction Methods TO201 from Southern California Edison Construction Methods Book.

Please refer to paragraph 6. "When two or more guy wires are installed in close proximity to each other, the attachment of one guy shall not overlap that of another, but each shall be entirely independent of the other and at least 12" apart at the point of attachment".

This should clear up any confusion on what SCE allows for their facilities as an example and supports my interpretation of GO-95. I would suspect that a similar comment in a SDG&E construction methods book should you get your hands on a copy, as well as all other Electrical Utilities. If you are able to get a copy, I would appreciate a copy as well for review and my file.

Please note that as of this date, the design/installation error still exists and has not been corrected. The fire season is near, I am very concerned that despite the simplicity of what I have found, the PUC has not issued its report despite me showing you in person.

You indicated yesterday, you are still waiting for a report from Cal Fire. My field meeting with a Cal Fire representative, revealed that Cal Fire feels the arcing and down guy design falls under the PUC jurisdiction, hence I understand Cal Fire is waiting for the PUC report on that issue.

Additionally, yesterday when I shared this construction standard with you, you questioned why the rule is written. It was obviously written by someone who understands the effects of ground current. Any protection Engineer out of SCE, SDG&E, or PG&E can help you all understand this very simple design error if will help expedite your report.

I still stand on the fact that this is a localized problem on the SDG&E system, it is not a state wide problem, and needs to be corrected immediately to protect the public in San Diego. It is most likely isolated to the few locations I have identified and I surely hope it does not take another fire and somebody else getting killed or losing their home for this issue to get raised to a priority status for resolution.

I am still available to attend a meeting with all parties, the PUC, Cal Fire, SDG&E executives and SDG&E Protection Engineers if that is what it takes to get all involved in the same room. There is not anyone in SDG&E or Sempra that can dispute my findings on this issue, despite the position that has been taken to date. If anyone within SDG&E disputes this issue, I would like to be in the same room for discussion with SDG&E executives to listen in so they can evaluate and take appropriate action.

Please recall the resolution to this issue is approx. 50K to remedy this at the locations I have found and can be accomplished in less than one week.

How do any of us explain this to a family, if another life is lost resulting from a fire caused by down guy arcing, simply because the people responsible who can do something about it, and are responsible, are reluctant to publish their findings. There is no excuse for delays on an issue so critical to public safety. There is no excuse for those responsible not to take the time to understand this, not to take action, and there is no excuse for anyone to be able to hide behind the legal system as a method to mitigate and defer fixing this.

Regards,

Edward L. Clark, Jr.

sent certified Mail to the following:

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

Don E. Felsing, Chairman and CEO, Sempra Energy
Neal E. Schmale, President and COO, Sempra Energy

Bonnie Mr. Dumanis, San Diego District Attorney

Tracking:

Recipient**Read**

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Where the mechanical loads to be imposed upon the poles are greater than can be safely supported by the poles, additional strength shall be provided by the use of guys. This applies particularly to angles and deadends where the conductor stresses are sufficiently unbalanced to make guying necessary.

No guys shall be attached to trees or other private property, except in special cases. Permission to do so must be obtained in writing from the owner.

Guy wires shall be placed and maintained with clearances from conductors or other wires not less than those specified in Table 1 and 2, General Order 95.

Where required by the rules of G.O. 95, porcelain strain insulators of the interlocking type shall be used in all guys attached to poles.

All guys shall be attached to poles with special hardware designed for the purpose. Preformed guy grips will be used to make up guy heads and strain insulators. *Automatic guy grips are recommended for anchor end of guys.

When two or more guy wires are installed in close proximity to each other, the attachment of one guy shall not overlap that of another, but each shall be entirely independent of the other and at least 12 inches apart at the point of attachment to the pole.

Guys should be installed and adjusted before the conductors are strung so that the pole or crossarm will stand in its proper position when the entire unbalanced stress is taken by the guy.

Wherever possible down guy leads (distance from pole to eye of anchor rod) should be equal to or greater than the height of the guy attachment above ground. If it is impractical to install a satisfactory anchor guy at the deadend pole, the stress may be carried by means of a span guy to an adjacent pole which can be properly guyed.

Power-installed screw anchors (PISA) are the preferred type of anchor to be used in transmission construction.