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The Electrical Expert
Forensic Analysis & Expert Witness

SENT VIA CERTIFIED MAIL TO MSSRS

May 7, 2008

Mssrs: 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, M. Dumanis, San Diego District Attorney

REF: San Diego Wild Fires, Public Safety

Ladies and Gentlemen,

This letter should serve to put you, the executives of San Diego Gas and Electric along with its parent company Sempra Energy, on Notice and Document your knowledge at the "Executive Level" of a dangerous design on Transmission Lines 637 and 682 on the San Diego Gas and Electric Sub-Transmission System that in my opinion was the start of the 2007 Witch Fire and appears to have contributed to the 2003 Cedar and Paradise Fires.

You can view the report that I presented to Larry Davis, the attorney for San Diego Gas and Electric, on December 17, 2007, accompanied by three SDG&E employees, at www.theelectricalexpert.com. You can also see a very good news clip done by Brooke Beare of Fox 6 news that explains the design problem on the same web site.. The SDG&E employees consisted of Department Heads for Protection Engineering, Transmission Engineering, and the Manager of both Protection Engineering and Transmission Engineering. As you click through the report (slide show), look closely at slide 29. This picture depicts a burn path leaving a down guy anchor on Transmission line 637 on the SDG&E system caused by arcing at the point of contact between the down guy itself and the down guy anchor. This picture cannot be disputed, as I was accompanied by two other Arson Investigators and it was taken within days of the Witch fire starting.

I have attached for your review correspondence and minutes to meetings with the California Public Utilities Commission and Cal Fire. It is my opinion that the pending investigations are at a stale mate between the PUC and Cal Fire, thus prompting this transmittal. Each organization is waiting for a report from the other. In the mean time, the summer hot months and the potential

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for fires are closing in on the citizens of San Diego County. As of this date, nothing has been done by SDG&E to remedy the dangerous design, despite the minimal cost of approximately 50k total.

It is ironic to me that neither organization tasked with investigating the California Fires has in-house experience in Engineering and Designing of Power lines, or ever working for an Electrical Utility. Case in point is that this design existed and I believe contributed or caused the 2003 Cedar and/or Paradise Fire. Cal Fire is waiting for the PUC report to conclude arcing exists despite the PUC publicly acknowledging arcing is occurring to Jeff McDonald of the San Diego Union Tribune, along with me physically showing both the PUC and Cal Fire the locations. The PUC is waiting for a Report from Cal Fire. Both organizations have informed me they are each waiting for the other to file a report. There appears to be a jurisdictional conflict, between two governmental agencies on who is responsible. Consequently, despite the immediate danger to the public, **BOTH THE PUC AND CAL FIRE HAVE INFORMED ME THEY CANNOT SHARE RESULTS OF THEIR INVESTIGATION WITH ME.** Therefore, until I see the design corrected, or get notification that the design will be corrected by a date certain, to prevent arcing from occurring, I am left without choice but to continue escalating the level of notification to executives who have a moral and ethical duty to put public safety as the highest priority, and as a Public Utility is ultimately responsible to insure safe designs.

You can verify my technical background on the website above. My resume is posted on my website and Larry Davis (Sempra Energy Attorney) can verify that I have successfully represented Sempra Energy on several high profile cases, one of which was in San Jacinto where ground current caused arcing between a gas pipe and a water pipe that burned approx. a 1/2" hole in an underground gas line. I was retained in the San Jacinto case by Larry Davis following the failure of all other experts to determine the cause. The Electrical explanation in the San Jacinto case and the Witch Fire is the same. **In both cases electrical arcing was caused by ground current.** In the San Jacinto case, Sempra utilized my position and explanation to resolve and settle the San Jacinto case to get out of the liability. On another case out in Palm Desert, I found where ground current caused three condominiums to catch fire resulting from arcing caused by ground current. On the Witch fire, SDG&E has publicly denounced and denied my findings, challenged my credibility to Fox 6 News, and indicated they, "doubt this could happen," despite the fact that I worked with Larry Davis on the San Jacinto case and the case in Palm Desert. I presented this case (2007 Witch Fire) directly to Mr. Davis as well. I reminded Mr. Davis that the electrical reason behind the Witch Fire was identical to the San Jacinto case that he settled. I struggle with the idea that in two cases, when it was to the benefit of Sempra, Sempra supported and understood my position that arcing occurs from ground current and was significant enough to burn a hole in a thick metal underground gas pipe to cause a gas leak, and was the source of three condos catching fire; but in this case, Sempra takes the opposite position with Fox 6 News since it is not to Sempra's benefit.

Pending litigation, posturing for a battle in court, the potential for liability cannot be a reason to "not or defer" making repairs and correct a dangerous design when the design jeopardizes public safety. Litigation as you are aware is cumbersome and slow. If you wait to see the

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outcome of a particular court case, and "choose to wait to see what happens in court" in an effort to avoid or defer liability, more people may die or lose everything they own resulting from additional fires. This design error is Basic Electricity to a Utility Protection Engineer, and the first thing a Transmission Engineer or Planner learns is that down guys cannot touch each other. You surely cannot intentionally tie them together with a metal bolt. SDG&E currently has the expertise to understand this basic design problem within its own organization in the Protection Engineering group. SDG&E appears to be hiding behind Cal Fire, since they currently have the line under their jurisdiction and de-energized as a reason or excuse not go out and fix the design problem. PLEASE NOTE, I have put Cal fire on Notice that **"HAVING THE LINE DE-ENERGIZED DOES NOT PROTECT THE PUBLIC. THE HAZARD STILL EXISTS." A FIRE CAN START EVEN WITH THE LINE DE-ENERGIZED SINCE ARCING IS CAUSE BY GROUND CURRENT.** The problem I have identified takes a perfect scenario to start a fire. I believe this contributed to the 2003 Cedar and Paradise Fire and it took until 2007 for the same occurrence to surface.

For your information, any of your Electrical Protection Engineers within San Diego Gas and Electric can explain to you the effects of ground current and why arcing is occurring at these locations. I would be happy to offer my assistance and put on a discussion for all of you. I would include your Protection Engineers, as well as members of the PUC, and Howard Windsor who recently took over Cal Fire in San Diego County on May 1, 2008.

Please note, I have also included the San Diego District Attorney in this transmittal, in the event that one more fire starts at a location with this design and it can be determined that this safety risk to the public has been "consciously and intentionally ignored" by San Diego Gas and Electric Executives and Sempra Energy Executives, so she can evaluate and take appropriate action. There is not any excuse for Public Utility Executives to not understand this design problem and the danger it presents to the public Furthermore, SDG&E was informed by me on December 17, 2008 without any corrections made to date.. This is a very unfortunate unique situation. Based on the public comments by SDG&E, I have an ethical responsibility to bring this problem to the appropriate level in an effort to get it resolved since to date it appears to me that the potential liability may be such that your content with, "rolling the dice" and just dealing with the court cases and deferring the expense until later at the **risk and expense of the public and pushing the cost of the fires off to Insurance companies** resulting from SDG&E failure to install a \$20 bolt on the affected poles.

Please call me at (714) 903-4499 if you have any questions or require my assistance for clarification.

Sincerely,


Edward L. Clark Jr.

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Cc: Howard Windsor, Cal Fire
Raffy Stepanian, CPUC
Mahmoud (Steve) Antabli, CPUC
Fadi Daye, CPUC
Raymon Fugere, CPUC
Jeff McDonald, San Diego Union Tribune
Brooke Beare, Fox 6, News
Dave Downey, San Diego North County Times
Steve Poizner, California Department of Insurance, Commissioner
Adam Cole, California Department of Insurance, General Counsel

cc: Sent via e-mail w/attachments

Edward L. Clark, Jr.

From: Edward L. Clark, Jr. [ed@theelectricalexpert.com]
Sent: Thursday, May 08, 2008 9:45 AM
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Attachments: SDG&E Executives.pdf; PUC Minutes.pdf; PUC MEMO.pdf; CAL FIRE MINUTES.pdf

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