



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

PRESS RELEASE

Media Contact: Terrie Prosper, 415.703.1366, news@cpuc.ca.gov

CPUC CONTINUES INVESTIGATION OF PG&E PIPELINE EXPLOSION IN FRESNO TO DETERMINE CAUSE OF PIPELINE FAILURE

SAN FRANCISCO, April 20, 2015 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) today said its investigation into last Friday's Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) pipeline explosion in Fresno is continuing and will determine the cause of the explosion and whether there were any violations of State or Federal law by PG&E.

While the in-depth analysis that is being performed by the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division will take some time to complete, the CPUC will work as expeditiously as possible, with assistance from the federal Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration.

During the course of the investigation the CPUC will determine the physical cause of the pipeline rupture and explosion, validate if there was an active 811 call-before-you-dig ticket, verify the accuracy of utility maps and other records, assess PG&E's emergency response performance, and evaluate any factors contributing to the incident. Safety and Enforcement Division staff will also monitor PG&E's repair activities on the damaged pipeline to ensure that it is fully repaired before it is brought back into service.

From initial information, it appears that there was a Fresno County employee performing work in the vicinity of a pipeline and that there was no active 811 call-before-you-dig ticket. The CPUC's investigation will determine whether this was the primary cause of the explosion.

The CPUC reminds everyone - whether you are a contractor replacing grass with drought-resistant plants, or are planting a tree in your backyard - to call 811 before you dig to have your underground



facilities marked. Read more about 811:

- English: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M151/K185/151185077.PDF>
- Chinese: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M151/K180/151180592.PDF>
- Spanish: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M151/K183/151183750.PDF>

For more information about the CPUC, please visit www.cpuc.ca.gov.

###

