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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

09:09 AM

R2110001

Order Instituting Rulemaking to
Develop Safety Culture Assessments
for Electric and Natural Gas Utilities.

Rulemaking 21-10-001

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
SEEKING COMMENT ON POLICY QUESTIONS
FOR SAFETY CULTURE ASSESSMENTS**

Summary

This Ruling requests comment from parties of record on policy questions related to the development of safety culture assessments for Southern California Edison Company (SCE), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas). Parties are directed to respond to this Ruling in the form of comments. Opening comments shall be filed and served no later than August 15, 2022. Reply comments shall be filed and served no later than August 29, 2022.

1. Background

On April 28, 2022, the assigned Commissioner issued her Scoping Memo and Ruling for this proceeding. In her Scoping Memo and Ruling, the assigned Commissioner set a schedule of activities for Phase 1 of this proceeding, which focuses on activity for developing safety culture assessments for the large electric and natural gas investor-owned utilities (IOUs): (1) SCE; (2) SDG&E; (3) PG&E; and (4) SoCalGas. Her Scoping Memo and Ruling also directed parties of record

to participate in technical working group meetings facilitated by the Safety Policy Division of the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission).

On June 16, 2022, Safety Policy Division's first technical working group was held. On June 24, 2022, Safety Policy Division's second technical working group was held. Following these technical working groups, this Ruling solicits formal stakeholder comment on the policy questions below. Attached to this Ruling is a Safety Policy Division Staff Safety Culture Concept Paper 1 (Attachment) that parties should refer to when responding to this Ruling.

2. Request Formal Comment

2.1. Policy Comment Questions

1. What should the primary purpose(s) be for the safety culture assessments? What should stakeholders expect to get out of them;
2. How should the Commission revise its working definition of safety culture, if at all (*see* Attachment)? What and who should be included in the concept of safety used in this OIR: employees, contractors, the public, process/operational safety, assets, environmental protection, *etc.*? Should the boundaries of safety include all people and processes that can impact the safety culture of an organization, and if not, who or what should be excluded;
3. Is there value in having a consistent and coordinated safety culture assessment framework that is used across electric and gas utility organizations? What should the safety culture assessment framework produce? What would make that framework most useful;
4. Do the categories (domains) in the proposed Safety Policy Division safety culture assessment framework adequately describe safety culture within electric and gas utility organizations (*see* Attachment)? Are they complete and comprehensive? If not, what should be added or removed;

5. How should the Commission consider or leverage current safety culture assessment practices underway within electric and natural gas utilities;
6. What collaborative role should the Commission, its sister agencies, SCE, PG&E, SD&GE, and SoCalGas build together to foster safety culture across the government and its regulated entities;
7. Please provide feedback to the proposed ideas for fostering collaboration presented, as presented in the technical working groups. Which activities should be prioritized;
8. What processes or structures could help build trust and create opportunities for IOUs to share information about cultural gaps and work towards improvement;
9. How can we ensure that initiatives intended to foster safety culture improvement and collaboration have IOU buy-in and involvement;
10. How will we know if these initiatives effectively improve safety and reduce harm; and
11. To build collaboration, how should the partnership between the Commission, its regulated entities, and stakeholders be reimaged to ensure shared responsibility and accountability when conducting safety culture assessments? In other words, should the Commission consider any changes to its regulatory approach with stakeholders as related to this proceeding in order to meet its shared safety culture responsibility?

IT IS RULED that:

1. Parties of record shall respond to the questions presented in this Ruling in the form of comments.
2. Opening comments shall be filed and served no later than August 15, 2022.
3. Reply comments shall be filed and served no later than August 29, 2022.

4. The Safety Policy Division Safety Culture Concept Paper 1 is hereby entered into the formal record of this proceeding

Dated July 22, 2022, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ COLIN RIZZO
Colin Rizzo
Administrative Law Judge

ATTACHMENT