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CPUC COMMENTS ON STAFFING CHANGES TO PG&E ENFORCEMENT CASES

SAN FRANCISCO, June 26, 2013 - The California Public Utilities Commission's (CPUC) President, Michael R. Peevey, and Commissioner Mike Florio, today made the following statement regarding CPUC staffing changes in the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) enforcement cases related to the PG&E pipeline rupture in San Bruno, to which they are the lead Commissioners:

As the regulatory body charged with ensuring that the state's natural gas pipeline systems are safely operated and maintained, it is of paramount importance that the CPUC continue to move forward to reach a decision in the PG&E pipeline enforcement cases. We are aware of recent issues surrounding staffing of CPUC attorneys assigned to the cases, and as such, have made internal changes. General Counsel Frank Lindh informed us today that he will recuse himself from his role as chief advisory attorney in the cases, and retired CPUC Assistant General Counsel Arocles Aguilar has agreed to assume that role. We want to express our appreciation to General Counsel Lindh for his work on the cases to date and for his statesmanship in stepping aside, and we welcome Attorney Aguilar back to the CPUC. Further, Assistant General Counsel Harvey Morris has agreed to continue to lead the lawyer team working with Brigadier General (CA) Jack Hagan, Director of the CPUC's Safety and Enforcement Division, on the enforcement cases, which are now awaiting decisions by the Assigned Administrative Law Judges. The Judges will issue their Presiding Officer's Decisions for public comment, to be followed by a vote of the Commissioners, expected in late summer.

Commenting on the staff changes, General Hagan said, “Both the Safety and Enforcement Division and the Legal Division are seeking the same ultimate outcome, which is justice for the people of San Bruno and a safer PG&E pipeline system.”

Added Assistant General Counsel Morris, “While we have had some internal misunderstandings, the lawyer team is committed to working with General Hagan and the Safety and Enforcement Division in the prosecution of PG&E in these important enforcement cases to bring justice to San Bruno and improve pipeline safety in California.”

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