



California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco

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PRESS RELEASE

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Docket #: I.08-11-006; I.08-11-007

CPUC TO INVESTIGATE 2007 FIRES TO DETERMINE WHETHER UTILITY COMPANIES VIOLATED SAFETY REGULATIONS

SAN FRANCISCO, November 12, 2008 - The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has opened two formal investigations to determine whether utility companies violated any rules, regulations, or requirements regarding utility facilities that have been linked to three separate 2007 fires.

The first investigation will determine if San Diego Gas and Electric Company (SDG&E) violated any rules, regulations, or requirements regarding utility facilities that have been linked to the October 2007 Witch and Rice Fires. Also, the investigation will determine whether SDG&E failed to cooperate with CPUC staff in its investigation of the fires.

The second investigation will determine whether Cox Communications and/or SDG&E violated any rules, regulations, or requirements regarding utility facilities that have been linked to the October 2007 Guejito Fire. Also, the investigation will determine whether SDG&E failed to cooperate with CPUC staff in its investigation of the fire.

Hearings will be held as part of both investigations in order that the companies show cause as to why the CPUC should not find violations in this matter, and why the CPUC should not impose penalties, and/or any other forms of relief, if any violations are found.

Regarding the Witch fire, a report by the CPUC's Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) alleges that on October 21, 2007, SDG&E's 69 kV overhead conductors



between two SDG&E poles contacted each other, starting a fire. CPSD alleges that SDG&E was in violation of CPUC regulations at the time of the incident.

CPSD also alleges that on October 22, 2007, a sycamore tree limb broke and fell on SDG&E's 12 kV overhead conductors between two SDG&E poles, causing the conductors to break and fall to the ground. A Cal Fire Report indicated that the Rice Fire was started by downed power lines located between those poles. CPSD alleges that SDG&E was in violation of CPUC regulations at the time of the incident. For more information, please see

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/93739.htm.

Regarding the Guejito Fire, CPSD alleges that on October 22, 2007, a Cox lashing wire contacted SDG&E's 12 kV conductor between two SDG&E poles. A Cal Fire Report indicated that the Guejito Fire started when energized power lines and the Cox lashing wire came in contact with each other. CPSD alleges that Cox was in violation of CPUC rules and that SDG&E failed to fully cooperate with CPSD's investigation. For more information, please see

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/FINAL_DECISION/93741.htm.

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

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