

**Gas Safety Alliance Follow-Up Meeting
PG&E/City of Lafayette/GSTF/CPUC
MAY 14, 2020 Meeting Notes**

Attendees:

PG&E: Bennie Barnes, Lanthy Le, Tom Guarino, Marcos Monte, Kelly Leonard, Kevin Armato

City of Lafayette Jonathon Fox, Mike Anderson

Residents/Gas Safety Task Force: Dave Kosters, Dennis Kuzak, Howard Fuchs, Michael & Gina Dawson

CPUC: Terence Eng, Paul Penney

Meeting Context:

This meeting #7 was held online via Zoom due to Covid-19 restrictions.

Action Items & Next Steps:

- * City to share design of bridge gas pipeline replacement with residents.
- * PG&E will take question if this is going to be encased, or if considered a design span. PG&E will take concerns of vandalism to their team. PG&E will confirm they are notifying the local schools re: closure.
- * City to post info/reminder online and in-office about needing USA ticket to do digging, will look at requiring USA ticket to get permit. Major marketing job needed to address, Jonathan to own.
- * Jonathan to check with Greg Wolff on City planting around regulator station design.
- * PG&E will provide update on 2020 PG&E projects in Lafayette that are scheduled.
- * PG&E will confirm that all manual valves are working now. PG&E to address Task Force & Mayor Mike Anderson's concern that L191-1 difficult to shut off with manual valve located in center of Briones Park.
- * PG&E and City agreed to plan emergency response exercise with local first responders.
- * City of Lafayette (Jonathan) will send out proposed dates for next meeting in mid-September (DONE).

Meeting Notes:

1. **St. Mary's Road pipeline** - St. Marys Rd will be closed June 1 - August 14, 7am-6pm M-F. Letters, email & virtual open house will inform residents. 4.5" transmission pipeline in bridge to be abandoned & larger pipeline installed beneath. Easement shouldn't change. Third party involved with engineering design, PG&E wasn't exactly sure of design to be installed. Vandalism a concern to residents due to location, PG&E will take the concern internally. Mayor asked that the design be shared with residents; PG&E said design document is with City Staff & they can share. Is this considered a new design span? PG&E wasn't sure, will check. The road closure will be full between Lucille Lane to Community Center ballfields parking, first responder plan in place. Schools in Moraga will start August 11, and August 7 in Lafayette. PG&E said they will make sure they talk to the schools about closure.
2. **Dig-in update** - Kevin Armato, Director of Damage Prevention and Compliance, gave report. PHMSA reported no reportable transmission incidents in Lafayette. For distribution, 17 dig-ins in 2019, 17 dig-ins in 2018, one so far this year, all distribution lines mainly caused by sewer work, drainage work, fencing. Mostly contractors. 6 of 17 incidents had valid USA tickets, so 65% did not. City said Jeff Heyman should post this information, and at the Planning counter there should be reminder. Oakland you cannot get a permit unless you have USA ticket; but many fence contractors in Lafayette do not require permits. City will help get word out. PG&E starting pilot next week to use Nextdoor to publicize dig-in accidents to increase awareness in neighborhoods. April is awareness month; PG&E thinks awareness is key. Residents concerned there could be a reportable incident from a dig-in, perhaps a quarterly report to publicize number of dig-in incidents, cause, publicity events, permitting changes, etc. to manage against metrics.

Jonathan Fox to own from City side, challenge is the digging being done without permit, and it's an awareness issue. Dig-In-Reduction-Team (DIRT) in PG&E: 21 person response team for reported digs without USA tickets, will patrol certain areas, investigate cause of dig-ins. PG&E said possible our local DIRT person can be contacted, residents would like to see coordination.

3. **Regulator Station** - PG&E's rendering almost done, will provide to HOA soon. City will follow-up on rendering as well to possibly replant trees around perimeter. Jonathan to check with Greg Wolff.
4. **2020 projects** - will PG&E give updates on other transmission/distribution projects? PG&E said they had to pause construction for Covid-19 reasons for 8 weeks, will need to follow-up on this question.
5. **Electrical Project** - electrical hardening on St. Marys Road still on target for mid-June. Only one lane needed for target flow, doesn't require road closure as with gas work. PG&E confirmed there is potential for atmospheric corrosion (cathodic protection interference) issues with electrical lines above transmission gas lines, but it is rare and they have programs to address atmospheric corrosion.
6. **Isolation Valve Plan & Emergency Plans** - how to shut off in Lafayette? Reliez Station Road will soon have a remotely controlled valve in the station to be operated on L-191 also upstream in Walnut Creek at Warwick Dr & Walnut Ave. Blow-down time from WC would be 15 minutes, Reliez Station will be even quicker. PG&E will also call 911, and other actions with manual valves. Turning off gas is their key emergency response. 3001-01 and 191-L downstream can be deactivated. No plan to put (remote?) shut-off valve further downstream of 3001-01. Residents in Springhill expressed concern about PG&E getting to manual valves in middle of Briones Park if accident occurred off 191-B in Springhill neighborhood; what is PG&E's response time there? PG&E looking into this now with larger diameter pipes, the goal will be to respond as industry to isolate valves within one hour. This does not mean the closest valve. End of next year, PG&E hopes to have a plan for all pipelines. Gas flow in Lafayette: downtown is the ending point as gas flows from Martinez south through Briones Park and ends at Oak Hill Rd and Mt. Diablo (Line 191-1). Also, gas flows westward from Walnut Creek into Lafayette and ends at the same place (Line 3001-01). These two pipelines meet at center of Lafayette. Residents note that this is line gives us concern as there was an over-pressurization at one point, it has exposed sections, runs through center of town, and has lack of testing records. Does PG&E see any concern in that intersection given the construction? PG&E said not for that reason; explained there is redundancy but not flow back & forth. Reinforces concern that center of Briones might be good candidate for remote valve, PG&E said they will take note of it. Three PG&E manual valves were found to be inoperable since 2017, are all Lafayette manual valves working now? PG&E will need to get back to us, they have a list of inoperable valves they can check, and will say when they will be fixed. Remote valves should be tested annually, and operator has one year to correct. CPUC said operator must designate alternate upstream valve to control to ensure shut-off capability. They audit during transmission reviews. PG&E has been criticized historically for slow shut off times, but CPUC doesn't have code regulations. PG&E said there are federal rule making proposals for new pipeline, so there's movement in right direction to improve response times. Residents said volume of gas should be factor in response time; PG&E agreed and said Incident Mitigation Management Plan includes processes. Mayor Anderson underscored the issue of the valve in Briones Park & need for it to be working well & hopefully converted to a remotely-controlled valve. Do distribution lines have more valves? They're less likely to rupture, will have a leak instead.
7. **Regulatory** - CPUC confirms it took PG&E 90 minutes to isolate line, a long time. What's appropriate time? Good question, no specific regulations for regulator, only that it's prompt. Up to operator to develop procedures. CPUC said that the upcoming audit will not include these types of questions, only integrity management questions and will conduct some field activity TIMP review. Regarding emergency response, most operators required to do tabletop exercises to simulate catastrophic events; held in Lafayette a few years ago, but we should do more of it. City wants to work with PG&E within next year, PG&E said they would collaborate. The last scenario was a PG&E gas leak and the Lafayette downtown was destroyed.
8. **Thanks** - Residents appreciate all the time spent by PG&E and CPUC over past year. We are making progress on our goal of increasing gas safety in Lafayette. Compliance adherence is good, and want to work with everyone to go beyond minimums standards and prioritize safety measures.
9. **Next meeting:** Audit will be June 22nd & week following; published approximately September. Next meeting to be set for mid-September. Jonathon Fox will send out invite.