

**Mail.Lafayette Gas Safety Alliance Meeting Notes**  
May 19, 2021 - Zoom video call

**Meeting Attendees**

**CPUC:** Terence Eng, Paul Penney

**PG&E:** Bennie Barnes, David Buckley, Marcos Montes, Mark van Gorder, Darin Cline

**City of Lafayette:** Jonathan Fox, Mayor Susan Candell

**Gas Safety Task Force:** Councilmember Gina Dawson, Michael Dawson, Dennis Kuzak, Howard Fuchs

**Meeting Context**

This meeting is a continuation of the discussion to increase residents' assurance regarding gas safety in Lafayette as a result of the Sept 2018 Council meeting with CPUC and PG&E.

**Meeting Purpose/Objectives/Agenda**

This group meets quarterly to achieve the objective stated above: to increase trust in the safety of PG&E's operation of gas pipelines in Lafayette. This meeting agenda focused on local L-191 testing, current projects, and improved communication.

**Next Steps:**

- PG&E's Mark van Gorder & Darin Cline (new members) will meet with Councilmember Dawson re: electrical issues raised in Council and future engagement.
- Marcos Montes to check w/Les if PG&E & the Lafayette Police have discussed training. Darin will see what actual conversations have happened between Lafayette PD and PG&E.
- Task Force to send Bennie written questions regarding Lafayette's gas pipeline flow, direction, operation, etc. to help provide understanding of shut-off capabilities and response time in the event of a catastrophic wildfire nearby.
- PG&E to check if County will start printing 811 info on their building permit applications. Michael will follow-up with City on formally considering adding 811 to City permits.
- PG&E to provide number/type of ultimate repairs made to L-191 after the recent non-traditional ILI testing and excavation analysis/repairs in Lafayette, and state of CP.
- PG&E to provide more information on what excavation activity happened in last month at the location of Mt. Diablo Blvd & Risa Rd (small transmission extension off DFM 3002-01).
- Darin to provide City the PG&E report on electrical fires in Lafayette from 2019.
- CPUC to confirm mid-August for TIMP presentation & audit discussion.

## Meeting Notes:

1. **Introductions** - acknowledgement of Tom Guarino. Michael will take notes, as will Jonathan. PG&E introduced three new people to this meeting: David Buckley, a local engineer with responsibility in this area; Darin Cline, who oversees the Bay Area group Tom worked within; and Mark van Gorder, safety supervisor. Mark and Darin will take back issues for PG&E and would like to follow-up with Councilmember Gina Dawson for issues raised in Monday's City Council meeting. Paul Penney said many questions were asked of TIMP audit & he passed to Bennie and local engineer. Gina confirmed we've met for 3 years and lots of good safety improvements have been identified.
2. **Emergency preparedness**: Gina asked if there's been a PG&E/police training as identified. Marcos doesn't believe there has been training between PG&E and Lafayette Police, but will check with Les Putnam at PG&E. PG&E has met with local fire departments (wildfire). PG&E said PG&E has had regular conversations with police re: fire seasons, will report back on what has transpired.
3. **Isolation Valves**: Lafayette asked last meeting when the isolation valves installed. Bennie said Valve 1 & Valve 2 D-street(?) station in Martinez, installed 2012. Valve at Walnut Ave installed 2013. Reliez Station valve installed in 2020. Gina asked if line 191 is bi-directional. PG&E confirmed gas can come from either side, depending on demand and where you look on the pipeline; gas can be directed by closing valves. Dennis asked if change of direction depressurizes the line. PG&E said pressure always changes pressure, but doesn't require large pressure swings, and most days doesn't change direction. These valves discussed are remote-controlled. Gina asked if change of direction is a rare event. PG&E said it depends. Gina brought up issue of downtown pipeline L-191, and how direction would be important in case of nearby fire in Briones. PG&E said it would be helpful for Gina to write question down & ask PG&E. Bennie said he'd like to give a well thought out answer to explain how gas is provided in Lafayette since there are different people than in the call to give a year-long view. Gina confirmed wildfire prevention and prevention is important, and utility safety is part of that.
4. **811 Dig Requirements**: Jonathan said the County Billing department does not require an 811 ticket to issue a building permit, only provides information in office. PG&E has been asking cities to print the 811 information on the actual application so they are reminded -- Santa Clara & SF do. Darin will check if the County will print it on their applications. Michael said given the fact dig-in accidents are PG&E's #1 cause of incidents, and that we're in high wildfire zone, we'd support Lafayette requiring 811 dig-in tickets regardless of the county. Many cities require providing 811 ticket when getting building permit. PG&E would like to see it printed on permit; it's free to builders but does require staff time. Michael offered to work with Jonathan and Darin.
5. **Isolation valves & response times**: PG&E said they can share instances of PG&E shut-off response times during transmission accident. Benny said with an automated valve: line 300-A in 2015 Bakersfield had a third-party dig-in accident at 3:33pm. From dig-in to

automated valve closure, it took 10 minutes. Blow-down time for the 30 miles @ 400psi pipeline was less than 40 minutes. Residents said that's much faster response time than the accident in SF in Feb 2019 when it took 2 hours to shut off. Bennie said that was a more complicated transmission system, different scenario, but needed to be improved upon. PG&E needs more isolation shut off valves in distribution zones and PG&E is working on it. Gina said our two distribution DFMs (now transmission) 3002 and 3001 are downtown & in neighborhoods. PG&E said these lines end at L-191 downtown. They are low pressure, small diameter, quick blow-down of automated valve at beginning of line. Gina said these are much higher pressure than the SF pipelines. Dennis brought up recent dramatic video of gas fire under bridge near Sacramento, and vegetation in creek. Could be a significant fire risk and should not be ignored. Susan had asked about the weed abatement programs around pipelines in Briones. PG&E replied it doesn't happen, but she wanted to know more about what happened in Sacramento to start a fire. Marco said they would get back to us & that Les would get back to Mayor on gas vegetation management program. Susan said City is doing weed abatement throughout the town.

6. **Exposed Pipeline Threats:** Gina mentioned the spans & the fact residents pointed out risk of dangerously overhanging trees & fact PG&E investigated the spans and removed material and underbrush around exposed spans. Bennie said this is complete within 40' in Camp Fire and Buckeye Trail. Also cut back low brush. Also at Line 191-B, cleared the exposed span of leaning trees. Michael mentioned his concern is the fact trees remained until residents pointed them out. Why were these missed by PG&E, and what has PG&E learned from this example to apply to other communities? PG&E said they're updating right-of-way standard to include tree falling prevention, and wildfire prevention -- it was a gap before. Paul (CPUC) said he has reports of spans, roots, etc. Exponent was contractor that studied the spans and their recommendation was to clear 40'. Bennie clarified the spans being addressed are ones in Cal-Fire FRAP (not CPUC) high fire threat areas. Gina mentioned the 40' clearance was very specific to that Briones situation with steep hillsides; is PG&E extrapolating this to all instances? Yes, for gas transmission pipeline spans. Modeling around 1500 degrees of heat from trees, and problem of trees being able to fall on exposed spans.
7. **L191 Testing in Lafayette:** Regarding current projects, residents asked if PG&E can describe the nontraditional ILI and 13 excavations. There were 69 anomalies found by non-traditional ILI on one mile of L-191 downtown. 23 anomalies excavated, for repair. Excavated for inspection after the inspection tool analyzes the pipe. PG&E then digs up the pipeline and removes the coating and directly examines through non-destructive analysis tools & findings are then sent to engineering. After repairs are done, they recoat the pipeline and return to service. How many of 23 sites needed repair? Gina said there were 28 instances they needed analysis, which resulted in 13 excavations in high traffic areas. So what was extent of damage and repair? PG&E said the findings were "fairly minimal" and pipeline "in very good condition" and did some minor repairs. They did some minor repairs and can get more information to residents. PG&E also did some "proactive repairs" downtown. But they did not see conditions that are concerning. PG&E said at some sights, external corrosion initiated by historic 3<sup>rd</sup> party damage. Hard to attribute to particular utility or project, but done many years ago. Clear that there was construction crew that scraped pipeline & removed coating & provided spot for corrosion

to initiate. PG&E said this is another reason to advocate for 811, it's the number one way to reduce risk on pipeline. PG&E remediated those damaged site. What was the take-away about the health of the cathodic protection system? PG&E said could get back to us, but didn't think they had any deficiencies. It's a two part system: coating (primary barrier) and CP. CP is not perfect, they cannot rely 100%. PG&E said there is a lot on why a dig-in might initiate corrosion. Bennie mentioned with ILI, it finds locations of issues where PG&E wouldn't know about, and if CP protection is good now, it might not have been 20 years ago. If dig-in occurred before CP was in place, then some corrosion can occur. First line of defense is coating, 2<sup>nd</sup> is CP system. PG&E doesn't know from decades ago the condition of the coating system, and CP will help with that. ILI will give locations of anomalies created by breaks in the coating.

8. **Inline Inspections:** ILI - PG&E cannot ILI all lines due to diameter & pressure. PG&E is making their pipelines piggable, but just 69% of system will be ultimately piggable. Rest can be examined with non traditional ILI tools, like L-191 was in Lafayette. These are individually engineering projects, so not simple to do. They do best job they can and prioritize based on risk & where it can be done. CPUC confirmed there are lots of restrictions for ILI, but then operator would use ECDA (external corrosion), and other particular threats. Gina pointed out our two former DFM lines and need to assess perhaps by external corrosion. Relates to CPSI program, how would PG&E know condition without testing. DFM 3002 runs through high wildfire zone, and neither line has been tested by hydrostatic strength or internal tools. So what are next steps? CPUC said if in HCA, operator has to assess for those threats. PG&E changed transmission definition, they have 10 years to assess newly defined segments in HCA. Michael said PG&E assures us they go beyond legal minimums, and busy trails are heavily populated; we would like to push the idea of conducting non-traditional ILI on Line 3001-01 and others in Lafayette given the corrosion seen on L-191.
9. **HCA / High Wildfire Zones / Welds:** Dennis reminds the group the lines run through high vegetation wildfire zone, like in Briones. It should be HCA since it could create a wildfire that burns down Lafayette. The situation is not common having wildfire brush & high pressure gas pipelines. HCA might be a national concept, but in East Coast, there isn't the pervasive dry vegetation. HCA designation would cause more inspections, particularly for older lines. We don't know more about them. Dennis asked was there any information during PG&E's latest direct assessments about the locations and conditions of the welds? David said the ILI they don't do radiography or other tools. ILI looks at full circumference of pipe, can detect some issues with metal loss of welds. Not designed to detect inclusions in welds. PG&E does inspect welds when they dig up the pipeline. Either long seam welds or girth welds. PG&E did not find any issues with welds on pipe, no seam weld flaws (primary concern). The pipeline is considered stable based on inspections. Dennis asked if PG&E knows locations of each welds. Soil movement (loading) creates stresses, and incident like dig-in can create a crack. Knowing locations of welds of old pipeline along with lateral forces would help PG&E set up program to assess those weld sites. Briones as an example has lots of bends and welds as it's on PG&E said that info comes from the ILI in addition to historical records. PG&E has few programs and threat management programs (like construction and geohazard threats). PG&E said they have robust geo-hazard programs to analyze. Gina mentioned that these Briones lines are not in what's

considered HCA, so they aren't being tested like downtown. Residents would like CPUC help. How do we get HCA identifications & done in timely manner? CPUC said to integrity asses through ILI, ECDA, ICDA; but PG&E has other requirements for non HCA, like leak surveys, patrols, test valves and do regulator station maintenance, so CPUC feels like there are requirements even if not in an HCA.

10. **HCA / New Building** - Gina said Lafayette has two lines through neighborhoods, and that Lafayette has requirement to identify 2000 additional building sites. CPUC appreciates the City is looking at where to put structures, they have seen sites in other cities where building locations are too close to large transmission pipes. Sites should be aware of how close they are to the pipeline. Residents interested in how to reduce risk in downtown.
11. **HCA / Rulemaking** - Mayor Candell is interested in Dennis' idea of making pipelines in high wildfire severity zones an HCA. How do we make this happen? CPUC said through CA rulemaking GO112 F - adds extra safety rules that utilities are required to follow. Everyone can weigh in on this, including if cost effective. CPUC doesn't know when this will happen, so may be long term. Residents said PG&E can decide to do this on their own if they wished, and it would be a risk based judgement for more stringent requirements to do ranking. Would ratemaking process help, instead of rule making? Now Wildfire group is going out of CPUC and into Calfire. CPUC said GO112F was last done in 2015, just starting process of revising it with open process. We can register as party & submit comments, they will keep us posted. Calfire's focus has been more around electrical fires, not as much pipelines in high wildfire zones. Perhaps this group should bring this issue up on a county level.
12. **MCA** - David mentioned there's been industry wide changes federal code for creation of MCA (moderate consequence area) with similar integrity management requirements, but lesser time threshold. PG&E has places in Lafayette, including the DFMs, that are considered MCA. The Task Force has been aware through work with Pipeline Safety Trust that helped push that through.
13. **Risa Rd Excavation** - Regarding L3002-01 down Mt. Diablo, the small extension with regulator station off Risa Rd, what was the work that was done very recently there? PG&E would need to research. In 2024, PG&E had listed as location for strength test but didn't know what happened recently.
14. **Alliance meeting future** - Gina mentioned our appreciation for meeting & resources devoted. These meetings are productive and helpful. Next meeting late summer, after TIMP report? Meanwhile, how do we keep momentum for open questions? Example: 811 program, outstanding questions, etc? Darin mentioned need after Monday's City Council meeting & questions with wildfires, electrical, gas systems. His role is through the Tom Guarino role, Mark van Gorder is filling in now. They need to change the relationship; they need to have interaction that helps City & PG&E. Some issues they can't talk about because of the "legal case", which will be eventually resolved. Darin doesn't know how the Gas Task Force exists, or how it turns it into something else. Maybe quarterly meetings. Darin thinks the CPUC will be at each meeting. Darin & Mark wanted to call Gina before the meeting, but didn't have time. Darin wants to talk to Planning

Department. Monthly/quarterly permit work with City needs to be visited since things are so last minute. Something “unique” about cities on 24 on how they talk to City staff as permits come in, and something more robust on wildfire side & impact on City. Two parallel paths: City/permits & getting info to community & having ability to ask Darin questions. Example: Aug 11, they would love to do a proclamation on 811. Darin mentioned he found info on Sacramento fire, as shown on Twitter video: homeless encampment on distribution line started a small explosion. Darin knows the SF situation and why it took 2 hours to shut down, it wouldn’t happen in Lafayette due to the complexities of system there. Darin doesn’t know how we want to set it up, it hasn’t been regular. Gina said this has been working, it started as a trust breakdown 3 years ago; we were given promises from Sumeet Singh and CPUC. It has been good, and we want to evolve this and to include electrical and wildfire to become an infrastructure discussion. Testing, TIMP audit for minimum standards are a trust issue, as has been these meetings. CPUC has been instrumental in getting us together. PG&E said they’re changing, how they looked at risk on pipeline. It used to be “it runs until it fails”. It’s not the right way. PG&E wants to be proactive with ILLI, trying to catch problems before the accidents happen. Doing the same on the electrical side. Darin is getting us that information, said it was “communication wires slapping”. Need to involve other telecom companies. Hard for Lafayette because Lafayette doesn’t own water, etc. Gina said we are establishing baseline for doing minimum standard and keeping eye on threat identification and follow what is planned. That’s gas, and we want to do on electrical too. This is why residents are doing this & want to be model for other cities. Alliance is something we should review activities after the next meeting. It’s unusual model but meaningful and productive.

15. **TIMP Audit** - Schedule for next meeting to discuss TIMP audit: Terence said close out inspection will be July 27<sup>th</sup>. Meet in mid-August. Paul is working on presentation to present finding. Michael asked why taking longer than a year. Terence said they have typical 120 day model - inspection letter w/1 60 days after inspection, operator 30 days to respond, CPUC 30 day to issue closure letter. The scope is limited. This TIMP inspection is broader, 2-3 data requests, added to regular process has made inspection & follow-through longer. CPUC on track to submit letter at end of May. Paul said the Task Force questions are central focus of the audit, and there were a lot of questions that CPUC asked PG&E. The presentation is quite long, maybe longer than one meeting, and then the audit findings themselves. CPUC encourages asking of as many questions as necessary for robust discussion.

16. **Conclusion** - Darin & Mark will circle back to Councilmember Gina Dawson.