Subject: PG&E's Proposed Undergrounding Plan must include protection for Human Life in Montclair Hills!

November 1, 2026

To the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety:

I am writing as a resident of Montclair Hills, Oakland, to express serious concern about PG&E's proposed 2028–2037 Electrical Undergrounding Plan and its implications for the safety of our community.

I live on Drake Drive in the Montclair Hills district. In the fall of 1995, on a hot and windy day, across from my home, four homes burned to the ground due to a fire cause by PG&E, **for which PG&E claimed responsibility. We are fortunate that this fire, caused by PG&E, did not cause powerlines to go down or grow to the devastating size of the 1991 Oakland Hills Fire** where 25 people died and where many lost their homes and all of their possessions.

Is OEIS willing to take a chance that the 1991 disaster will happen again if PG&E does not take responsible action by undergrounding our many power lines that criss-cross this entire neighborhood???

PG&E's models seem to be derived from what the monetary costs will be for undergroundng, but not the devastating human toll that results from their immoral and greedy decision-making. I am also remiss in my comments if I do not mention the lack of neighborhood EGRESS for residents in the case of a wildfire in this area. Please come take a ride or a walk around here and count the few streets that are available for EGRESS in case of an emergency. You will definitely come to the conclusion that many of our neighbors and their pets would be trapped (as in 1991) due to the few narrow and winding roads available to us.

UNDERGROUNDING ELECTRICAL WIRES IS THE ONLY SANE, SAFE, AND RESPONSIBLE DECISION TO BE MADE IN THIS VERY SERIOUS MATTER!!

The following reasons make it incredibly clear that UNDERGROUNDING in our neighborhood should be a priority and no suggestion that our neighborhood does not qualify as a dangerous fire hazard area should be accepted. MONTCLAIR HILLS IS IMMEDIATELY ADJACENT TO THE AREA THAT BURNED AND WE CANNOT LET THAT HAPPEN AGAIN!

Our heavily wooded neighborhood faces extraordinary wildfire risks, with narrow, winding roads, very few evacuation routes, and significant tree-fall hazards. Thousands of residents depend on just a few roads to escape. A single fallen utility pole or power line blocking a critical road could prevent hundreds, potentially thousands, of people from reaching safety.

PG&E's profit-driven proposed 2028-2037 undergrounding plan represents a significant change in how undergrounding decisions are made. It gives greater weight to benefit-cost comparisons, even though PG&E acknowledges that important public-safety risks—including evacuation constraints and falling-tree hazards—are not fully captured by its quantitative risk models. The value of human life cannot be reduced to a financial calculation that fails to account for the full consequences of a catastrophic wildfire.

These dangers are interconnected, and their combined and cumulative effects cannot be evaluated separately. A tree falling onto overhead electrical lines could bring down poles and wires, blocking a neighborhood street and preventing families from reaching one of our few main evacuation roads. As traffic backs up and other routes become congested, the consequences could spread far beyond the original blockage. Our safety depends on the entire interconnected network of streets, not simply the principal roads leading out.
Yet, PG&E acknowledges that serious risks, including evacuation constraints and falling-tree hazards, are not fully captured by its quantitative models. In spite of this, PG&E's proposed methodology expressly permits excluding undergrounding in areas with these known vulnerabilities.

PG&E must be able to justify its economic comparisons by demonstrating that they adequately account for the combined and cumulative dangers to the lives of the people who live here.

I therefore urge the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety to require PG&E to evaluate and quantify the cumulative and compounding risks throughout Montclair Hills, demonstrate how these risks influence undergrounding decisions, and consider comprehensive undergrounding of our entire neighborhood.

The lives of our families and neighbors must come before economic comparisons that fail to account for the full consequences to human life.

Thank you for your attention to this urgent matter!

Linda D. Walton

Resident since 1975, Montclair Hills, Oakland, California