Re: PG&E's Proposed 2028-2037 Undergrounding Plan does not adequately evaluate risks to human life (Montclair Hills, Oakland, CA)

To the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety:

I currently live in the Montclair Hills, Oakland, where my family has resided for over 70 years. I am therefore intimately familiar with the heavily wooded and densely-populated neighborhood, the many narrow and winding roads, and the few exits off our hill. I see tall trees lining roads everywhere that could easily fall over electrical lines and block critical routes to safety, especially during a firestorm.

During the 1991 firestorm, which happened only a few minutes from my home, my grandfather could not run down the hill and stayed behind. Thankfully, he lived, but had the fire burned a few more minutes, our home could have been destroyed and his life lost. Some neighbors said they could not even get out of their driveway because the roads were so clogged.

Just one downed powerline could have devastating consequences for thousands of neighbors under a similar situation.

These dangers to the Montclair Hills are interconnected and must be evaluated and quantified holistically.

Even if only one powerline goes down, traffic would back up and other routes would become congested, with consequences that could spread far beyond the original downed power line. In a fire emergency, it is not clear that PG&E crews could even enter our area to clear the obstruction in time. There are only two roads available for any vehicles to enter or exit our area.

Yet, in spite of this, PG&E's proposed methodology in its 10-year plan expressly permits excluding undergrounding in areas with these known vulnerabilities. Further, in their risk model, these risks are not quantified or the benefit-cost decision transparent to residents whose lives could depend on this critical decision.

PG&E must demonstrate to residents that they fully and holistically account for the *combined and cumulative dangers* to the lives of the people who live here before they can justify their economic comparisons between undergrounding vs overhead hardening.

I therefore urge the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (OEIS) not to approve PG&E's 2028-2037 Undergrounding Plan as currently drafted.

I further urge OEIS to require PG&E to evaluate and quantify the cumulative and compounding risks throughout Montclair Hills, demonstrate how these risks influence undergrounding decisions, and strongly advocate for comprehensive undergrounding of our entire neighborhood.

The lives of our families and neighbors must come before economic comparisons and consider the full consequences to human life.

Respectfully,

Michael C. Barbera

Resident, Montclair Hills, Oakland, California