

May 23, 2022

Koko Tomassian, Compliance Program Manager  
Compliance Assurance Division  
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety  
California Natural Resources Agency  
715 P Street 20<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**BY OEIS E-FILING**

**SUBJECT:** Southern California Edison Company's Response to Notice of Defect -  
SCE GCA 20211118-01 (No Written Hearing Requested)

Dear Koko Tomassian:

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) appreciates the opportunity to provide this response to the finding identified in the Notice of Defect received on April 22, 2022 based on Energy Safety field inspections conducted in SCE's territory in November 2021. SCE also appreciates the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety's (OEIS) efforts to identify, communicate and work together to resolve potential wildfire risks.

The enclosed response describes corrective action taken or planned by SCE to remedy the finding identified in the above notice and prevent recurrence.

If you have any questions, or require additional information, please contact Liz Leano at 626-302-3662 or [Elizabeth.Leano@sce.com](mailto:Elizabeth.Leano@sce.com). SCE is looking forward to address findings where appropriate and work to support clarification of the inspection process as OEIS expands the geographic scope of its inspection program in 2022.

Sincerely,

//s//

Erik Takayesu  
SVP Asset Strategy and Planning  
Southern California Edison

## SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY INTRODUCTION

For the finding discussed in this response, SCE agrees to address each issue within the timeframe provided by Energy Safety, as explained in more detail below.

Regarding prevention of recurrence, SCE's field inspections (both ground and aerial) are a detective control used to identify items that need to be remediated. Additionally, SCE performs quality reviews of completed distribution Overhead Detail Inspections in High Fire areas using a risk-based approach, which includes higher levels of sampling in higher risk areas. These quality reviews help drive continuous improvement by identifying non-conformances with SCE standards, determining causes of non-conformance, and/or driving corrective actions to improve performance. If performance falls below certain thresholds, SCE will require corrective actions.

While SCE is not requesting a written hearing for the finding addressed in this response, SCE reserves the right to raise these points in subsequent procedural stages and/or proceedings.<sup>1</sup>

- 1) Although Energy Safety has the right to refer certain issues to the CPUC for an enforcement action, the finding in this Notice do not support referral.<sup>2</sup>
- 2) SCE does not necessarily believe the finding addressed in the response support a Notice of Defect.<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Government Code § 15475.4 anticipated a "hearing" process, which traditionally implies an in-person hearing affording parties the right to present evidence and examine witnesses. The statute establishes that Energy Safety is the successor to the Wildfire Safety Division at the Public Utilities Commission, which, notably, does not have a written hearing process. Rather, parties may request an in-person hearing to address contested issues of fact. In this instance, it seems logical to assume that the statutory intent of Government Code § 15475.4 was to establish an in-person hearing process, similar to Energy Safety's predecessor agency. While Energy Safety characterizes the process as an "appeal" in California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 17 (Emergency Regulation) § 29104, the statute affords electrical corporations a hearing. The Regulations should be expanded to allow the electrical corporations to request oral hearings when warranted.

<sup>2</sup> For each of the notices, Energy Safety includes language stating that "Pursuant to Public Utilities Code § 8389(g), following receipt of SCE's response to this NOD and resolution of any disputes, this matter may be referred to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for its consideration of potential enforcement action, as the CPUC deems appropriate." None of the notices referenced herein meets the requirement for OEIS referral for enforcement action to the CPUC based on the statutory requirements that OEIS referral be based on substantial compliance with WMPs. Energy Safety cites Public Utilities Code § 8389(g) in support of a potential enforcement action. However, Section 8389(g) provides for a possible enforcement action where "an electrical corporation is not in compliance with its approved wildfire mitigation plan." Public Utilities Code § 8386.1 further specifies that penalties shall be assessed for failure to *substantially* comply with a WMP.

<sup>3</sup> "Notices of defect" are defined as "identifying a deficiency, error, or condition increasing the risk of ignition posed by electrical lines and equipment requiring correction." California Code of Regulations, Title 14, Division 17 (Emergency Regulation) § 29302(b). SCE does not necessarily agree that the finding addressed in this response demonstrate an increased ignition risk. SCE's response, and its agreement to remediate conditions identified by OEIS, shall not be construed as an admission that SCE believes a defect exists.

## SCE Response

### Finding: Vegetation Touching Guy Wire Above Insulator

Notice	Finding #	Structures
Notice of Defect SCE_GCA_ 20211118-01	1	4892458E

**Summary of Finding:** “Pole numbered 4892458E had vegetation contacting guy wire above the insulator. Energy Safety considers this violation for failure of adhering to protocol to be in the Minor risk category.”

**Response:** SCE has recorded the above condition in its work management system and anticipates this condition will be remediated in accordance with Energy Safety’s defect remediation timeline.