



**Alex Hughes**  
Pipeline Safety and Risk  
Mitigation Manager  
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October 27, 2023

Mrs. Brittny Branaman,  
Assistant Executive Officer for Education & Enforcement,  
Underground Safety Board,  
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety,  
715 P St., 20<sup>th</sup> Floor,  
Sacramento, CA 95814

Dear Mrs. Branaman:

The Underground Safety Board (USB) of the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety conducted an investigation, pursuant to Government Code sections 4216 *et seq.*, of an incident on September 20, 2022, involving excavation at 4195 Lobos Avenue in Atascadero, California and found the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) in violation of Government Code section 4216.3(c)(1)(A), *On and after January 1, 2021, every operator shall supply an electronic positive response through the regional notification center before the legal excavation start date and time.* The USB stated that SoCalGas did not provide an electronic positive response before the legal start date and time for tickets number X226301882-00X and 2022122902659-000.

Attached is SoCalGas' response of **No Contest**, marked in the appropriate section, as requested by the USB. Also, please find below SoCalGas' explanation and corrective actions.

Please contact Alex Hughes at (213)671-1344 if you have any questions or need additional information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Alex Hughes", written over a light blue grid background.

Alex Hughes  
Pipeline Safety and Risk Mitigation Manager

TO/CC:

Brittny Branaman, USB  
Larry Andrews, SoCalGas  
[Enforcement.dig@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:Enforcement.dig@energysafety.ca.gov), USB  
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**NOPV:**

Issue Summary The Underground Safety Board (USB), after investigation of an incident on September 20, 2022, involving excavation at 4195 Lobos Avenue in Atascadero, California, found the Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) in violation of Government Code section 4216.3(c)(1)(A).

The USB stated that SoCalGas did not provide an electronic positive response before the legal start date and time for tickets number X226301882-00X and 2022122902659-000.

**SoCalGas Response:**

SoCalGas agrees with USB's observation that these 1<sup>st</sup> party Underground Service Alert (USA) tickets did not provide an electronic positive response (EPR), per GO4216.3(c)(1)(A).

SoCalGas' current process is to have its trained and qualified field employees locate and mark facilities prior to excavation and close the DigAlert USA in the Korterra® ticket management system without sending an EPR for company generated (1<sup>st</sup> party) work.

**Corrective Action:**

While SoCalGas' current process does not impact pipeline safety, SoCalGas will implement an electronic positive response process, so that all DigAlert USA tickets (1st, 2nd, & 3rd party) provide an electronic positive response in compliance with GO4216.3(c)(1)(A).