



Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC  
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April 19, 2024

***VIA OEIS E-FILING***

Shannon O'Rourke  
Deputy Director | Electrical Infrastructure Directorate  
Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety  
715 P Street, 20th Floor  
Sacramento, CA 95814  
[efiling@energysafety.ca.gov](mailto:efiling@energysafety.ca.gov)

**Subject:** Liberty's Response to Notice of Violation - NOV\_LU\_CAC18\_20231102\_1208

Dear Deputy Director O'Rourke:

Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC ("Liberty") appreciates the opportunity to provide this response to the findings identified in the Notice of Violation ("NOV") - NOV\_LU\_CAC18\_20231102\_1208 received on March 22, 2024 based on Energy Safety field inspections conducted in Liberty's service area on November 2, 2023. Liberty also appreciates the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety's ("Energy Safety") efforts to identify, communicate and work together to resolve potential wildfire risks.

The enclosed response demonstrates that Liberty is not in violation and that no work is required by Liberty at this time related to the Energy Safety findings identified in the above notice.

If you have any questions or require any additional information, please contact me at:

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### Liberty Response

**Finding:** Failure to achieve required clearance.

Notice	Violation #	Structures
NOV LU CAC18 20231102 1208	Violation 1	128913
NOV LU CAC18 20231102 1208	Violation 2	260086
NOV LU CAC18 20231102 1208	Violation 3	293672

**Summary of Energy Safety Findings:**<sup>1</sup>

**Violation 1 Finding:** Near pole ID 128913 at 110520-111298 US Highway 395, Coleville, CA, 96107, USA, 38.5532305947518, -119.502482688142, the inspector observed cottonwood trees within Liberty Utilities’ clearance distance of six feet. The inspector’s observations are documented in Violation 1 photographs, which are attachments to the Energy Safety report. Photograph numbers Item2GImg1, Item2GImg2, Item2IA1Img1, and Item2IA1Img2 depict cottonwood trees approximately four to five feet from primary conductors. The radial clearance requirement from these primary conductors (12kV-25kV) is six feet, and Liberty Utilities failed to trim back to 12-15 feet, per Liberty Utilities’ (“MAT”) shown in Table 8-23.

**Violation 2 Finding:** Near pole ID 260086 at 110065-110499 US Highway 395, Coleville, CA, 96107, USA, 38.5520217369178, -119.503151731416, the inspector observed a cottonwood tree within Liberty Utilities’ clearance distance of six feet. The inspector’s observations are documented in Violation 2 photographs, which are attachments to the Energy Safety report. Photograph numbers Item4GImg1, Item4GImg2, Item4IA1Img1, and Item4IA1Img2 depict a cottonwood tree within approximately six feet from primary conductors. The radial clearance requirement from these primary conductors (12kV-25kV) is six feet, and Liberty Utilities failed to trim back to 12-15 feet, per Liberty Utilities’ (“MAT”) shown in Table 8-23.

**Violation 3 Finding:** Near pole ID 293672 at Mile 108 US Highway 395, Coleville, CA, 96107, USA, 38.5196868593662, - 119.484202482983, the inspector observed an elm tree within Liberty Utilities’ clearance distance of six feet. The inspector’s observations are documented in Violation 3 photographs, which are attachments to the Energy Safety report. Photograph numbers Item5GImg1, Item5GImg2, Item5IA1Img1, and Item5IA1Img2 depict the elm tree approximately five feet from primary conductors. The radial clearance requirement from these primary conductors (12kV-25kV) is six feet, and Liberty Utilities failed to trim back to 12-15 feet, per Liberty Utilities’ (“MAT”) shown in Table 8-23.

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<sup>1</sup> Energy Safety NOV\_LU\_CAC18\_20231102\_1208

## **Liberty Responses:**

**Liberty Response 1:** The radial clearance requirement (“RCD”) for vegetation to electrical conductors operating between 2,400 and 72,000 volts per General Order (“GO”) 95-Rule 35, and Public Resource Code (“PRC”) 4293 is 4-feet. Liberty’s MAT for clearance pruning on conductors operating between 2,400 and 72,000 volts is 6-feet. Liberty performs clearance pruning once vegetation reaches the MAT. Vegetation identified between 4 and 6 feet is not a violation of regulated clearance requirements per GO 95-Rule 35 and PRC 4293.

Liberty maintains clearance distances through annual LiDAR inspections and clearance pruning performed by tree crews. Liberty typically performs LiDAR inspections in the Fall and subsequent clearance pruning work occurs between January and July of the following year. Liberty conducted LiDAR inspections on September 4, 2023 for vegetation clearances. Clearance pruning was performed February 18, 2024. A QC inspection on April 4, 2024 determined clearance pruning was performed but maintenance clearance distance (“MCD”) was not achieved by tree crew. A tree crew returned April 5, 2024 to achieve full MCD. A subsequent QC inspection verified MCD was achieved on April 9, 2024. See attached report: See attached report: QC Report for NOV\_LU\_CAC18\_20231102\_1208-Violation 1.

**Liberty Response 2:** The RCD for vegetation to electrical conductors operating between 2,400 and 72,000 volts per GO 95-Rule 35, and PRC 4293 is 4-feet. Liberty’s MAT for clearance pruning on conductors operating between 2,400 and 72,000 volts is 6-feet. Liberty performs clearance pruning once vegetation reaches the MAT. Vegetation identified between 4 and 6 feet is not a violation of regulated clearance requirements per GO 95-Rule 35 and PRC 4293.

Liberty maintains clearance distances through annual LiDAR inspections and clearance pruning performed by tree crews. Liberty typically performs LiDAR inspections in the Fall and subsequent clearance pruning work occurs between January and July of the following year. Liberty conducted LiDAR inspections on September 4, 2023 for vegetation clearances. Clearance pruning was performed February 5, 2024. A QC inspection on April 1, 2024 confirmed that MCD was achieved. See attached report: See attached report: QC Report for NOV\_LU\_CAC18\_20231102\_1208-Violation 2.

**Liberty Response 3:** The RCD for vegetation to electrical conductors operating between 2,400 and 72,000 volts per GO 95-Rule 35, and Public Resource Code PRC 4293 is 4-feet. Liberty’s MAT for clearance pruning on conductors operating between 2,400 and 72,000 volts is 6-feet. Liberty performs clearance pruning once vegetation reaches the MAT. Vegetation identified between 4 and 6 feet is not a violation of regulated clearance requirements per GO 95-Rule 35 and PRC 4293.

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Liberty maintains clearance distances through annual LiDAR inspections and clearance pruning performed by tree crews. Liberty typically performs LiDAR inspections in the Fall and subsequent clearance pruning work occurs between January and July of the following year. Liberty conducted LiDAR inspections on September 4, 2023 for vegetation clearances. Clearance pruning was performed January 30, 2024. A QC inspection on April 4, 2024 determined clearance pruning was performed but MCD was not achieved by tree crew. A tree crew returned April 5, 2024 to achieve full MCD. A subsequent QC inspection verified MCD was achieved on April 9, 2024. See attached report: See attached report: QC Report for NOV\_LU\_CAC18\_20231102\_1208-Violation 3.