



August 13, 2024

Paul Marconi
President, Treasurer & Secretary
Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc
42020 Garstin Dr.
Big Bear Lake, CA 92315

NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Mr. Marconi:

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 326 and Government Code section 15475.1, the Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) has conducted an inspection of work completed by Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc. (BVES) in accordance with its 2023 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and determined the existence of one or more violations. Energy Safety therefore issues a Notice of Violation (NOV), identifying noncompliance with an approved WMP or any law, regulation, or guideline within the authority of the Office.¹

On July 24, 2024, Energy Safety conducted an inspection of BVES's WMP initiatives in the vicinity of the city of Big Bear City, California. The inspection report is enclosed herewith. Energy Safety found the following violation:

Violation 1. Energy Safety observed that in implementing 2023 WMP initiative 8.1.2.1 - Covered Conductor Installation, BVES failed to report accurate covered conductor installation data on pole ID 9473BV at coordinates 34.26679852652348, -116.77233773143737 by reporting covered conductor as installed. Energy Safety considers this data accuracy violation to be in the Minor risk category.

Response Options

Energy Safety may prescribe a timeframe for resolution of a violation associated with the assigned risk category.² Within 30 days from the issuance date of this NOV, the electrical corporation must provide a response advising Energy Safety of corrective actions taken or planned to remedy the above identified violation(s) and prevent recurrence. Alternatively, the electrical corporation must advise Energy Safety that it

¹ Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, section 29302(b)(2)

² Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, pp. 5-6

will not correct the violation, including the reasoning or justification for inaction and all supporting documentation.³

This response shall be filed in the Energy Safety e-Filing system under the 2023 NOV Docket⁴ and the associated file name(s) must begin with the NOV identification number provided above.

Pursuant to Government Code section 15475.4, if the electrical corporation intends to request a hearing “to take public comment or present additional information,” it must also do so within the 30-day timeframe. If a petition for hearing is not received by the deadline, then the determination and conditions set forth in this NOV become final.

Prior to its response or request for hearing, the electrical corporation may also request an informal conference with Energy Safety’s Compliance Assurance Division for the purpose of disputing any issues raised in this NOV no later than five (5) business days before the response deadline.⁵ Requests for informal conference with Energy Safety must be e-mailed to compliance@energysafety.ca.gov, with a copy sent to all Energy Safety Compliance Assurance Division staff identified in the NOV.

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code section 8389(g), following receipt of the electrical corporation’s response to this NOV and resolution of any disputes, this matter may be referred to the California Public Utilities Commission for its consideration of potential enforcement action, as it deems appropriate.

Sincerely,



Patrick Doherty

Program Manager | Compliance Assurance Division

Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety

Patrick.doherty@energysafety.ca.gov

Cc:

Jon Pecchia, BVES

Jon.Pecchia@bvesinc.com

Tom Tzu-Tong Chou, BVES

Tom.Chou@bvesinc.com

Jarred Hennen, BVES

Jared.Hennen@bvesinc.com

Yana Loginova, Energy Safety

Yana.Loginova@energysafety.ca.gov

Edward Chavez, Energy Safety

Edward.Chavez@energysafety.ca.gov

Compliance@energysafety.ca.gov

³ Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, pp. 6-7

⁴ <https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/EFiling/DocketInformation.aspx?docketnumber=2023%20NOV>

⁵ Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, p. 6



INSPECTION REPORT

Overview

Inspection Categories

The Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety (Energy Safety) conducts inspections to verify the work performed by an electrical corporation as reported in an approved Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) or subsequent filing, and to assess general conditions of electrical infrastructure that may adversely impact an electrical corporation’s wildfire risk.

A Notice of Violation (NOV) is issued for any instances of noncompliance discovered during an inspection related to an electrical corporation’s execution of its WMP initiatives.

Correction Timelines

Violations must be corrected in a timely manner. Energy Safety may prescribe a timeframe for resolution of a violation. If Energy Safety assigns a risk category to a violation, an electrical corporation must correct the violation as required per the timelines provided in Table 1.⁶

Table 1. Risk Category and Correction Timelines

Risk Category	Violation and defect correction timeline
Severe	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Immediate resolution
Moderate	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 2 months (in High Fire Threat District (HFTD) Tier 3)• 6 months (in HFTD Tier 2)• 6 months (if relevant to worker safety; not in HFTD Tier 3)
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months or resolution scheduled in WMP update

⁶ Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, p. 5



Inspection Summary

Table 2 provides a summary of the selection of the WMP inspection location and initiative. Table 3 provides a summary of the violation(s) found during the inspection. Details regarding the inspection that identified the violation(s) are provided in the Inspections Details Section below.

Table 2: Inspection Location and Initiative Summary

Electrical Corporation:	Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc.
Report Number:	CADBVES_ATJ_20240724_1031
Inspector:	Anthony Trujillo
WMP Year Inspected:	2023
Quarterly Data Report (QDR) Referenced:	Quarter 4 (Q4)
Inspection Selection:	Energy Safety viewed the contents of the Q4 QDR and performed an analysis that resulted in the selection of the WMP initiatives and locations referenced in this report.
Relevant WMP Initiative(s):	Covered Conductor Installation (2023 WMP initiative number 8.1.2.1)
Date of inspection:	July 24, 2024
City and/or County of Inspection:	Big Bear City, San Bernardino County
Inspection Purpose:	Assess the accuracy of BVES's QDR data, completeness of its work, compliance with WMP requirements, and compliance with its protocols.

Table 3: WMP Inspection Violation(s)

Violation #	Structure ID	Lat/Long	HFTD	Initiative Number	Violation Type	Severity	Violation Description
Violation 1	9473BV	34.26679852652348, -116.77233773143737	Tier 2	Covered Conductor Installation	Data Accuracy	Minor	Inaccurate data provided on covered conductor installation on five spans

Inspection Details

Violation 1:

Relevant Requirement:

BVES's WMP states the following regarding initiative number 8.1.2.1 - Covered Conductor Installation on poles:

1. "Covered conductors are any conductors (wires) covered by layers of insulation. Vendors designed these wires to withstand incidental contact with vegetation or other debris. Bare wires were historically used to provide a reliable, cost-effective solution for delivering energy to customers."⁷

Version 3.1 of Energy Safety's Data Guidelines states the following with respect to data submitted by an electrical corporation when reporting on its 2023 WMP initiatives:

2. "Electrical corporations must ensure location accuracy in their [geographic information system] data submissions..."⁸

Finding:

Energy Safety arrived at the provided pole ID 9473BV at 47200-47242 Lake View Dr, Big Bear City, CA, 92314, USA, 34.26679852652348, -116.77233773143737 and observed bare wire where covered conductor was reported as installed over five spans or between six poles. The inspector's observation is documented in Violation 1 photographs, which are attachments to this report. Photo numbers Item1G1mg1, Item1G1mg2, Item1IA1mg1, Item1IA1mg2, and Item1IA1mg3 depict bare conductor on the five reported completed spans.

Energy Safety concludes that Violation 1 is Minor because of these facts:

1. The reported location provided by BVES indicated that covered conductor work was completed on five spans.
2. No covered conductor work was observed on these five spans.

⁷ Bear Valley Electric Service, Inc., "Bear Valley Approved 2023-25 Wildfire Mitigation Plan," p. 124-125 [Online.] Available: <https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=55979&shareable=true>

⁸ Office of Energy Infrastructure Safety, "Data Guidelines, Version 3.1," Feb. 17, 2023, p. 10 [Online]. Available: <https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=53475&shareable=true>

Exhibits

Exhibit A: Photo Log

Structure ID: 9473BV

Violation 1



Item1G1mg1: Overall pole.



Item1G1mg2: Pole ID.



Item1IA1mg1: Overall primary level showing no cover conductor installed.



Item1IA1mg2: Close up of existing bare conductor.



Item1IA1img3: Overall photo showing five spans where covered conductor was reported as installed.