



June 10, 2025

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NOTICE OF VIOLATION

Ms. McMillin:

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 San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) in accordance with its 2024 Wildfire Mitigation Plan (WMP) and determined the existence of a violation. Energy Safety therefore issues SDG&E 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 April 09, 2025, Energy Safety conducted an inspection of SDG&E's WMP initiatives in the vicinity of the city of Fallbrook, California. The inspection report is enclosed herewith. Energy Safety found the following violations:

Violation 1. Energy Safety observed that in implementing 2024 WMP initiative 8.1.2.10.1 – Avian Protection Program (WMP.972), SDG&E failed to complete the avian protection installation on Pole ID P716000, Grid Hardening ID 530000315834-P716000, at coordinates 33.3873725299519, -117.148328339173. Energy Safety considers this completeness violation to be in the Minor risk category.

Violation 2. Energy Safety observed that in implementing 2024 WMP initiative 8.1.4.6 – Lightning Arrester Removal and Replacement (WMP.550), SDG&E failed to complete the lightning arrester installation on Pole ID P716000, Grid Hardening ID 530000315834-P716000, at coordinates 33.3873725299519, -117.148328339173. Energy Safety considers this completeness violation to be in the Minor risk category.

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

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 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 2024 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:

Lena McMillin, SDG&E
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² Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, pp. 3

³ Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, pp. 4-5

⁴ <https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/EFiling/DocketInformation.aspx?docketnumber=2024%20NOV>

⁵ Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, p. 4

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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 Tiers 2 or 3)
Minor	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• 12 months or resolution scheduled in WMP update

⁶ Energy Safety Compliance Guidelines, p. 3



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:	San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Report Number:	CAD_SDGE_SIS_20250409_1225
Inspector:	Samuel Isaiah
WMP Year Inspected:	2024
Quarterly Data Report (QDR) Referenced:	Quarter 3 (Q3)
Inspection Selection:	Energy Safety viewed the contents of the Q3 QDR and performed an analysis that resulted in the selection of the WMP initiatives and locations referenced in this report.
Relevant WMP Initiative(s):	8.1.2.10.1 Avian Protection Program (WMP.972) and 8.1.4.6 Lightning Arrester Removal and Replacement (WMP.550)
Date of inspection:	April 09, 2025
City and/or County of Inspection:	Fallbrook, San Diego County
Inspection Purpose:	Assess the accuracy of San Diego Gas & Electric Company'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	Grid Hardening ID	Lat/Long	HFTD	Initiative Number	Violation Type	Severity	Violation Description
Violation 1	P716000	530000315834-P716000	33.387372529 9519, -117.14832833 9173	Tier 3	8.1.2.10.1 - Avian Protection Program	Completeness	Minor	Failure to complete avian protection installation at the location
Violation 2	P716000	530000315834-P716000	33.387372529 9519, -117.14832833 9173	Tier 3	8.1.4.6 - Lightning Arrester Removal and Replacement	Completeness	Minor	Failure to complete lightning arrester installation at the location

Inspection Details

Violation 1:

Relevant Requirement:

SDG&E's WMP states the following regarding initiative number 8.1.2.10.1 – Avian Protection Program (WMP.972) on poles:

1. "The Avian Protection Program (WMP.972) involves installing avian protection equipment on distribution poles in the service territory to prevent electrocution of birds and to facilitate compliance with Federal and State Laws. The Program is aimed at improving reliability and reducing the risk of faults and wire-down events associated with avian contact that can lead to ignitions."⁷

Finding:

On Pole ID P716000, Grid Hardening ID 530000315834-P716000, at 1001-1017 Rancho Bavaria, Fallbrook, CA, 92028, USA, 33.3873725299519, -117.148328339173, the inspector observed that avian protection covers were not installed. The inspector's observation is documented in Violation 1 photographs, which are attachments to this report. Photo numbers Item1IA1Img1, Item1IA1Img2, and Item1IA1Img3 depict that no avian protection covers were installed. Per the 2024 3rd quarter Quarterly Data Report, SDG&E indicated that avian protection work was completed on this pole.

Energy Safety concludes there is a violation because of these facts:

1. The data provided by SDG&E indicated that the Avian Protection Program (WMP.972, Initiative 8.1.2.10.1) work was identified as complete at this location.
2. Avian protection covers were not installed at the location.

Violation 2:

Relevant Requirement:

SDG&E's WMP states the following regarding initiative number 8.1.4.6 - Lightning Arrester Removal and Replacement:

1. "The Lightning Arresters Replacement Program (WMP.550) installs CAL FIRE-approved lightning arresters to mitigate the impact of transient overvoltage on the electric system... CAL FIRE-approved lightning arresters are equipped with an external device that operates prior to the arrester overloading, dramatically reducing the potential of becoming an ignition source."⁸

⁷ San Diego Gas & Electric Company, "2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan," October 23, 2023. p. 172-173. [Online]. Available: <https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=55859&shareable=true>

⁸ San Diego Gas & Electric, "2023-2025 Wildfire Mitigation Plan," October 23, 2023, p. 219. [Online]. Available: <https://efiling.energysafety.ca.gov/eFiling/Getfile.aspx?fileid=55859&shareable=true>

Finding:

On Pole ID P716000, Grid Hardening ID 530000315834-P716000, at 1001-1017 Rancho Bavaria, Fallbrook, CA, 92028, USA, 33.3873725299519, -117.148328339173, the inspector observed that the lightning arresters' cover was missing, and therefore, the lightning arrester initiative was not completed. The inspector's observation is documented in Violation 1 photographs, which are attachments to this report. Photo numbers Item1IA2Img1 and Item1IA2Img2 depict that the lightning arresters' cover was missing. According to its 2024 Quarter 3 (Q3) Quarterly Data Report, SDG&E indicated that lightning arrester removal and replacement work was completed on this pole.

Energy Safety concludes there is a violation because of these facts:





1. San Diego Gas & Electric Company's 2024 WMP Initiative 8.1.4.6 – Lightning Arrester Removal and Replacement work was identified as complete at this location.
2. The lightning arresters' cover was missing.

Exhibits

Exhibit A: Photo Log

Structure ID: P716000

Violation 1

	
<p>Item1GImg1: Overall Pole</p>	<p>Item1GImg2: Pole ID</p>
	
<p>Item1IA1Img1: Avian protection covers missing</p>	<p>Item1IA1Img2: Avian protection covers missing</p>



Item1IA1Img3: Avian protection covers missing

Violation 2



Item1GImg1: Overall Pole



Item1GImg2: Pole ID



Item1IA2Img1: Lightning arresters cover missing



Item1IA2Img2: Lightning arresters cover missing