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<td><strong>Description:</strong></td>
<td>'God knows what is underground': A timeline of PG&amp;E-CPUC interactions</td>
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Exhibit C
'God knows what is underground': A timeline of PG&E-CPUC interactions

By Sarah Smith

Tens of thousands of emails exchanged between employees of the California Public Utilities Commission and PG&E Corp. were publicly released, confirming long-standing suspicions and raising new questions about the closeness of the two entities.

Since Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s 2010 San Bruno, Calif., pipeline explosion, the regulator-utility relationship has come under increasingly close scrutiny. The city of San Bruno has charged that the commission and the company are too cozy, pushing PG&E to conduct an internal review of communications with the CPUC spanning 2010-2014.

The company and the regulator in September 2014 admitted to illegal ex parte communications, in which PG&E had expressed preferences for which an administrative law judge, or ALJ, would preside over the still-ongoing gas transmission and storage case. The company’s requests seemed to have an impact on the ALJ selection, and the incident prompted San Bruno and The Utility Reform Network, a California consumer advocacy group, to demand that PG&E release the full suite of emails that the company had examined.

PG&E, which agreed to turn over the correspondence to the commission in February, was ordered by a CPUC ALJ ruling to share the messages with the commission and San Bruno. The CPUC published the emails Jan. 30.
Selected PG&E-CPUC email excerpts and corresponding events

April 22, 2010
“Also, can we chat on Cornerstone! We have an investor earnings call on May 5. Would like to see something but I need more that what the ALJ is thinking. Should I meet directly with Mike?” – from Brian Cherry, then PG&E’s vice president of regulatory relations, to Matthew Deal, then CPUC director of policy and planning.

“Should talk back in SP” – from Deal to Cherry

“If you give me $250 million in revenue requirement, we don’t need to chat.” – from Cherry to Deal

“Then you should be good. Karl won’t let me see the decision so I don’t know the specifics. I think there will be parameters that may tie your hands a bit…” – from Deal to Cherry

Sept. 9, 2010
PG&E gas transmission line explodes in San Bruno, Calif., killing eight people and doing significant additional damage.

Sept. 16, 2010
“Happy birthday!” – from Paul Clarhan, then CPUC director to Cherry

“Thanks. I’d love a nice muzzle for Mark Toney.” – from Clarhan to Cherry

[The Utility Reform Network’s executive director]

“Maybe a muzzle.” – from Clarhan to Cherry

“Shocking.” – from Clarhan to Cherry

Dec. 19, 2011
PG&E requests that CPUC provide smart meter opt-out option.

Sept. 26, 2011
National Transportation Safety Board releases report on San Bruno pipeline explosion.

Oct. 11, 2010
“one thing that keeps coming back on me is that I’m not sure how confident I am that PG&E knows enough detail about every pipe segment… Should I be confident? Do you people actually have the data?” – from Clarhan to Cherry

“My gut reaction says no to your question. There are over 1000 miles of unappable lines and burned welds that aren’t on the schematic diagrams. God knows what is underground.” – from Clarhan to Cherry

Dec. 22, 2011
“I feel sandbagged. On Friday I told you and Brian I was going to amend the [proposed] decision to allow your customers to have/keep analog meters, if they wished. On Monday your CEO puts out a press release saying the company will allow analog meters… and look whatever thunder the PUC might have received by announcing same in a revised PD… Positions the company well and the PUC bringing up the rear. Poorly handled” – from Michael Peevey, then president of CPUC, to Botterf and Cherry

“I blew it, and I apologize. It won’t happen again. If there’s something we can do to help the CPUC please let me or Brian know.” – from Botterf to Peevey


Jan. 10, 2014
CPUC ALJ Douglas Long assigned to PG&E’s gas transmission and storage rate case.

Jan. 13, 2014
“Hello: it looks like it will be assigned to Peterman - Florio is way too busy and wants mentor Peterman through the process.” – from Carol Brown, then chief of staff for Peevey, to Cherry regarding commissioner assignment for gas transmission and storage rate case. Carlo Peterman and Michel Florio are CPUC commissioners.

“Can you wait? Florio said he would take it if [John] Wong was ALJ.” – from Cherry to Brown

Sept. 2, 2014
CPUC administrative law judges recommend $1.4 billion penalty for PG&E in connection with San Bruno pipeline explosion.

Sept. 24, 2014
Gas transmission and storage rate case reassigned to Acting Chief Administrative Law Judge Timothy Sullivan.

Sept. 29, 2014
Gas transmission and storage rate case suspended.

Oct. 15, 2014
Florio recuses himself from gas transmission and storage rate case.

Jan. 29, 2014
PG&E’s gas transmission and storage rate case reassigned to CPUC ALJ John Wong.

Jan. 29, 2014
“I trust you’re happier now? Not sure how this came about, but John is the best.” – from Florio to Cherry

Click here for an accompanying news article. A selection of noteworthy emails between the CPUC and PG&E is appended to this article under the “Sources” tab. The full cache of released emails is available here.