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'God knows what is underground': A timeline of PG&E-CPUC interactions

By Sarah Smith

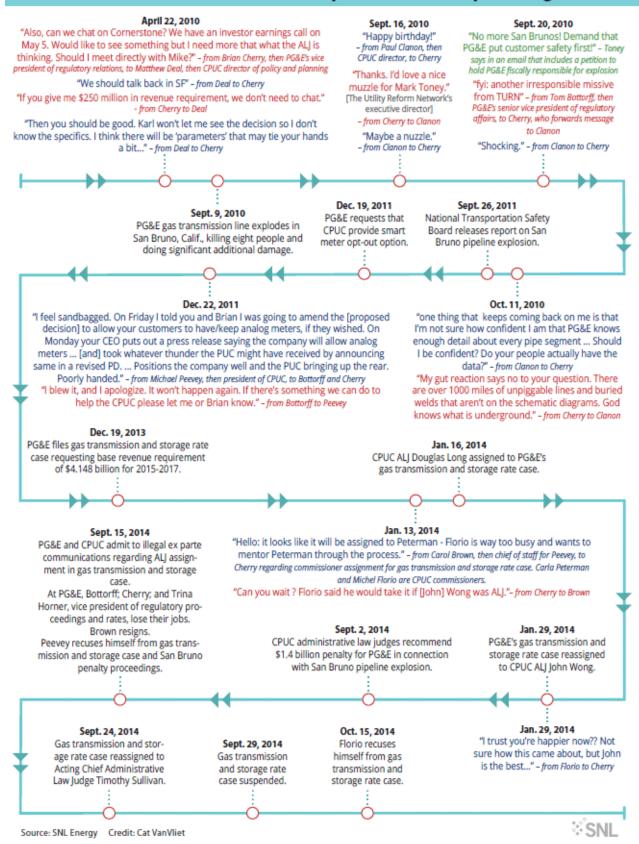
Tens of thousands of emails exchanged between employees of the California Public Utilities Commission and PG&E Corp. were publicly released, confirming long-standing suspicions and raising new questions about the closeness of the two entities.

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



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.