

September 20, 2019

Niroop Srivatsa
City Manager
3675 Mount Diablo Blvd., #210
Lafayette, CA 94549

Dear Ms. Srivatsa,

I am reaching out to provide you with an update regarding Pacific Gas and Electric's (PG&E) gas pipeline that runs through the Girl Scout camp and Briones Regional Park. I would be happy to speak with you to discuss in more detail or answer any additional questions.

PG&E Gas Pipeline in Briones Regional Park Near Buckeye Ranch Trail

The natural gas transmission pipeline that runs through Briones Regional Park near Buckeye Ranch Trail and crossing the ravine is Line 191-1. The line is a 10-inch diameter steel pipeline that was installed in 1952 and has a maximum allowable operating pressure of 268 pounds per square inch gage (psig).

Nothing is more important to us than the safety of our customers and communities. PG&E is aware of the segment of exposed pipeline near Buckeye Ranch Trail. The exposed pipe segment is operated as an intentional span across the ravine. As such, the span segment receives ongoing monitoring and inspections to ensure continued safe operation. **We know through the results of our latest inspections that it continues to operate safely.** PG&E has a comprehensive inspection and monitoring program to ensure the safety of its natural gas transmission pipeline system. We regularly conduct patrols and leak surveys, and, for exposed pipe spans, we also conduct atmospheric corrosion inspections for our natural gas transmission pipelines. If any pipeline integrity issues are identified as a risk to public safety, we take steps right away to address them. Our work includes:

- **Patrols:** PG&E patrols its gas transmission pipelines at least quarterly to look for indications of construction activity and other factors affecting pipeline safety and operation. **Line 191-1 near Buckeye Ranch Trail was patrolled in September 2019, and there were no public safety risks observed.** Due to vegetation cover, portions of Line 191-1 in this area were unable to be aerial patrolled in September 2019, however, those portions of the pipeline were ground patrolled in July 2019, and there were no reported observations.
- **Leak Surveys:** PG&E conducts leak surveys of its natural gas transmission pipelines semi-annually. Leak surveys are conducted by a leak surveyor walking above the pipeline with leak detection instruments or conducted aurally and followed-up with a ground leak survey if there is a leak indication identified during the aerial survey. **Line 191-1 near Buckeye Ranch Trail was leak surveyed in May 2019, and no leaks were found.**
- **Atmospheric Corrosion Inspections:** PG&E inspects pipelines located above ground for atmospheric corrosion every 36 to 39 months. **Line 191-1 near Buckeye Ranch Trail was inspected in September 2019.** PG&E identified coating holidays and some surface rust at and near the North air to soil transition as well as coating disbondment. **PG&E has repaired the coating holiday and surface rust near the North air to soil transition.**
- **Integrity Assessments:** PG&E incorporates three federally-approved methods in its Transmission Integrity Management Program: In-Line Inspections (ILI), Direct Assessment (DA) and Pressure Testing. **Pressure testing, a strength test normally conducted with pressurized water, which is also referred to as a hydrostatic test, is tentatively scheduled in 2022 for this pipe span.**

- **Geohazard Inspections:** PG&E has a geohazard mitigation and monitoring program for evaluating landslides and erosion concerns. **PG&E last inspected the section of Line 191-1 near Buckeye Ranch Trail in September 2019. The inspection identified a low risk for erosion concerns.** The banks of the ravine were classified as a low erosion risk because of their low or dormant erosion activity with low potential to significantly impact the pipeline over service life greater than 10 years.

PG&E performs these and a number of other maintenance activities to ensure the continued safe operation of its natural gas transmission pipelines and the ongoing delivery of safe and reliable gas to our customers.

Additional Third-Party Pipeline Evaluation

In response to the community's feedback, PG&E has hired a third-party, engineering and scientific consulting firm, to perform an additional stress analysis of the pipe span on Line 191-1 near the Buckeye Ranch Trail in Briones Regional Park. This analysis will determine:

- If the current pipe span design is safe for continued operation
- If the current span design is safe for continued operation when trees/branches may potentially impact the pipe span
- Maximum temperature that the pipe can withstand and its effect on the pipe span's safe operation (i.e. potential wildfire impacts)
- If the current span design is safe for continued operation when affected by a seismic event

Pipeline Markers

PG&E installs pipeline markers to identify the location of PG&E's pipeline for public awareness. **The pipe span on Line 191-1 near Buckeye Ranch Trail has a pipeline marker with orange striped panels and a warning sticker between Buckeye Ranch Trail and the span on the northern section of Buckeye Ranch Trail. On the southern portion of Buckeye Ranch Trail there is a carsonite warning marker that is just to the south of the trail.** There is line of sight between these two markers.

We received the Contra Costa Fire Chief's request for fencing and additional signage around the pipeline. While the current pipeline markers provide warnings to the public of PG&E's pipeline location, we are evaluating the potential for installation of an additional warning sign on the south side of the pipe span near Buckeye Ranch Trail. We will coordinate with EBRPD to share the feedback we've received and determine if signage and fencing can be installed.

PG&E Gas Pipeline at the Girl Scout Camp

PG&E is aware of the additional two segments of exposed pipeline on the Girl Scout property. One segment of exposed pipe is an originally constructed span and the other is a partially exposed segment of pipe. In response to the community's feedback, we are conducting additional reviews of these sections of pipeline. The two segments of pipe were visually assessed on Thursday, September 19, 2019, and no immediate safety concerns were evident. During the site visit, we collected additional data and will be having the same third-party, engineering and scientific consulting firm perform additional analysis on these spans of pipe. If any immediate safety concerns are identified, we take steps to address them right away.

We will follow-up with you within the next couple weeks, once we have more to share.

Thank you again for your interest in our gas safety work. Please feel free to reach me using the below information if you have any follow-up questions.

Sincerely,



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