

November 7, 2019

201910686

VIA EMAIL ONLY

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
STATE OF CALIFORNIA
ATTN: SAFETY AND ENFORCEMENT DIVISION
320 W FOURTH STREET SUITE 500
LOS ANGELES CA 90013

Re: Date of Incident: October 10, 2019
Location of Incident: Near Saddle Ridge Road, Sylmar, California

Ladies and Gentlemen:

In accordance with the reporting requirements set forth in Resolution E-4184, this letter supplements the notice Southern California Edison Company (SCE) provided to the Commission via the web-based reporting system on Friday, October 11, 2019 at 10:13 a.m., regarding the above-referenced incident. SCE is required to submit this information pursuant to Commission instructions, resolutions and the Public Utilities Code, and submits this report under Public Utilities Code Section 315.

On Thursday, October 10, 2019, shortly after 9:00 p.m., under conditions of a Santa Ana windstorm, a wildland fire named the "Saddle Ridge Fire" was reported in the Sylmar area (note the incident summary in SCE's initial report submission identified the incident location as Yarnell Street/210 Freeway). The Los Angeles Fire Department ("LAFD") is investigating the fire. As of October 26, 2019, the Saddle Ridge Fire burned approximately 8,799 acres, destroyed 24 structures and damaged 91 structures. According to LAFD, eight firefighters sustained non-life threatening injuries, and one civilian suffered cardiac arrest and died at the hospital.

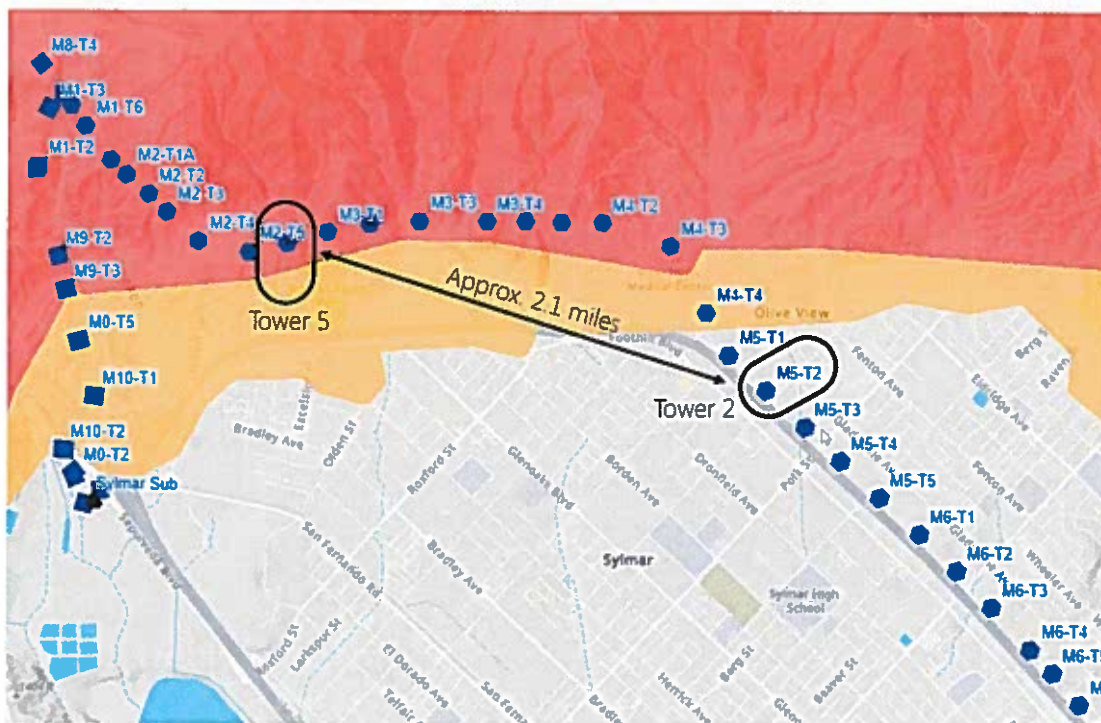
LAFD reported that the fire appeared to have originated in an area north of Saddle Ridge Road. SCE has a transmission tower in that area (Tower 5).¹ Tower 5 supports the Gould-Sylmar 220kV and Eagle Rock-Sylmar 220kV circuits. There was no wire down at Tower 5. However, SCE did experience relay operations and a lock-out on the Gould-Sylmar 220kV circuit at 8:57 p.m. on October 10, 2019. There was no relay on the Eagle Rock-Sylmar 220kV circuit at that time. SCE examined Tower 5 and observed no damage on the subject Gould-Sylmar 220 kV circuit. SCE did observe a jumper bracket on the Eagle Rock-Sylmar 220kV on Tower 5 requiring repair, and entered a non-emergency repair notification for that condition.

¹ SCE identifies this transmission tower as M2-T5. It is depicted on the map below.

SCE patrolled the circuit and discovered damage at a transmission tower (Tower 2)² located approximately 2.1 miles from Tower 5. Tower 2 also supports conductors on the Gould-Sylmar 220kV and Eagle Rock-Sylmar 220kV circuits. At Tower 2 on the Gould-Sylmar 220kV circuit, hardware supporting the insulator string for the middle phase bundled conductors separated and caused the middle phase to fall and contact the lower cross-arm on Tower 2. SCE believes this damage on Tower 2 was the cause of the 8:57 p.m. relay. SCE is not aware of any evidence indicating that a fire ignition occurred at this location.

Following the incident, SCE performed patrols of the tower lines in the area and performed work which includes the following: replaced all three insulator strings, including the damaged one, on the Gould-Sylmar 220kV circuit at Tower 2; performed washing of soot on insulators on multiple towers; and completed various work on multiple other tower sites while the Gould-Sylmar line was de-energized.

The cause of the fire remains under investigation, and SCE will continue to cooperate with authorities while conducting its own investigation.



Sincerely,

Jose Moran

² SCE identifies this transmission tower as M5-T2. It is depicted on the map below.