

October 12, 2020

202009390

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: September 6, 2020
Location of Incident: Devils Canyon Dam Truck Trail, Azusa, 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 Tuesday, September 15, 2020 at 8:22 p.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 Sunday, September 6, 2020, at approximately 12:21 p.m., a wildland fire named the “Bobcat Fire” was reported in the vicinity of Cogswell Dam within the Angeles National Forest. It is our understanding the United States Forest Service (USFS) initiated an investigation into the fire and restricted access into the area near Cogswell Dam. As of October 9, 2020 the Bobcat Fire had burned approximately 115,796 acres and was at 90% containment. Although containment and damage assessment continue, the USFS has reported the Bobcat Fire destroyed 87 residential structures and 1 commercial structure, and damaged 28 residential structures. The Bobcat Fire also destroyed 83 other structures, damaged 19 other structures, and destroyed 178 vehicles. In addition, 6 firefighters reportedly sustained injuries, and suppression costs are estimated at \$80,000,000.

A section of the Jarvis 12 kV circuit is located in the vicinity of Cogswell Dam and the circuit experienced a relay operation at 12:16 p.m. on September 6, 2020. The Mt. Wilson East camera (wildfirealert.org) captured the initial stages of the fire with the first observed smoke as early as approximately 12:10 p.m., prior to the relay operation.

On Tuesday, September 15, 2020, USFS personnel requested that SCE remove a specific section of SCE overhead conductor in the vicinity of Cogswell Dam. The following day, Wednesday, September 16, 2020, at the direction of the USFS investigators, SCE personnel were permitted into the subject area and removed an approximate 23-foot section of 1/0 ACSR conductor (south phase) that was situated between an H-Frame structure comprised of Pole Nos. 4786005E and 4786004E, which had been significantly damaged in the fire and was no longer erect, and another H-Frame structure comprised of Pole Nos. 2127468E and 1583439E. Although USFS

has not shared the details of its investigation with SCE, it appears that USFS is investigating whether vegetation was involved in the ignition of the fire. SCE understands that in addition to retaining SCE's overhead conductor, USFS also removed and retained three tree branches in the area. SCE is investigating the cause of the ignition and the 12:16 p.m. relay on its system, and evaluating whether vegetation in the area could have been a factor, including whether vegetation may have encroached within the minimum clearance distance or contacted the section of the overhead conductor retained by USFS. SCE is also investigating the impact an active fire might have had on our circuit, and is investigating other potential causes of the ignition such as customer-owned electrical facilities and human activity in the area.

In addition to the property damage noted above, SCE continues to assess the extent of the damage and repairs continue. As of October 10, 2020, damage to SCE facilities included 494 poles to be replaced along with replacement of 220,000 feet of overhead conductor and 86 transformers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Aaron Lopez", is written over a light gray grid background.

Aaron Lopez