

Company: San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Application No.: A.22-10-____
Proceeding: Catastrophic Expense Memorandum Account (CEMA)
Exhibit No.: _____
Witness: L. Patrick Kinsella

PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF
L. PATRICK KINSELLA
ON BEHALF OF
SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA



October 31, 2022

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1 **PREPARED DIRECT TESTIMONY OF**
2 **PATRICK KINSELLA**
3 **ON BEHALF OF**
4 **SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY**
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6 **I. OVERVIEW AND PURPOSE**

7 The purpose of this testimony is to present San Diego Gas & Electric Company’s
8 (SDG&E) gas-related response to the following two catastrophic events as stated in SDG&E’s
9 Application for Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA). The costs associated
10 therein can be found in the prepared direct testimony of Mr. R. Craig Gentes.

- 11 • 2017 Lilac Fire
- 12 • 2018 West Fire

13 Specifically, this testimony will describe SDG&E’s response to these CEMA events,
14 which include some or all of these functions: (1) provide standby support to Electric
15 Distribution, (2) eliminate potentially hazardous conditions, (3) restore service to customers and
16 (4) repair, replace, or restore damaged gas transmission and distribution facilities. Details of the
17 costs associated with these CEMA events can be found in the prepared direct testimony of R.
18 Craig Gentes.

19 For a description of the conditions of each of the above-mentioned events, refer to the
20 accompanying direct testimony of Peter M. Pavao.

21 **II. 2017 LILAC FIRE**

22 **A. SDG&E Gas Operations Response Activities**

23 The 2017 Lilac Fire required Gas Emergency Center (GEC) activation, field response and
24 restoration work. GEC serves as the local operational control center for emergencies on the gas
25 distribution system resulting from severe storms, fires, and earthquakes was activated at Miramar

1 to help respond to potential gas-related service interruptions. The GEC was staffed with
2 representatives from key gas operations positions including engineering, pipeline operations, gas
3 distribution operations, gas transmission operations, mapping, customer service and construction
4 crew supervision. The GEC was preparing to provide direction to field forces on a regional basis
5 and coordinate the gas activities, with the overall emergency response being managed through
6 Electric Distribution Operations and the Emergency Operation Center (EOC). Supervisors and
7 Contract Administrators supported SDG&E crews and served as liaisons for mutual aid and
8 contract crews.

9 The 2017 Lilac Fire started on December 7, 2017 near Bonsall in San Diego County. In
10 total, the fire consumed 4,100 acres before it was contained on December 16, 2017. The fire
11 destroyed 79 houses in the Rancho Monserate Country Club community that received gas
12 services. Gas Operations proactively shut off 232 customers in the impacted area. Restoration
13 activities included leak survey and repair of the damaged gas services and risers, purging the
14 portions of the proactively isolated pipe, inspections, and relighting customer pilots. Lack of
15 power at the Fallbrook Transmission Pressure Limiting Station and Rainbow Transfer Station,
16 due to the electric outages caused by the 2017 Lilac Fire required Gas Transmission Operations
17 to install backup generators to supply power to SDG&E's supervisory control and data
18 acquisition (SCADA) system.

19 Gas and street repair crews also served as equipment operators and built access roads for
20 electric crews. In addition to proactively controlling the gas through shut offs of impacted areas,
21 monitoring, and maintaining the gas infrastructure, Gas Operations field crews with Management
22 support spent most of their resources directly supporting Electric Operations with the electric

1 infrastructure restoration efforts and these supporting costs were captured in electric distribution
2 costs.

3 **III. 2018 WEST FIRE**

4 **A. SDG&E's Gas Operations Response Activities**

5 The 2018 West Fire, which started on July 6, 2018, near Alpine in San Diego County,
6 consumed 504 acres, destroying 48 structures before it was contained on July 11, 2018. This
7 emergency required SDG&E's GEC activation. GEC, which serves as the local operational
8 control center for emergencies on the gas distribution system resulting from severe storms, fires,
9 and earthquakes, was activated at SDG&E's Miramar location to help respond to potential gas-
10 related service interruptions. The GEC was staffed with representatives from key gas operations
11 positions, including engineering, pipeline operations, gas distribution operations, gas
12 transmission operations, mapping, customer service, and construction crew supervision. The
13 GEC was preparing to provide direction to field forces on a regional basis and coordinate the gas
14 activities, with the overall emergency response being managed through SDG&E's Electric
15 Distribution Operations and its EOC.

16 Supervisors and Contract Administrators supported SDG&E crews and served as liaisons
17 for mutual aid and contract crews. Plans were made to isolate the gas distribution system for
18 areas should the fire spread, but those plans proved to be unnecessary. SDG&E mobilized gas
19 crews after 2018 West Fire started, staging crews at district yards so that they would be available
20 to proactively control the gas through shut offs prior to the fire reaching impacted areas, to
21 immediately respond to gas emergencies during the 2018 West Fire, and then assess and repair
22 damage after the fire was contained.

1 In addition to monitoring and maintaining the gas infrastructure, Gas Operations field
2 crews with Management support spent most of their resources directly supporting Electric
3 Operations with electric infrastructure restoration efforts. Gas Ops and street repair crews also
4 served as equipment operators and built access roads to assist electric crews and these supporting
5 costs were captured in electric distribution costs.

6 **IV. CONCLUSION**

7 This concludes my prepared direct testimony.

1 **V. QUALIFICATIONS**

2 My name is L. Patrick Kinsella - Gas Operations San Diego. My business address is
3 8335 Century Park Court, San Diego, California, 92123. I am employed by SDG&E as Director,
4 Gas Operations. I have been employed by SDG&E since 1982. I have 40 years of experience in
5 the utility industry. While at SDG&E, I have held various staff and line positions in the
6 functional areas of Gas Distribution, Electric Regional Operations, and Mobile Home Park
7 Upgrade Program.

8 My present responsibilities include providing leadership to a team of professionals
9 responsible for the safe and reliable delivery of natural gas energy through the distribution
10 pipeline network, including the operation, maintenance, installation, and replacement of the gas
11 distribution system at SDG&E. I also provide leadership for a group that provides technical
12 support for gas distribution project management and construction activities. This includes gas
13 distribution planning and system design; emergency preparedness, response, and recovery; the
14 preparation and management of O&M and capital budgets; and implementing large-scale
15 distribution integrity projects.

16 I earned a Bachelor of Science Degree in 2015 from University of Phoenix, San Diego. I
17 sponsor the TY 2024 GRC testimony for SDG&E's Gas Distribution O&M expenses and capital
18 spending plan.

19 I have not previously testified before the Commission.