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October 6, 2017 (as revised November 3, 2017)

Ms. Elizaveta Malashenko  
Director, Safety and Enforcement Division  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102

**SUBJECT: SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY (SDG&E) DE-ENERGIZATION  
REPORT**

Dear Ms. Malashenko:

In accordance with Ordering Paragraph (OP) 2 of Decision 12-04-024, SDG&E is submitting this report in response to the De-Energization Event which occurred in SDG&E's service territory on September 21-22, 2017. As noted in the reporting requirements, this report has been verified by an SDG&E officer in accordance with Rule 1.11 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact Tim Lyons at (858) 654-6403, or at [TLyons@semprautilities.com](mailto:TLyons@semprautilities.com).

Sincerely,

/s/ Clay Faber  
Clay Faber  
Director — Regulatory Affairs

## **SDG&E Report on De-Energization of Circuit 221 on September 21-22, 2017**

The following report is submitted in response to the Power Event which occurred in SDG&E's service territory on September 21-22, 2017. SDG&E submits this report to the Director of Safety and Enforcement Division (SED) and includes the following information pursuant to Decision (D.)12-04-024.

### **1. Explanation of SDG&E's decision to de-energize**

#### **Response:**

The portion of Circuit 221 on top of Volcan Mountain that was de-energized is under construction as part of the Fire Risk Mitigation Program (FiRM). Upon completion, this portion of Circuit 221 will be more resilient to wind. This location has very unique geographic and geological challenges, including exposure to high winds, potential for ice loading (>5000ft elevation), and poor soil conditions. Due to this unique environment and ongoing construction, this area poses a serious risk of fire ignition. It is anticipated that construction to mitigate these concerns will be completed later this year.

### **2. All factors considered by SDG&E in its decision to de-energize, including visual observations by pre-positioned and mobile field personnel where possible, wind speed, temperature, humidity, and vegetation moisture content in the vicinity of the de-energized circuits.**

#### **Response:**

Winds at Volcan Mountain increased through the morning of September 21<sup>st</sup> and peaked in strength late that afternoon. Wind gusts in excess of 50 mph were measured between 14:20 and 16:50 with a peak gust of 56mph recorded at 16:20. Temperatures during this time fluctuated between 48 and 49 degrees Fahrenheit with relative humidity of 100%. Live fuel moisture measurements last obtained in late August indicated vegetation moistures were 54%.

### **3. The time, place, and duration of the event.**

#### **Response:**

On Thursday, September 21<sup>st</sup> at 14:54, SDG&E's Distribution System Operator opened 221-19R remotely via SCADA to shut off power to Volcan Mountain. On Friday, September 22<sup>nd</sup> at 09:14 all service was restored. The total duration of the outage was 18 hours and 20 minutes.

- a. De-energization of Circuit 221: September 21, 2017 at 14:54

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b. Power restoration on Circuit 221: September 22, 2017 at 09:14

**4. The number of affected customers, broken down by residential, medical baseline, commercial/industrial, and other.**

**Response:**

There are three commercial customers that are served load-side of 221-19R on the top of Volcan Mountain. All three customers have back-up generators in the event of a power outage and were contacted per question (vi) below.

The September 21-22 de-energization event affected customers as follows:

- a. Residential: 0 customers;
- b. Medical Baseline: 0 customers;
- c. Commercial and Industrial: 3 customers;
- d. Other: 0;
- e. Total: 3 customers;
- f. None of the customers affected were medical baseline customers.

**5. Describe any wind-related damage to SDG&E's overhead power-line facilities in the areas where power is shut off.**

**Response:**

No wind-related damage was found.

**6. Provide a description of the customer notice and any other mitigation provided by SDG&E.**

**Response:**

In advance of the event, the customers in the area were notified about the potential for de-energization during construction.

During this specific event, SDG&E provided several notifications to the customers as follows:

- September 20<sup>th</sup> – A day-ahead notification was made to all of the customers as soon as SDG&E's forecasts showed potential wind gusts to exceed 50mph.
- September 21<sup>st</sup> – A day-of notification was made to all of the customers when forecasts continued to project wind gusts to exceed 50mph.

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- September 21<sup>st</sup> – A notification was provided immediately following the de-energization.
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> – A notification was provided to alert customers about restoration.
- September 22<sup>nd</sup> – A notification was provided immediately after restoration.

**7. Include any other matters that SDG&E believes are relevant to the Commission’s assessment of the reasonableness of SDG&E’s decision to de-energize.**

**Response:**

SDG&E’s response was targeted to a specific circuit that was experiencing conditions that threatened public safety. Very few customers and no residential customers were affected by de-energization. These customers received prior notice.

## VERIFICATION

I am an officer of the applicant corporation herein, and am authorized to make this verification on its behalf. I am informed and believe that the matters stated in the foregoing document are true.

I declare under penalty of perjury that the foregoing is true and correct.

Executed this 3<sup>rd</sup> day of November 2017, at San Diego, California.

/s/ Katherine M. Speirs  
Katherine M. Speirs  
Vice President, Electric System Operations  
SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

8330 Century Park Court  
San Diego, CA 92123

**SDG&E Report on De-Energization of Circuit 221  
on September 21-22, 2017**

**Attachment 1**

**De-Energization Documentation – Circuit 221**

## SDG&E Report on De-Energization of Circuit 221 on September 21-22, 2017

### De-Energization Documentation

**Date and Time:** September 21<sup>st</sup> at 2:54 PM

**Circuit:** 221

**Sectionalizing Device:** 221-19R

**Customers Impacted:** 3

**Communities Affected:** Volcan Mountain

**Anemometer:** Volcan Mountain (VCM)

**Wind Speed:** WSW 34 mph with gusts to 56 mph

**Humidity:** 100%

**LFM:** 54%

**FPI:** Normal (8)

**Area fuels**

Type: Open grasslands surrounded by oak/conifer forests.

Quantity:

**Observer report:** N/A - observers were not used for this incident.

**Active fires?**  No  Yes - If so, where:

**Active Outages?**  No  Yes if so, where: Imperial Beach Circuit 159 (110 customers), Chollas West Circuit 160, AM1, AM2, AM3 (3,490 customers), Pala Circuit 249 (466 customers)

**Air resources available:**  No  Yes

**Comments:**

The portion of Circuit 221 on top of Volcan Mountain that was de-energized is under construction as part of the Fire Risk Mitigation Program (FiRM). Upon completion, the design criteria will increase for this portion of Circuit 221. This location has very unique geographic and geological challenges, including exposure to high winds, potential for ice loading (>5,000ft elevation) and poor soil conditions. Due to this unique environment and on-going construction, we decided to implement an operational constraint consistent with the current design criteria until construction is completed. It is anticipated that construction to mitigate these concerns will be completed later this year and the operational constraint can be removed.

**Other considerations:** See DOP 3017C for information on our operating procedures for Volcan Mountain.

**Contributors:** Electric Distribution Operations