Utility Pole Policies and Procedures

San Francisco Board of Supervisors

Public Safety and Neighborhood Services Committee

July 25, 2019

Together, Building
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What We'll Cover

Purpose: Discuss utility practices, policies and protocols regarding the installation of new wiring, maintenance of existing wires, inspections of abandoned wiring and the condition of utility poles.

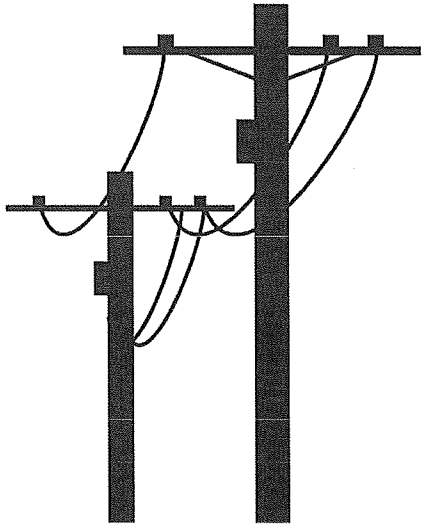
Background: PG&E owns approximately 32,000 (22,000 jointly owned) utility poles in San Francisco, a majority of which support electric distribution.

Topics:

- Overview
- Safety
- System Protocols & Requirements

Overview

- In San Francisco, PG&E has approx. **400 miles of overhead** and **700 miles of underground** distribution lines
- The majority of poles in San Francisco **are jointly-owned** between PG&E and other companies, such as AT&T
- Joint pole owners, like PG&E are members of the **Northern California Joint Pole Association** (NCJPA)
- **NCJPA** was established to help facilitate ownership, maintenance, relinquishment and removal of **jointly-owned poles**

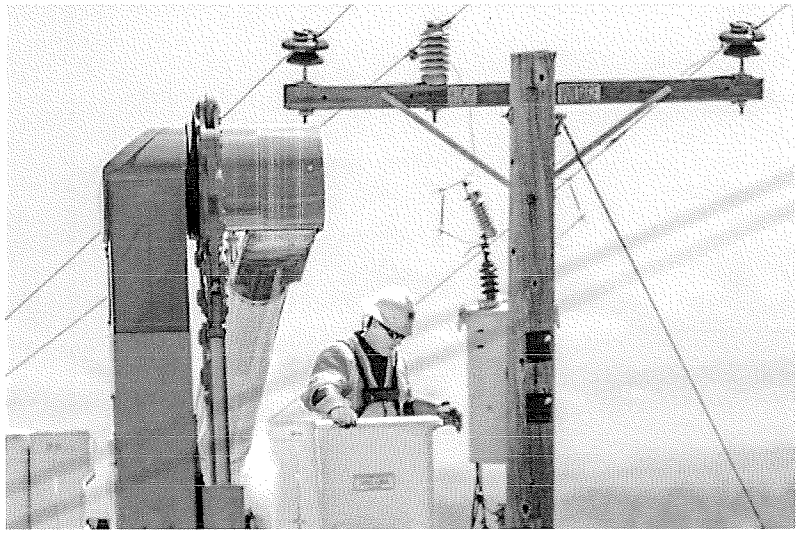


Routine Patrols and Inspections

In accordance with CPUC regulations, PG&E performs **patrols and detailed inspections** of poles and associated equipment.

Patrols are performed annually for poles in urban environments like San Francisco, and every two years for poles located in rural environments.

Detailed inspections are conducted every five years for overhead lines and every three years for facilities underground.



- Both patrols and detailed inspections **identify and address safety or reliability issues** with our power poles (leaning, potentially overloaded, deteriorated or damaged, etc.)
- When a pole is **tested and found not to meet minimum requirements**, a process is followed that may include **performing pole loading calculations and/or repairing, reinforcing, or replacing** the pole as necessary
- In San Francisco, we replaced **701 Poles** in 2018

System Protocols & Requirements

- CPUC General Order 95 outlines requirements for all of California's overhead line design, construction, and maintenance
- GO 95 provides local exchange carriers like Verizon, AT&T and Comcast the ability to access utility poles and make attachments
- Before adding any attachments or electric load to a pole, it must be tested and approved first.

Joint Use Map Portal

The Joint Use Map Portal (JUMP) is an easy-to-use tool available to authorized members to search for pole information including:

- Location
- Pole composition (i.e. type of material, height, circumference)
- Remaining strength
- Most recent inspection test and results

Order Instituting Investigation (OII)

CPUC recently issued an **Order Instituting Investigation (OII)** into the possible creation of a **shared database or statewide census of utility poles and conduit** in California

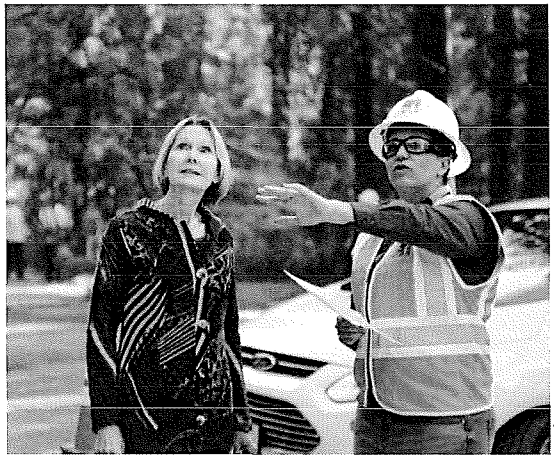
PG&E, as well as a 25 other utility and telecom partners **attended a series of workshops** held in Fall 2018, and January 2019 to discuss the feasibility of such a database

Some of these components include:

- Pole location information (e.g., GIS coordinates and/or address)
- Name of any other joint owner(s); percentage ownership of each joint owner(s)
- Number of pending attachment application(s) (if any) and/or make-ready work (if available)
- Notice of any pending pole replacement/reinforcement and date (if available)

Undergrounding

As part of our efforts to make our infrastructure more resilient, **we are evaluating areas where undergrounding can best serve our long-term safety and reliability efforts** to increase system resiliency.



Undergrounding is a **complex process which can take years to complete**. In addition underground lines are not immune to weather and **may still be impacted by equipment issues, lightning strikes, flooding, earthquakes, and excavation damage** by a third party and can take longer to repair than overhead lines when damage occurs.

More information can be found at **pge.com/undergrounding.**

Thank You

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