



## REVIEW COMMITTEE



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
2850 SHADELANDS DRIVE, SUITE 100  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94598  
(925) 974-4282

RECEIVED by LU 1245  
FEB. 7, 2002  
**CASE CLOSED  
FILED & LOGGED**

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO  
LOCAL UNION 1245, I.B.E.W.  
P.O. BOX 4790  
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596  
(925) 933-6060  
SALIM A. TAMIMI, SECRETARY

MARGARET A. SHORT, CHAIRMAN

DECISION  
LETTER DECISION  
PRE-REVIEW REFERRAL

### Pre-Review Committee No. 11977

Mary Cogan  
Company Member  
Local Investigating Committee

Arlene Edwards  
Union Member  
Local Investigating Committee

#### Subject of the Grievance

This case concerns the allegation that the company is using contractors to perform work normally performed by Transmission Troublemens. The Union has asked that the Company offer optimum voluntary overtime before contracting out this work.

#### Facts of the Case

Transmission Troublemens have been, and continue to be responsible for patrolling transmission lines for the purpose of assessing the integrity of the system. The method of patrolling is either from the air and/or by ground. If air patrolling is performed, a follow-up ground patrol is performed on any hazards or trouble located. This continues to be the Guideline (G0066 page 4) for the department. If a vegetation hazard is identified, the Troublemens are responsible for reporting that hazard so that the Tree Trimmers can respond appropriately.

Pre-Inspector Arborists are contracted to patrol right-of-ways under and adjoining all transmission lines. They do not assess the condition or integrity of the actual transmission lines and/or structures. The tasks associated with Pre-Inspector Arborist patrolling are to count the number of trees and bushes, identify their types, track their growth rates from the previous inspection and measure their trunk diameters and branch heights. This information is fed into a computer database-tracking program for future reference. None of the aforementioned tasks are work normally performed by Transmission Troublemens. Incidental to the tasks listed above, if Pre-Inspector Arborists identify a hazardous condition and the need for vegetation to be trimmed, they may contact the Tree Trimmers and provide information.

Discussion

The Committee reviewed the facts of the case and discussed the issues. The Union's position is that Transmission Troublemens should be offered the opportunity to work overtime to complete the tasks being performed by the Pre-Inspector Arborists.

The Company's position is that the Transmission Troublemens are still responsible for the patrolling of lines and for reporting any hazardous vegetation conditions to the Tree Trimmers. The Pre-Inspector Arborists are not doing work that the Troublemens have done in the past.

Subsequent to the P-RC discussion, Company has learned that at the time of this grievance filing (August 2000), Transmission Troublemens in Sacramento were working approximately 33% overtime. Even if the Pre-Inspector Arborists were performing "work normally performed", there would be no violation of Exhibit XVI Pre-contracting out provisions for the use of optimum voluntary overtime before contracting.

It is the finding of the Pre-Review Committee that no violation of Exhibit XVI has occurred because Pre-Inspection Arborists are not performing work normally performed by Transmission Troublemens. Transmission Troublemens and Pre-Inspection Arborists have the responsibility to communicate to the Tree Trimmers when trimming of vegetation is required. This communication process to Tree Trimmers provides both a proactive/preventative approach and a respond-as-needed approach to vegetation management. Transmission Troublemens remain responsible for the work that they have done in the past.

Decision

Based on the work as described above, no violation of the Agreement occurred; this case is closed without adjustment.

Margaret A. Short  
Margaret A. Short, Chairman  
Review Committee

2/7/02  
Date

Sam A. Tamimi  
Sam Tamimi, Secretary  
Review Committee

2-07-02  
Date