SMUD

Discharge grievance settled

A year ago, Dan Collins was accused of lying down on the job and consequently was fired. Because of Local 1245, Dan is back on the job with his disciplinary record completely cleared and twenty thousand dollars compensation for the discharge.

Collins started working for the Sacramento Municipal Utilities District (SMUD) in August 1981. He is a Crafts Helper, and was assigned to SMUD's Rancho Seco Nuclear Power plant when the incident which led to his termination occurred last December.

On the day in question, Dan was up on a scaffold, suited up to perform work on live, high voltage electrical lines.

The utilities claim that the technique is safe and "more efficient" than the traditional hot-sticking method. Although several other states permit "rubber gloving" on high voltage lines, currently Title XIII of the Cal/OSHA safety orders prohibits using rubber gloves on lines above five thousand volts.

The restoration of Cal/OSHA, resulting from the passage of Proposition 97 last month, means that the utilities will have to go through the lengthy variance process if they want to be allowed to use rubber gloves in performing high-voltage liveline work. At press time, PG&E had not announced any plans to seek approval from the state to adopt use of rubber gloves.

Management personnel from PG&E, as well as from other companies, have been given some training in rubber gloving. According to many linemen these supervisors have given glowing reports on the applications of the technique.

On October 25, Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally and sixteen highly experienced linemen representing the Local traveled to PG&E's rubber gloving demonstration facility at Kettleman to see and judge for themselves whether the Union should support the introduction of high voltage rubber glove work in California.

In addition to observing demonstrations of the technique, the Union delegation participated in a lengthy question-and-answer session with PG&E's rubber gloving "experts." They came away unified in the belief that rubber gloving is unsafe and represents a giant step backward for the lineman craft.

The Utility Reporter interviewed all of the linemen who went to Kettleman. We asked them what they thought of rubber gloving, whether the Kettleman school had influenced their opinion, and what kind of feedback they'd gotten from their co-workers on the subject. Their thoughtful, expert comments begin on page ten.

The settlement negotiated with the District by Local 1245 attorney Jane Brunner included a hefty financial award for Collins along with his reinstatement.

Dan Collins says that the settlement wasn't just a personal triumph, but a triumph for the Union and for the employees of SMUD. "For years," Dan told the Utility Reporter, "I've seen SMUD management at the Ranch intimidate employees and cover up their mistakes with wrongful terminations. I've always thought that through the Union—together—we can beat management."

 continuar en PÁGINA DOS

Featured report

Linemen speak out on rubber gloving

For the past few years, Pacific Gas & Electric and other California utilities have been attempting to drum up support among employees for using rubber gloves in certain situations instead of "hot sticks" to perform work on live, high voltage electrical lines.

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Davey Tree committee prepares for negotiations

Standing, Left to Right: Paul Dubois, North Bay; Kenneth Bisemeyer, San Joaquin; Frank Gomez, San Jose; Frank Gratz, Humboldt; Jim Travis, Organizing Representative. Seated, Left to Right: Norm Langenes, East Bay; Orv Owen, Assistant Business Manager; John Kenney, Santa Cruz; Alan Finocchio, San Joaquin.

Appointed representatives serving on the Davey Tree Negotiating Committee met at Walnut Creek union headquarters on November 14 and 15.

Committee members reviewed and discussed the 87 different bargaining proposals submitted by Davey trimmers from throughout the state.

The Committee is in the process of developing Local 1245's negotiating package which will be presented to the Company at our first bargaining session (to be announced).
Unit 1311 picnic

Prominent New Zealand trade union leader Cyril Lynch, on an around-the-world trip, stopped in the Bay Area last month to meet with Local 1245 Business Manager Jack McNally and other labor and political figures. Lynch is the President of his country's Electrical, Electronics and Related Trades Industrial Union of Workers.

Lynch told the Utility Reporter that the New Zealand labour movement is facing the pressures of the nation's serious economic problems. Unemployment is high and rising, and the country has a large overseas debt; workers are being squeezed by inflation and skilled workers are increasingly seeking jobs outside New Zealand, according to Lynch.

When asked to describe the primary safety issues facing his union, Lynch explained that they are pursuing legislation to safeguard Line men threatened by the collapse of overhead lines. They are also investigating the high risk of eye damage posed to electronics workers dealing with delicate fiber optic cabling material.

Lynch told the Utility Reporter that conditions for women working in the industry in New Zealand are improving. In the manufacturing sector, women have achieved equal rights and equal pay, and are beginning to move into the skilled electric trades. There are a few women who have reached journeyman status, but in many areas it has been a struggle merely to get employers to provide separate restroom facilities to accommodate women workers.

While in the Bay Area, Lynch also met with Senator Ted Kennedy (D-Mass) and California Labor Federation Secretary-Treasurer Jack Henning, the former U.S. Ambassador to New Zealand.
Advisory council meets

The quarterly meeting of the Local 1245 Advisory Council was held November 5 and 6 at the Concord Sheraton. Representatives were brought up to date on major Local Union and legislative issues, and reported on activity in their areas. A highlight of the conference was the presentation of a forty-year service plaque to retired Local 1245 Business Manager Ron Weakley, who moved many Council Members with his remarks on the history and future of the Local.

Rubber gloving

PG&E is proposing to change work procedures for line personnel working on high voltage energized lines. Four thousand volts, 12,000 volts and 21,000 volts are basically the three different primary voltage levels used by PG&E in their distribution system. Through transformers, these voltages are reduced to the household current of 120/240 volts which customers use for their electrical needs.

Historically, working energized 4,000 volt (4KV) lines has been done by the use of rubber gloves tested to withstand that voltage. Working energized 12,000 volt (12KV) and 21,000 volt (21KV) lines has been done by the use of insulated live line hot sticks.

PG&E is now proposing to work all primary voltages with rubber gloves.

The basic difference between the "gloving" method and the "hot stick" method is that with gloving, one uses rubber gloves over hands to work on the wire, while with hot sticks, one manipulates a 6 or 8 foot insulated fiberglass rod to work on energized wires. Using the gloving method, a lineman works very close to the conductors, while with hot sticks, a lineman is usually 5 to 6 feet away from the conductor.

PG&E appointed a task force of Company supervisors to develop work methods and a training program in an effort to institute the gloving method. This has been done, and the Company has conducted a number of informational seminars for supervisors and managers on the proposed gloving method. Based on discussions with the Union, the Company offered a one-day gloving seminar, with the Union selecting the participants. This seminar was held at the Kettleman Training Center on October 25. The Utility Reporter interviewed our Union participants after the event, and their concerns are printed in this issue.

Like barehanding live line work, is gloving live conductors limited only by the rating of the rubber gloves an unnecessary risk? With the gloving method, the worker is working right in the conductors. If there is an accidental cross phase or phase to ground, the worker is right in the flash and explosion with great risk of electrocution and severe burns. The intensity of the flash and explosion is much greater with 12KV and 21KV than with 4KV. On the other hand, with hot sticks, the worker is some distance below the conductor with a greatly reduced chance of electrocution and severe burns.

Accidental contact by the worker with a live conductor is a greater possibility when gloving than when using hot sticks. Again, the distance from the conductor is a large factor. It can be argued that conductors are covered with rubber protective equipment to protect against such contact, but anyone who has done live line work knows that the protective equipment does not necessarily always stay where you put it. The lineman is in a more hazardous environment when gloving than when using hot sticks.

It is conceded that in many cases the work can be accomplished more quickly by the use of gloves rather than hot sticks. However, there are many factors that have to be taken into account. Much of the work required to complete a job is the same whether the hot work is gloved or sticked. Also, depending upon the hot stick proficiency, the amount of time saved can be minimal.

Approximately two years ago, Local 1245 asked its members who do line work if they were in favor of the higher limits for rubber gloving. A large majority said they were not in favor.

The questions are: Is changing the work method as safe or safer than the current method, and does the amount of improved productivity outweigh the additional risk and hazard? To date, neither has been determined nor shown.

In unity,

[Signature]

Help Wanted

ATTENTION POETS

RETIREMENT PLANNING GUIDE NEEDS YOUR TALENTS

We are seeking the help of Local 1245 members who like to write poetry. The 1989 Retirement Planning guide will feature a one-page poem on the subject of "Anticipation of Retirement Life." We're looking for a poem which gets across the upbeat message that prospective retirees face challenges, accomplishments, and opportunities which can be happy, exciting and fulfilling.

We want to feature a poem written by a Local 1245 member — we know there's a lot of talent out there. If you're interested, please send your poem to:

IBEW Local 1245
P.O. Box 4790
Walnut Creek, CA 94596
Attention: Jerry Cepernich

Please include your name, address, and phone number with your poem. Thank you very much for helping our retirement planning program.
Over two hundred people attended the Appreciation Dinner in honor of Assistant Business Manager Manny Mederos at the Concord Inn on November 4. Mederos is leaving Local 1245 to accept a position as an International Representative in IBEW's Washington, DC headquarters. More than a dozen speakers paid tribute to Manny’s years of service to Local 1245.

It was clear from the event that Manny’s experience, knowledge, and warm personality will be missed by his friends and business associates. All of us wish Manny and his wife Sharon the best of everything in their new endeavors.
Pin award dinners

Each year IBEW Local 1245 honors the men and women who have reached 'milestones' that year in their Union membership. Beginning at twenty years, and at each five year increment thereafter, these longtime members and their guests are invited to a banquet where they are presented with pins commemorating their association with the Union. The honorees listed below are just a few of the many dedicated Local 1245 members who received these symbols of appreciation in 1988.

Drum

Honorees and guests


Twenty-five years: N.B. Hayden Ill, Ervis Nave, Victor Patton, Cecil Powell, R.E. Berlin.

Thirty-five years: Douglas Bauske, R. Mike Butler. Forty years: Willie Hammon.

San Francisco/General Office


East Bay

Greetings from IBEW Local 12

Officers

Seated, Left to Right: Barbara Symons, Recording Secretary; Jack McNally, Business Manager; Kathy Tindall, Executive Board. Standing: Left to Right, Ron Field, Treasurer; Lyman Morrison, Executive Board; Howard Stiefer, President; Jim McCauley, Mike Davis, and Ron Blakemore, Executive Board.

Wayne Greer
Business Representative

Dean Gurke
Business Representative

Mike Haentjens
Business Representative

Larry Pierce
Business Representative

Sharon Redman
Office Manager

Marie Rodrigues
Cash Desk Records

Frank Hutchins
Business Representative

Karen Kiley
Confidential Secretary

Linda Knight
Bookkeeping

Jim Travis
Organizing Representative

Joe Valentino
Business Representative

Ron Van Dyke
Business Representative

Ann Kools
Confidential Secretary

Austin Lea
Machine Operator

Fran Zamora
Confidential Secretary

Perry Zimmerman
Business Representative

Roger Stalcup
Assistant Business Manager

Gail Varner
Bookkeeping

Gene Wallace
Business Representative
IBEW Local 1245

Leaders

Marilee Mai
Dispatcher
Sacramento Office

Mary Lewis
Confidential Secretary

Jenny Lipow
Communications

Sharon Madison
Clerical Floater

Gary Mai
Business Representative

Mary Lewis
Confidential Secretary

Jenny Lipow
Communications

Sharon Madison
Clerical Floater

Gary Mai
Business Representative

Marilee Mai
Dispatcher
Sacramento Office

Lita Martin
Word Processing

Rae Mattes
Receptionist

Jack McNally
Business Manager

Manny Mederos
Assistant Business Manager

Larry Pierce
Business Representative

Sharon Redman
Office Manager

Marie Rodrigues
Cash Dues Records

Frank Saxenmeier
Business Representative

Roger Stalcup
Assistant Business Manager

John Stralla
Business Representative

Sam Tamimi
Business Representative

Scott Thomas
Business Representative

Jim Travis
Organizing Representative

Joe Valentino
Business Representative

Ron Van Dyke
Business Representative

Gail Varner
Bookkeeping

Gene Wallace
Business Representative

Corb Wheeler
Business Representative

Gwen Wynn
Business Representative

Fran Zamora
Confidential Secretary

Perry Zimmerman
Business Representative

Jack McNally, Business Manager; Left to Right, Ron Field, Treasurer; Lyman事業: Jim McCauley, Mike Davis, and Ron

IMC 1245 UTILITY REPORTER/DECEMBER 1988

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### SAN JOAQUIN

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### PIPE LINE

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<td>1315</td>
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*Note change*
utility in the area of safety.

If a cross-phase condition occurs while using hot sticks, the linemen will probably go home that night with sunburns, burnt hot sticks, and tiny holes in their shirts caused by melting metal. If the same thing happens while rubber gloving, the linemen will be in hospital burn unit, or a morgue instead of going home.

Even if you are super-careful and can avoid making mistakes, any number of things can go wrong that are beyond your control: the conductor could break at a bad connector, or an earthquake may occur while you’re doing live line work (both these things have happened to me). That extra three or four feet provided by hot sticks makes a world of difference.

The school projects at Ketleman are set up to have ideal conditions: no leaning poles, no overhead guys in the way, no Cable TV lines, no phone, no secondary arms, no trees in the way, no curbs, no ditches, no phone, no secondary arms, no dirty or broken insulators....The real world seldom has ideal conditions. In the real world we need the extra margin of safety that hot sticks provide.

In my yard, a couple people say they’re for rubber gloving—including a non-member who once got burned while gloving illegally. The rest of the 25 people are strongly against the idea.

I did rubber-glove work for ten years in Oklahoma, Texas, and Arkansas. I had three co-workers burned and maimed in separate incidents. Once in Anderson, Texas we had to take a guy off a pole who had been burned while gloving on a 12KV line. When we took off his boots, his legs came off at the knees.

The rubber gloving exhibition at Ketleman was poor. They tried to set up a perfect scenario, one you won’t encounter on the job. It was even pre-arranged, with the bucket truck perfectly in place. They called it a 21KV project, but there was no common neutral—which negates the fact that it’s 21KV. The instructor’s body position was inadequate and potentially unsafe.

They had the theory of dielectric testing all wrong. The project director said it was from a "booklet" that he never showed us. They didn’t use bucket liners. They didn’t know if they were using bond wire. And they said they’d give people three days of training. Where I come from, six months is considered adequate training.

The linemen in Oakland are one hundred percent against rubber gloving. More than anything else, linemen want to go home at the end of the day. The thought of losing a friend or co-worker is a constant concern.

My wife is a lineman’s wife—she sits at home during a storm, while I’m out there in the rain and the elements trying to restore service to PG&E customers instead of home warm and dry like normal husbands. Rubber gloving ups our chance of death and serious injury. The people who put on the Ketleman project won’t be the ones to knock on a lineman’s door and explain to the family what happened.

The demonstration was done under ideal conditions. In real life, you’re dealing with personalities, and you’ll get management who will try to push workers into unsafe situations. They showed us the fancy new machinery—the new bucket truck would be great working with hot sticks, but of course we’re stuck with the ancient stuff so we can’t help being less productive.

The company keeps talking about needing to get competitive—well, I’m a stockholder as well an employee, and I don’t want to lose money on stocks. But no way is earning dividends worth someone’s life, or worth crippling someone because PG&E is saving money at the expense of safety.

The people who put on the Ketleman project won’t be the ones to explain to the family what happened.
they used in the demonstration were
Class II, tested at 20KV for one min-
ute—while the lines in our area are
approximately 21KV.
They couldn't tell me what would
happen if a person got in an uncom-
promising position on a pole, winder up
in a situation where he has an opposite
phase in each hand. A phase slips, he grabs for it—and
he's wearing gloves which techni-
cally are not rated to protect him.
People should think about the
Company's motives in pushing rubber gloving. Their history on
subjects like this makes it extremely
difficult to take their sales pitch at face value.

After the Kettleman meeting, I
met with the linemen in both the
Watsonville and Santa Cruz yards,
where the feedback against the
procedure topped eighty percent.
The remainder included a few who
actually supported the idea and
others without firm beliefs either
way. It was clear management credi-
bility is very low.

Management just doesn't have
credibility with the members; their
track record shows they just plunge
ahead with bad ideas, like single-
point grounding and job sitting
applications. I've discussed the
issue with a lot of the linemen, and
the majority are very opposed to
rubber glove work because of safety
and future job security.

The big issue in my opinion is—
who makes the final decision on the
method to line work? The Company
claims rubber gloving is just 'an-
other, optional tool' and that it would
be 'up to the crew' to decide when to
use it. But they had no good answer
when we asked where the control
rests if there's a disagreement.

Our concerns over safety were
not laid to rest at Kettleman. The
demonstration was done under ideal
conditions with the most up-to-date
equipment—things we'll never have
in the field, I'm sure of it. The plain fact is, the closer
you get to working on hot stuff, the
more you have to focus on control.
With hot sticks you have a margin
of error; using rubber gloves re-
moves the margin and makes the
consequence of an error much greater.

People have mind lapses, it's in-
evitable that someone will be hurt.
Right now if you make a little mis-
take you can get away with it; with-
out hot sticks you lapse momentar-
ily and the line is right there in your
hand.
PGE's number one concern is
making money...they don't have our
best interests at heart except when
it's convenient for them to appease
us. They have skilled employees
with kousy, outdated equipment.
Give people the equipment first—
like new lift trucks and material
handlers—and there will be a big
increase in efficiency and produc-
tivity while using hot sticks for
safety.

Don Silva
Lineman, Oroville
17 years with PGE
For so long, the Company creed
was to go one step beyond govern-
ment regulations in the pursuit of
worker safety. Our safety record
when using hot sticks is highly acclaimed.
Now all of a sudden, rubber gloving
is "safer"?
Even on a simple job under opti-
mal conditions, the demonstration at Kettleman failed to prove
even that gloving was "as safe" as hot
sticking. Most people here are re-
ally opposed to the practice, a few
support it. I'd like to see every line-
man at PGE & get involved and get
cognizant of the issues.

There's no such thing as a per-
fet lineman. We're dealing with
humans, not robots. If your mind is
not 100% on what you're doing; if
your mind wanders; if you vio-
late a safety rule for whatever
reason...you've taken away between
two and eight feet of "cushion" dis-
tance if you're rubber gloving.
I think the Company expects cost
savings from reducing our special-
ized skills. Better equipment would
save us time right now—they're
comparing hot sticking on poles
with rubber gloving from bucket
tracks. If we had good equipment,
we could improve our efficiency with
hot sticks.

Randy Abbott
Lineman, Richmond G.C.
14 years with PGE
Lots of people will get hurt doing
rubber glove work. It's only safe
given the right area and proper
equipment—and it still is more danger-
ous than hot sticking.
The demonstrators had no credi-
bility because we observed them
being unsafe, even under the
school's ideal conditions. For ex-
ample, they didn't use a liner in the
bucket truck. If those guys don't
know how to do the work, other
people will certainly get improper
training and further increase their
risks.
The equipment at Kettleman was
the key to productivity, not the
gloving. More rubbering means using more material—and
that's slower. PGE Linemen are
tops, both in skill and safety. We
could be even more productive with
hot sticks if we had better equip-
ment, and retain the high skill level
and minimize safety hazards.

The majority of linemen detailed
to are opposed to using the tech-
nique. Virtually all of the experi-
cenced and concerned workers told
me they think rubber gloving is a bad idea.

Art Murray
Lineman, Vacaville
19.5 years with PGE
I don't buy the Company's claim
that rubber gloving is "just another
option," It's not going to be left up to
me as a lineman working in the
craft; ultimately it's up to my fore-
man or supervisor.

At least with hot sticks I'm eight
feet away from contact with the line
in case of an accident, so the conse-
quences of the accident are much
less severe than doing a job with
rubber gloves.

For the most part, linemen in my
area are all against rubber gloving.
There's a couple guys who'll do any-
thing for money, without thinking
of the long-term effects on their
safety and their job security. Ap-
parently management is trying to
make some of our members think
they'll get something out of going
along with the rubber gloving
scheme, without coming out and
making any promises.

It's only logical to suspect that
the exact opposite is true. Just
where do they are planning to
save all this money from the sus-
pended increase in productivity? On
our backs, of course. They can't
have it both ways—either they spend
irretrievable amounts of money on
new equipment and extensive train-
ing to enhance safety (offsetting or
outweighing time saved on a few
jobs where crews "opt" to rubber
glove, or else safety will be dis-
carded completely in favor of forced
gloving done by minimally trained
people with old equipment, and
eventually by scab contractors.

It can sanctify an increase in effi-
ciciency if the management wants to be "flexible," but only
when it suits them.

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Linemen speak out on rubber gloving

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Landis Marttila
Electric Crew Foreman
San Francisco/Marin
12 years with PG&E

Rubber gloving is a perilous procedure. Maybe it's more efficient—but the dangers far outweigh any efficiency gain. It poses particular problems for those of us who have done lots of live-line work and rarely work with anything de-energized.

Over the years we've made some mistakes, but the distance provided by hot sticks at least gives us a chance to walk away from an accident. I think if the Company gets what they want, in the long run hot sticking will gradually become obscure, sort of like an appendix—people won't practice it, the skill won't evolve, and service reliability will suffer because delicate and dangerous operations will have to be done on de-energized lines instead.

In San Francisco we have an old distribution system, and a relatively young and inexperienced yard—but we have the lowest customer outage time for the whole PG&E system. We have the highest level of service reliability, using hot sticks.

The Kettleman school was a slick operation. It was smooth and well presented—exactly like a commercial from an advertising firm, complete with actors and expensive sets. They bought expensive prototype equipment and ran the demonstration under pristine conditions. So it didn't resemble real life.

The Company says rubber gloving is safer or as safe as hot sticking, and the Company was unable to give a satisfactory answer. They were unacceptably vague on the authority for "opting" to rubber glove a job: we couldn't pin them down on who would have the last word if some crew members didn't want to glove.

Most linemen are opposed to rubber gloving. Our biggest concern is safety, and we've learned to be suspicious of the Company's motivation for pushing this issue. We want to protect our lives, and the integrity of our profession.

Richard Detmers
Electric Crew Foreman, Manteca
30 years with PG&E

Rubber gloving is like a step back into the stone ages. We should be moving away from gloving on 4KV lines, and instead they're moving towards gloving on higher voltage lines.

The Kettleman demonstration didn't change my mind. They couldn't answer our questions. For example, they had this bucket truck—costs $180,000—which is sixteen feet wide and can't be used on a lot of narrower roads. When you can use it, you'll need a flagging crew to go with the line crew. How can you spend $180,000 plus the cost of two people to flag and save any money?

The people are definitely against rubber gloving, mostly because we're concerned about safety. It's simple: The closer you work to energized lines, the more subject you are to severe burns. I've been on fire. Look at our lines: the 4KV lines, but when you're working 4KV lines, but of course rubber gloving was safer or as safe as hot sticking, and the Company was unable to give a satisfactory answer. They were unacceptably vague on the authority for "opting" to rubber glove a job: we couldn't pin them down on who would have the last word if some crew members didn't want to glove.

Most linemen are opposed to rubber gloving. Our biggest concern is safety, and we've learned to be suspicious of the Company's motivation for pushing this issue. We want to protect our lives, and the integrity of our profession.

Up here there's no rubber glovin'

John Harper
Line Subforeman, Redding
23 years with PG&E

After the Kettleman school, I am unequivocally dead set against rubber gloving. I was very disturbed that the Company seems to be resolved to implement the program despite our logical objections and the legal barriers.

The Company's demonstration was more a demonstration of equipment—specifically their new material handling bucket truck—than an exhibition of rubber gloving versus hot sticking. With expensive new equipment we could improve our productivity while continuing to use hot sticks, but of course PG&E chooses to ignore this fact.

The Union demanded proof that rubber gloving was safer or as safe as hot sticking, and the Company was unable to give a satisfactory answer. They were unacceptably vague on the authority for "opting" to rubber glove a job: we couldn't pin them down on who would have the last word if some crew members didn't want to glove.

Most linemen are opposed to rubber gloving. Our biggest concern is safety, and we've learned to be suspicious of the Company's motivation for pushing this issue. We want to protect our lives, and the integrity of our profession.

Joe Johnson
Lineman, Paso Robles
18 years with PG&E

I went to Kettleman with an objective viewpoint. All the management personnel who'd been to the school had said rubber gloving was wonderful. By the time the day was over, I was very much against it, primarily because it is very unsafe.

In General Construction I worked with lots of linemen who'd done rubber glove work back East. The consensus is it may be okay for when you're working 4KV lines, but no way should gloving be done with high voltage jobs. I've approached everyone in my area since returning from Kettleman, and virtually all the Linemen are vehemently against rubber glove work.

People are concerned about our classification being degraded over time. And most of all we want the safest—not the cheapest—working conditions.

Terry Andreucci
Lineman, Auburn
19 years with PG&E

My main concern is safety. This concern was not eased in the least by the Kettleman demonstration. The training was totally ideal: clean poles, no foreign ground, no guy wires, no secondary conductors, no double circuits. Of course productivity is going to improve under these conditions, but unfortunately they don't exist in the real world, so the practice remains dangerous.

The company has kept the lines of communication open and they seemed interested in our comments when we met with management at Kettleman after the demonstration. But I think they've jumped the gun, since the high voltage safety orders are still in effect.

Rubber gloving is safe only if everyone follows all of the rules. And at its safest, rubber gloving is just not as safe as hot sticks or de-energized lines.

Cartoon by Eugene Williams, Lineman, Concord

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