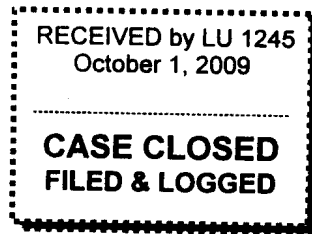




## REVIEW COMMITTEE



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
LABOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT  
MAIL CODE N2Z  
P.O. BOX 770000  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94177  
(415) 973-6725



INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO  
LOCAL UNION 1245, I.B.E.W.  
P.O. BOX 2547  
VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94696  
(707) 452-2700

JOHN MOFFAT, CHAIRMAN

BOB CHOATE, SECRETARY

- DECISION
- LETTER DECISION
- PRE-REVIEW REFERRAL

### Pre-Review Committee No. 18826 Energy Deliver –Gas T&D San Carlos

Durla Kelleher  
Company Member  
Local investigating Committee

Landis Martilla  
Union Member  
Local Investigating Committee

#### Subject of the Grievance:

Grievant on a Written Reminder was issued a DML for work procedure errors.

#### Facts of the Case:

The Grievant, a Backhoe Operator with four years in the classification and with nine years in the Gas Department who was on a Written Reminder for conduct was given a DML for failure to follow work procedures.

The Grievant was digging a bell hole and he had two observers. The Grievant stated he did not recall if there were USA marks and does not recall if the supervisor had told them to hand dig to expose the facilities. The Grievant testified that he had some idea where the main was located. The Grievant continued to use the backhoe to dig for two or three feet but was unable to locate the main. The Grievant and the observers saw no base rock or anything else that indicated there was a gas line in the proximity.

The Grievant struck the gas main, he turned off his backhoe and got the equipment to squeeze down the plastic to stop the blowing gas. The Grievant did not use a flash suit while squeezing off the main.

The Supervisor stated the proper method is to dig a hole safely away from the flow of gas and stop the gas at that point. The Grievant should have had the spotters locate the main prior to excavation. The dig-in resulted in the loss of service to 30 customers.

#### Discussion:

There is no dispute that the Grievant violated safe work procedures. The Grievant should have hand dug beyond the removal of the concrete top, that the spotters should have located the main, and when the line was damaged a second hole should have been dug away from flow of gas and that when the Grievant entered the gaseous environment he should have been wearing a flash suit.

Decision:

Given the number and the severity of the safe work procedures that the Grievant violated this case is closed without adjustment.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
John A. Moffat, Chairman  
Review Committee

9/18/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Bob Choate, Secretary  
Review Committee

9/18/09  
\_\_\_\_\_  
Date