BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Revise and Clarify Commission Regulations Relating to the Safety of Electric Utility and Communications Infrastructure Provider Facilities.))))	R.08-11-005 (Filed November 6, 2008)
)	
)	

OPENING BRIEF OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION

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Dated: September 3, 2010

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

)	
Order Instituting Rulemaking to Revise)	
and Clarify Commission Regulations)	R.08-11-005
Relating to the Safety of Electric Utility)	(Filed November 6, 2008)
and Communications Infrastructure)	, ,
Provider Facilities.)	
)	

OPENING BRIEF OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION

Pursuant to the May 7, 2010 ruling of Administrative Law Judge Timothy Kenney, the California Independent System Operator Corporation ("ISO") submits this opening brief on the limited issue of the proposed rule change to California Public Utilities Commission ("Commission") General Order 165 set forth in the August 13, 2010 workshop report ("Workshop Report"). The proposed rule change to General Order 165 would require utilities to prepare and follow procedures for conducting inspections and maintenance activities for transmission lines and maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities. For the reasons discussed below, the ISO does not oppose the adoption of this proposed change to General Order 165.

During Phase 1 of this proceeding, the ISO filed comments explaining the ISO's role in maintaining and inspecting electric transmission facilities under its operational control.² As the ISO described, its maintenance and inspection program includes performance standards to ensure high quality, safe, and reliable electric service. The standards adopted by the ISO are set forth in

¹ This issue falls under the common briefing outline topic of electric transmission issues.

² See Reply Comments of the ISO filed in Rulemaking 08-11-005 on April 8, 2009. Public Utilities Code §348 requires the ISO to adopt inspection, maintenance, repair, and replacement standards for the transmission facilities under its operational control.

Appendix C of the Transmission Control Agreement that has been approved by the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and is part of the ISO's tariff.

As part of phase 2 of this proceeding, the Commission is examining whether inspection and maintenance requirements should apply to electric transmission facilities.³ The September 22, 2009 ruling of Administrative Law Judge Timothy Kenney provides that Phase 2 of this proceeding "may consider safety-related regulations for electric transmission facilities, provided such regulations do not conflict with" the FERC-jurisdictional contracts and standards that govern electric transmission facilities under the ISO's operational control.⁴

The ISO participated in workshops during April 2010 to present an overview of ISO transmission maintenance standards. These standards consist of six main elements, including the Transmission Maintenance Coordination Committee, participating transmission owners' maintenance practices adopted by the ISO, a standard maintenance reporting system, availability measures, annual maintenance reviews conducted by the ISO, and the authority to conduct reviews for cause and investigations. The ISO believes the workshops provided a good means to share information and address issues related to inspection and maintenance of electric transmission facilities in California. The ISO wishes to acknowledge the professionalism and diligence of the workshop facilitators and all participants.

As reflected in the Workshop Report, workshop participants propose that the Commission amend General Order 165 to encompass transmission facilities by including the following language:

Each utility shall prepare and follow procedures for conducting inspections and maintenance activities for transmission lines.

³ Decision 09-08-029, mimeo at 10-11; see also September 22, 2009 ruling of Administrative Law Judge Timothy Kenney ("ALJ Ruling") at 3, 5.

⁴ See ALJ Ruling at 4-5.

Each utility shall maintain records of inspection and maintenance activities. Commission staff shall be permitted to inspect records and procedures consistent with Public Utilities Code Section 314 $(a).^{5}$

The ISO believes the above proposed changes to General Order 165 do not conflict with the Transmission Control Agreement or the ISO's transmission maintenance standards that govern electric transmission facilities under the ISO's operational control.

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⁵ Workshop Report, at Appendix A, A-41 and A-46.

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I, Judy Pau, certify:

I am employed in the City and County of San Francisco, California, over eighteen years of age, and not a party to the within entitled cause. My business address is 505 Montgomery Street, Suite 800, San Francisco, California 94111.

On September 3, 2010, I caused the following to be served:

OPENING BRIEF OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION

enclosed in a sealed envelope, by first class mail on the parties listed as "Parties" and "State Service" on the attached service list R.08-11-005 who have not provided an electronic mail address, and via electronic mail to all parties on the service list who have provided the Commission with an electronic mail address.

Executed on September 3, 2010 at San Francisco, California.

/s/ Judy Pau	
Judy Pau	

VIA U.S. MAIL

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