

March 21, 2011

Project Incident
Project No. 803-CA, DeSabra-Centerville Project
Unplanned Non-Injury Service Interruption

On March 20, 2011, 1:58 pm PST, Pacific Gas & Electric CO (PG&E) submitted an e-mail notification of a project incident at the DeSabra-Centerville Project, FERC Project No. 803-CA.

As a result of the ongoing storm, a large rock slide occurred blocking the lower Centerville Canal on March 19, 2011, 7:05 pm PST. The slide is one mile downstream of the Lower Centerville (Diversion) Dam. The slide closed the canal and also removed a portion of the downslope side-wall of the canal. At the time 25 cfs was flowing in the canal. PG&E has isolated water from the canal. The head gate at the intake to the canal is now closed and the spill gate at the dam has been opened.

The Lower Centerville Dam is a reinforced concrete gravity arch dam with an integral central overflow spillway. The dam is 12 feet high and 102 feet long, this includes the 66-foot spillway. There is an intake gate to Lower Centerville Canal at the left dam abutment. The dam is founded in exposed, competent bedrock. Available storage at Lower Centerville Dam is negligible. The diversion gate to Lower Centerville Canal consists of 2 old wooden side by side, slide gates. The gates are 2-foot wide by 6-foot high. There is no trash boom or trash rake upstream of the gate. Downstream of canal inlet is a radial gate that controls flow to the canal and may divert it to Butte Creek. The radial gate is 6-foot wide by 10-foot. When the radial gate is closed, canal flows are diverted to Butte Creek via a canal spillway. There are several spillways along canal downstream of the dam that may divert water back to Butte Creek. The 8-mile canal has a capacity of 195 cfs, the canal also include approximately 35 flume sections, 9 spillways, 3 vehicle bridges, 16 foot bridges, and 8 deer crossings.

Centerville Powerhouse Unit 1 is already under a long-term service outage due to mechanical problems with the turbine and emergency shutoff valve, these have been ongoing since May 28, 2009. Unit 2 at the powerhouse has operated when this has not interfered with Unit 1 repair operations.

PG&E has sent their engineering team to evaluate and assess the canal.

PG&E will provide a status after completing the engineering assessment. Follow-up action will be developed upon completion of the assessment.

A written 12.10a Incident Report was requested.



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