PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY San Bruno Gas Transmission Line Incident Data Response

PG&E Data Request No.:	NTSB_058-002		
PG&E File Name:	San Bruno GT Line Incident_DR_NTSB_058-002		
Request Date:	March 31, 2011	Requesting Party:	NTSB
Date Sent:	April 14, 2011	Requestor:	Operations (Chhatre/Nicholson)

QUESTION 2

SCADA

The pressure trends for Milpitas show increasing pressure values – the testimony regarding the work at that station indicated that the pressure transducers lost power resulting in the valves opening. Why would the valves be commanded open when the pressures were reading higher than normal?

ANSWER 2

In many places there is more than one pressure transducer per line at the terminal, including ones used for flow calculations. Loss of 24 VDC power supplies affected transducers used for pressure controls, while the transducers -for flow calculation loops were still indicating correct pressures. Some transducers used for pressure controls indicated high pressure and the valves associated with them closed. Other transducers indicated low pressure and the valves associated with them opened. Since regulators work in parallel, opening of some of the valves resulted in higher pressure downstream even if other valves closed.