

MEMORANDUM

TO: COMMISSIONERS AND ADVISORS
FROM: COMMISSION STAFF
RE: **PS13-001, IN THE MATTER OF THE FILING BY COMMISSION PIPELINE
SAFETY STAFF FOR APPROVAL OF A PENALTY FOR A PIPELINE
SAFETY VIOLATION BY HUMBOLDT MUNICIPAL GAS UTILITIES**
DATE: FEBRUARY 9, 2015

Commission Staff (Staff) submits this Memorandum to detail its position on a procedural schedule in Docket No. PS13-001. On May 7, 2013, Staff initiated this proceeding, alleging pipeline safety violations by Humboldt Municipal Gas (Humboldt) and requesting the Commission assess a monetary penalty. On July 24, 2013, Staff filed an Amended Complaint. The parties worked together over a period of several months to reach a settlement in this docket. The parties entered into a Stipulation and Request for Dismissal Without Prejudice, the terms of which include, relevant to this memorandum, the following:

1. Humboldt will maintain in its employ or contract with a Utility Manager. The Utility Manager will dedicate a minimum of 15 hours per week to natural gas work.
2. The majority of the office administrative duties related to natural gas will be the responsibility of the Finance Officer, who will dedicate a minimum of 20 hours per week to natural gas duties.

Because, as Staff contends in its Second Amended Complaint, Humboldt failed to maintain adequate personnel after January, 2014, Staff requested further action be taken. Staff has been in contact with Humboldt since the time of filing the Second Amended Complaint. It is Staff's understanding that for some time Humboldt has been in the process of filling the required position.

Staff is in agreement that Humboldt needs to hire adequate pipeline safety personnel. However, we would like to see a timeline established to make sure this occurs within a reasonable period. Therefore, Staff recommends establishing a procedural schedule whereby Humboldt would be required to have adequate pipeline safety personnel and a date for a brief status hearing on the matter during the first regularly scheduled Commission meeting following the former date. Staff does not request a date for an evidentiary hearing at this time.