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Exhibit Number:	WTF-7
Commissioner:	Marybel Batjer
ALJ:	Robert Haga

**Excerpt from Butte County District Attorney, Camp Fire Public Report (June 16, 2020), available at: <https://www.buttecounty.net/Portals/30/CFReport/PGE-THE-CAMP-FIRE-PUBLIC-REPORT.pdf?ver=2020-06-15-190515-977>**



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## THE CAMP FIRE PUBLIC REPORT

### A SUMMARY OF THE CAMP FIRE INVESTIGATION

June 16, 2020

## **INTRODUCTION**

On November 8, 2018, a fire started underneath a PG&E transmission tower near Camp Creek Road, not far from the town of Pulga in Butte County, California. The fire quickly raged out of control, travelled to the town of Concow within an hour, and to Paradise – seven miles from the point of ignition – in less than 1.5 hours. Seventeen days later, on November 25, 2018, what had become known as the Camp Fire was finally declared 100% contained. It had burned 153,336 acres and destroyed approximately 18, 800 structures.<sup>1</sup> Some 589 structures were damaged.<sup>2</sup> A total of 84 lives were lost as a direct result of the fire and at least two civilians and one firefighter suffered great bodily injury. {[Attachment – Camp Fire Presentation](#)}

### **I. INITIAL TIME LINE**

On November 8, 2018 at 6:15 a.m., the PG&E Grid Control Center (GCC)<sup>3</sup> in Vacaville documented an “interruption” on the energized Caribou-Palermo 115kV transmission line in the Feather River Canyon.

At approximately 6:20 a.m. on November 8, 2018, a PG&E Hydro Division employee<sup>4</sup> driving eastbound on Highway 70 observed a “bright light” above a ridgeline as he approached the Pulga Bridge. Initially the employee believed the bright light to be the sun rising behind the ridgeline; however, as he continued driving, he realized the source of the bright light was a fire underneath the PG&E transmission lines on a ridge on the north side of the Feather River. The employee noted the fire appeared to be at the base of a transmission tower. In that area of the Feather River Canyon cell phone service is not available. The employee used his PG&E radio to contact PG&E employees at the Rock Creek Powerhouse and reported the fire. These employees then called 911 and were transferred to the Cal Fire Emergency Communications Center (ECC) in Oroville. The 911 call from the Rock Creek Switching Station was received by Cal Fire ECC at 6:25:19 a.m.

At approximately 6:30 a.m., an employee of the California Department of Transportation (Cal Trans) arrived at the Cal Trans Pulga Station for work. While in the parking lot of the Pulga Station he observed a fire under a PG&E transmission tower northeast of the Pulga Station and took a photograph of it. The photograph {[Attachment 001](#)} showed a fire emanating out from

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<sup>1</sup>13,696 single family residences, 276 multi-family residences, 528 commercial structures, and 4,293 other structures were destroyed according to Cal Fire.

<sup>2</sup> 462 single family residences, 25 multi-family residences, and 102 commercial structures were damaged according to Cal Fire.

<sup>3</sup> The GCC is the consolidated hub for all transmission operations for PG&E. GCC monitors the Supervisor Control and Data Acquisition (SCADA) for all transmission lines at all times. Any problem on any PG&E transmission line triggers an immediate alert in the GCC.

<sup>4</sup> Throughout this report the names of local current/ former PG&E employees are not used. The Butte County District Attorney’s Office believes, based upon anger and frustration within the community, that disclosure of the identity of involved PG&E personnel living and/or working in the area may expose those personnel to harassment, threats or violence.