

CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

CONSUMER PROTECTION & SAFETY DIVISION

INVESTIGATION REPORT OF PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY'S VIOLATION OF PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE SECTION 451

PUBLIC VERSION

By Christopher Poschl February 3, 2012

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I. SUMMARY

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- 2 The Consumer Protection and Safety Division (CPSD) of the California Public Utilities 3 Commission (Commission) conducted an investigation into the actions of Pacific Gas and 4 Electric Company's (PG&E) Senior Director of SmartMeter, William Devereaux, relating to his 5 participation in online smart meter discussion groups. Based on evidence gathered during its 6 investigation, CPSD staff concludes, that PG&E violated Public Utilities (PU) § 451 in failing to 7 furnish just and reasonable service when Mr. Devereaux lied about his identity to infiltrate online 8 smart meter discussion groups in order to spy on their activities and discredit their views. 9 CPSD staff recommends that the Commission open an Order Instituting Investigation 10 (OII) into this alleged violation by PG&E and order PG&E to show cause why it should not be 11 penalized if the Commission finds PG&E violated PU Code § 451, or any other Commission 12 rule, law, or regulation. 13 II. **BACKGROUND** 14 In November 2010, CPSD staff commenced an investigation into Mr. Devereaux's 15 alleged infiltration of an anti-smart meter discussion group and whether PG&E senior executives 16 knew and approved of Mr. Devereaux's actions. 17 On November 9, 2010, the San Jose Mercury News, and other news sources, reported that
 - On November 9, 2010, the San Jose Mercury News, and other news sources, reported that Mr. Devereaux had subscribed to at least one smart meter discussion group and admitted using the name "Ralph" when he attempted to join the California EMF Coalition, a consumer advocacy group that maintains a private, moderated online discussion forum for people concerned about the possible health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMFs) generated by smart meters. Mr. Devereaux admitted to the San Jose Mercury News, "As part of understanding what our customers are thinking, we have been monitoring activity on the internet. I anonymously joined a couple of anti-smart meter websites . . . We're trying to understand the points of view of these folks . . . "1
 - PG&E conducted an internal investigation between November 9 and December 17, 2010. Based on the evidence gathered from Mr. Devereaux's PG&E-issued laptop and his internet searches, PG&E concluded that:

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¹ SJ Mercury News - PG&E suspends executive who infiltrated SmartMeter foes, Dana Hall, November 9, 2010, and other news sources reporting similar story. (**Attachment 1**)

1 2 3	 Mr. Devereaux violated PG&E's Employee Code of Conduct as well as the Company's Core Values and the Expectations of our Leaders;
4 5	2. Mr. Devereaux was actively involved in intelligence gathering and he performed this task using a false identity; and
6 7	3. Mr. Devereaux provided inappropriate comments and opinions on at least four occasions while using a false identity. ²
8	
9	PG&E hired Mr. Devereaux as Senior Director for PG&E's SmartMeter ³ Program in
10	March 2009. As Senior Director, Mr. Devereaux was responsible for all aspects of PG&E's
11	SmartMeter project including: SmartMeter Field Delivery, Customer Care Business Delivery,
12	Program Management Office, SmartMeter Field Delivery Solutions, Gas and Electric Metering
13	Services, and SmartMeter Change Management. ⁴ Mr. Devereaux was the public face of the
14	SmartMeter Program for PG&E making 16 public appearances between October 2009 and
15	October 2010 in town and city meetings and at public forums for smart meters. ⁵ Mr. Devereaux
16	served as a primary interface with the Commission regarding PG&E's SmartMeter project,
17	between July 2009 and November 2010, meeting with the Commission's Energy Division staff
18	on 13 occasions to brief Commission staff on SmartMeter project implementation status, smart
19	meter testing, billing and complaints, process improvements, and cyber security. 6
20	Mr. Devereaux reported to Helen Burt, Chief Operating Officer, who reported to
21	Christopher Johns, President of PG&E, who reported to Peter Darbee, Chief Executive Officer of
22	PG&E. ⁷ Mr. Devereaux's role in the SmartMeter Program changed in August 2010 when his
23	boss Greg Kiraly was hired to fill the newly created position of Vice President of SmartMeter
24	Operations. Mr. Devereaux then became the Senior Director, Strategy Lead for the SmartMeter

² PG&E response to DR1, December 10, 2010, Attachment CPSD_001-01Supp01-1, page 2. (Attachment 2)

³ SmartMeter is PG&E's trademark name for PG&E's program to exchange legacy meters to wireless smart meters.

⁴ PG&E organization charts PG&E December 10, 2010 response to DR1 question # 5, Attachment CPSD_001-05-1, page 1 of 7, and Attachment CPSD_001-05-2, page 2 of 2. (**Attachment 3**)

⁵ Public Appearances of William Devereaux Relating to the SmartMeterTM Program, PG&E December 10, 2010, response to DR1 question # 19, Attachment CPSD_001-19-1, page 1 of 1. (**Attachment 4**)

⁶ PG&E response to DR1, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-17-1, page 1. (**Attachment 6**)

² PG&E organization charts, PG&E December 10, 2010 response to DR1 question # 5, Attachment CPSD_001-05-1, page 1 of 7, and Attachment CPSD_001-05-2, page 2 of 2. (**Attachment 3**)

1 Program overseeing Business Delivery. Mr. Devereaux held this position until he resigned on

November 10, 2010.⁹ The chart below shows PG&E's change in organizational reporting in

August 2010.

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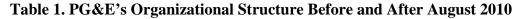
25

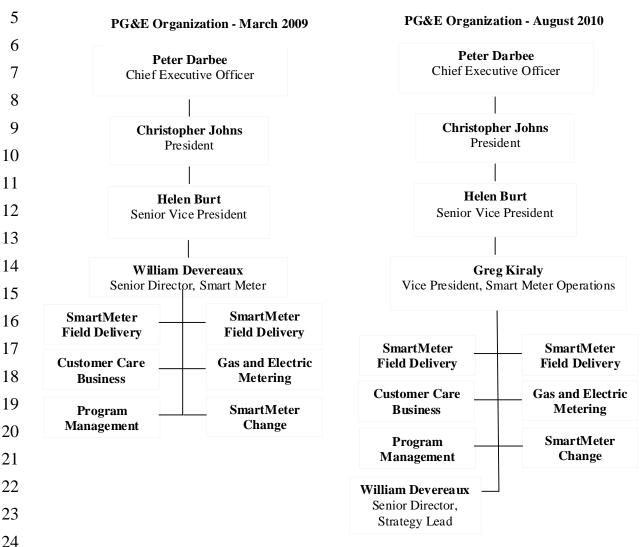
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On November 16, 2010, CPSD sent a data request to PG&E to obtain information relating to Mr. Devereaux's monitoring of the anti-smart meter online consumer group. PG&E submitted its initial response to CPSD on December 10, 2010 and provided supplemental data request responses on January 12, 2011. CPSD requested further information on May 12, 2011 and PG&E submitted its responses on May 27, 2011 and June 6, 2011.

⁸ Ibid (Attachment 3)

⁹ PG&E response to DR1, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-08-2, pg 3 of 7. (**Attachment 5**)

1	CPSD presents its findings, conclusions, and recommendations in this report based on		
2	staff's analysis of all data responses provided by PG&E, PG&E's internal investigation, staff's		
3	discussions with anti-smart meter group leaders, and other publicly available information.		
4 5 6 7	III. MR. DEVEREAUX LIED ABOUT HIS IDENTITY TO INFILTRATE ONLINE SMART METER DISCUSSION GROUPS IN ORDER TO DISCREDIT AND/OR INFLUENCE THOSE WITH VIEWS AGAINST SMART METERS		
8	Mr. Devereaux used the alias Ralph Florea and e-mail address manasota99@gmail.com		
9	to conceal his identity when posting comments on Stopsmartmeters.org, Onthelevelblog.com,		
10	and SmartWarriorMarin Google group. 10 He similarly attempted to infiltrate the EMF Safety		
11	Coalition Google group but his deceit was uncovered by the moderator during the review of his		
12	membership request.		
13	A. Stopsmartmeter.org and Onthelevelblog.com		
14	Joshua Hart is the Director of Stopsmartmeters.org, an advocacy, media outreach, and		
15	direct-action organization founded in June 2010 that provides activism consultation and advice		
16	dozens of local groups who oppose wireless smart meters. 11 Onthelevelblog.com is Joshua		
17	Hart's personal blog.		
18	On July 17, 2010, Mr. Devereaux, using the alias Ralph Florea, posted the following on		
19	Onthelevelblog under the topic 'How smart is brain cancer:'		
20 21 22 23 24	RF Health has been studied for decades with no evidence [of] biological impacts. Get the real science here from independent international scientists. Exposure to High Frequency Electromagnetic Fields, Biological Effects and Health Consequences (100 kHz-300 GHz) http://www.icnirp.de/40.htm. 12		
25	On August 27, 2010, following a peaceful smart meter protest at PG&E's Capitola		
26	Wellington yard, Ralph Florea (Mr. Devereaux) posted this comment on Stopsmartmeters.org		
27	under the topic, 'We Shut Down PG&E Smart Meter Installation in Santa Cruz County Today!:	,	
28 29 30	Good luck pulling that off the next time Josh, BTW, the rest of the interphone study says there is no evidence of cell phone causing brain cancer when used at normal levels. Smart meters don't even		

¹⁰ See e-mail from Josh Hart to CPSD staff, December 30, 2010, 11:20 AM, page 4. (Attachment 12)

¹¹ See URL: http://stopsmartmeters.org/about/, as of May 19, 2011. (Attachment 7)

 $[\]frac{12}{5}$ See URL: http://onthelevelblog.com/2010/07/17/how-smart-is-brain-cancer/#comments, as of May 19, 2011. (Attachment 8)

2		to chase ARCO issues. 13
3	В.	SmartWarriorMarin Google Group
4	Mr. H	Hart started the SmartWarriorMarin group ¹⁴ in June 2010 as a moderated blog site
5	hosted by Google. On or about September 10, 2010, 15 under the pretense of being an activity	
6	opposed to s	mart meters, Mr. Devereaux joined this group to collect intelligence about views
7	regarding sm	hart meters for at least 2 months before he was banned from the group. $\frac{16}{}$
8	Ralpl	n Florea (Mr. Devereaux) sent this note via email to the SmartWarriorMarin group,
9	in response t	o a question from the group moderator asking for clarification on PG&E's warning
10	to pacemake	r wearers to stay 6 inches away from the smart meter:
11 12 13		You could never get your pacemaker within 6 inches of the meter. Plus FDA regs for pace makers say they have to be designed to not be affected by low level RF. 17
14	On S	eptember 18, 2010, Ralph Florea (Mr. Devereaux) sent an email to the entire
15	SmartWarric	orMarin group attempting to discredit Mr. Hart's views on climate change:
16 17 18		perhaps you can see the hypocrisy of your own arguments Unsubstantiated claims about smart meter energy use 18
19	A.	Emf Safety Coalition Google Group
20	Mr. I	Devereaux continued to infiltrate anti-smart meter online groups using his alias. On
21	November 4	, 2010, Mr. Devereaux attempted to join the EMF Safety Coalition Google group. $^{\underline{19}}$
22	The EMF Sa	fety Network is an online discussion group for county leaders concerned about
23	smart meters	and their impact on health and safety. The EMF Safety Network was started in June
24	2010 and pro	ovides education about the health impacts associated with EMFs and radio frequency
		http://stopsmartmeters.org/2010/08/27/we-shut-down-pge-smart-meter-installation-in-santa-oday/#comments, page 3 of 8, as of October 20, 2011. (Attachment 9)
		gle group comprised of PG&E customers who are concerned with the health effects of t meters, see http://groups.google.com/group/SmartWarriorMarin/msg/1774f7821ddfdc03. 10)
		of documentation when Devereaux was banned, staff is using the first post to Marin as a proxy for the date he joined the group.
	16 See e-mail	from Josh Hart to CPSD staff, May 11, 2011, 2:51 PM. (Attachment 11)
	¹⁷ See e-mail	from Josh Hart to CPSD staff, December 30, 2010, 11:20 AM, page 4. (Attachment 12)
	18 See e-mail	from Josh Hart to CPSD staff, December 30, 2010, 11:20 AM, page 5. (Attachment 12)
	¹⁹ CA EMF C Google group	oalition is the overall anti-smart meter movement which includes the EMF Safety Network .

1	radiation (RF) and offers resources for community activists such as the SmartWarriorMarin
2	group. The EMF Safety Network Google group is only accessible to members. Non-members
3	who try to view the site, see the following message:
4 5 6	"You must be signed in and a member of this group to view its content. Contact [the]owner to join." 20
7	Mr. Devereaux used his alias to send an email to the moderator requesting to join the
8	EMF Safety Network group. 21 Unbeknownst to him, the header of his email revealed his real
9	name "From: William Devereaux manasota99@gmail.com." The moderator of the group, Sandi
10	Maurer, responded to Mr. Devereaux's request to join with this email note:
11 12 13 14 15 16 17 18	Hello, Please let me know more about your interest in joining the CA EMF Coalition. This discussion group has been set up for county leaders focused on EMF, specifically RF Smart meters. Please include where you live, what aspect of smart meter issue you are working on and how you came to be involved in this issue. There may be a better group that I can help connect you to, or you may be our next county lead. Please let me know. Thanks, Sandi ²²
19	Ralph Florea (Mr. Devereaux) replied via email:
20 21 22 23 24	Hi Sandi, Sorry for the delay in getting back to you, I've been travelling a lot. I live in Oakland where Smart meters have been sweeping across town and wanted to learn more about them and join the conversation to see what I can do to help out here. Thanks, Ralph ²³
25	Ms. Maurer, recognizing the name William Devereaux in the email header suspected that
26	"Ralph" had not been truthful about his identity and replied:
27 28 29 30 31	Hi, Aren't you the head of the Smart Meter program at PG&E? We'd love your help! Can you help us obtain a Smart Meter moratorium ASAP? People who are asking for meters not to be installed are being bullied, signs on meters are being disregarded and the CPUC has received 2000 Smart Meter complaints from Aug 15-Oct 15. We need a moratorium

²⁰ See URL, http://groups.google.com/group/emf-safety-network?lnk=srg&hl=en, as of October18, 2011. (**Attachment 13**)

²¹ PG&E January 10, 2011, supplement to CPSD data request, Attachment CPSD_001-08Supp01-1, page 1 of 2. (**Attachment 14**)

²² PG&E January 10, 2011, supplement to CPSD data request, Attachment CPSD_001-08Supp01-1, page 1 of 2. (**Attachment 14**)

 $[\]frac{23}{2}$ Ibid (Attachment 14)

1 2 3	ASAP and the opportunity to be heard at the CPUC. Your help would be invaluable. Thanks for contacting us. Sandi $\frac{24}{}$
4	Mr. Devereaux did not respond thereafter to Ms. Maurer. The fact that PG&E and the
5	EMF Safety Network were opposing parties in EMF Safety Network's Application 10-04-018,
6	an open proceeding at the Commission during this time, makes Mr. Devereaux's ruse to obtain
7	information from the group even more egregious. 25
8	It is clear that Mr. Devereaux lied about his identity to infiltrate the above mentioned
9	groups in order to discredit and/or influence those with views against PG&E's deployment of
10	smart meters. The deceitful manner in which he obtained and disseminated information
11	regarding a ratepayer-funded utility program is improper, unreasonable, and betrays the trust of
12	the consumers PG&E serves.
13 14	IV. PG&E SENIOR MANGEMENT KNEW OF MR. DEVEREAUX'S DECEIT AND FAILED TO STOP HIS INAPPROPRIATE BEHAVIOUR
15	PG&E Senior Management knew of Mr. Devereaux's deceit. Mr. Devereaux forwarded
16	six copies of email messages he collected from private online smart meter discussion groups he
17	joined using his alias, Ralph Florea, to his boss (Greg Kiraly) who is the Vice President
18	SmartMeter Operations, Senior Director of Local Government Relations
19	Director of SmartMeter Engagement Director of Legal
20	Director of SmartMeter Field Delivery Customer Outreach Specialist
21	and Government Relations
22	The table below shows the names of PG&E management and staff who received emails
23	from Mr. Devereaux containing information he obtained from his deceitful intelligence gathering
24	activities.
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 $[\]frac{24}{4}$ Ibid (Attachment 14)

²⁵ See Application of EMF Safety Network for Modification of D.06-07-027 and D.09-03-026, April 6, 2010, asking the Commission to suspend PG&E's SmartMeter deployment due to alleged health effects. (**Attachment 15**)

TABLE 2. PG&E RECIPIENTS OF EMAILS FROM MR. DEVEREAUX

PG&E Email Recipients	# Emails	Dates of Emails Received
Vice President SmartMeter Operations (Greg Kiraly)	2	$10/27/10^{26}$ and $10/28/10^{27}$
Senior Director of Local Government Relations	2	9/22/10 ²⁸
Director of SmartMeter Engagement	6	$9/20/10^{29}$, $9/22/10^{30}$, $10/11/10^{31}$, $10/27/10^{32}$, $10/28/10^{33}$, and $11/4/10^{34}$
Director of Legal	3	$9/20/10^{35}$, $9/22/10^{36}$, and $10/27/10^{37}$
Director of SmartMeter Field Delivery	1	$10/27/10^{38}$
Customer Outreach Specialist	1	10/28/10 ³⁹
Government Relations	1	11/4/10 ⁴⁰

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On six occasions between September and November 2010 PG&E senior management failed to stop Mr. Devereaux's deceitful activities. Senior management's failure to act leads staff to conclude that they either condoned or approved of Mr. Devereaux's inappropriate behavior.

²⁶ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 250 of 309. (Attachment 19)

²⁷ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 259 of 309. (Attachment 20)

²⁸ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 94 of 309. (Attachment 17)

²⁹ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 66 of 309. (**Attachment 16**)

³⁰ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 94 of 309. (**Attachment 17**) 31 PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 169 of 309. (**Attachment 18**)

³² PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD 001-13-1, page 250 of 309. (Attachment 19)

³³ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD 001-13-1, page 259 of 309. (Attachment 20)

³⁴ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 307 of 309. (Attachment 21)

³⁵ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 66 of 309. (Attachment 16)

³⁶ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 94 of 309. (Attachment 17)

³⁷ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 250 of 309. (Attachment 19)

³⁸ Ibid (Attachment 18)

³⁹ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 259 of 309. (Attachment 20)

⁴⁰ PG&E DR1 response, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-13-1, page 307 of 309. (Attachment 21)

1 PG&E fostered a culture of inappropriate interaction with consumer groups of	s opposed to	o smart
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- 2 meters. PG&E lost the public's trust when one of its Senior Directors, William Devereaux, was
- 3 caught in the act of deceit by using a false identity to join the EMF Safety Network. CPSD
- 4 believes that PG&E, based on Mr. Devereaux's actions, the failure of senior management to
- 5 detect and stop his behavior and/or senior management's fostering of such behavior, failed to
- 6 provide "just and reasonable" service to its customers and as such violated PU Code § 451. Only
- 7 after the moderator of the discussion group discovered Mr. Devereaux's deceit and only after the
- 8 entire matter was made known to the public, did PG&E take actions to stop his activities.
- 9 PG&E initiated an internal investigation on November 9, 2010. Mr. Devereaux was interviewed by PG&E on November 9, 2010. Mr. Devereaux resigned the next day on
- November 10, 2010. 42 PG&E completed its internal investigation on December 17, 2010. Based
- on the evidence gathered from Mr. Devereaux's PG&E-issued laptop and his internet searches,
- 13 PG&E concluded that:
 - 1. Mr. Devereaux violated PG&E's Employee Code of Conduct as well as the Company's Core Values and the Expectations of our Leaders:
 - 2. Mr. Devereaux was actively involved in intelligence gathering and he performed this task using a false identity; and
 - 3. Mr. Devereaux provided inappropriate comments and opinions on at least four occasions while using a false identity. $\frac{43}{2}$

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V. PG&E FAILED TO COMPLY WITH PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE § 451.

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PU Code § 451 states that <u>every public utility shall furnish</u> and maintain such adequate, efficient, <u>just</u>, and <u>reasonable service</u>, instrumentalities, equipment, and facilities, including telephone facilities, as defined in Section 54.1 of the Civil Code, <u>as are necessary to promote the safety</u>, health, comfort, and convenience of its patrons, employees, <u>and the public</u>. (Emphasis added.) Mr. Devereaux's actions on behalf of PG&E violated PG&E's obligation to provide just

and reasonable service to its customers.

 $[\]frac{41}{2}$ Ibid (Attachment 2)

⁴² PG&E response to DR1, December 10, 2010, CPSD_001-08-2, page 3 of 7. (Attachment 5)

⁴³ PG&E response to DR1, December 10, 2010, Attachment CPSD_001-01-1, page 2 of 10. (Attachment 2)

PU Code §2109 states, [...] the act, omission, or failure of any officer, agent, or employee of any public utility, acting within the scope of his official duties or employment, shall in every case be the act, omission, or failure of such public utility. Mr. Devereaux's actions toward anti-smart meter groups were directly related to the scope of his employment and therefore, pursuant to PU Code §2109, are considered the acts of PG&E. Senior management knew of his deceit and either approved or failed to stop his inappropriate behavior. PG&E management acted, but only after Mr. Devereaux's deceitful acts were exposed.

VI. RECOMMENDATION

CPSD recommends that the Commission open an OII into PG&E's alleged failure to comply with PU Code § 451 as presented in this investigative report. CPSD further recommends the Commission order PG&E to show cause why it should not be penalized if the Commission finds PG&E violated PU Code § 451, or any other Commission rule, law, or regulation.

1 VII. INDEX OF ATTACHMENTS

1.	San Jose Mercury News and other news sources on November 9, 2010 reporting on
1.	PG&E Devereaux.
2.	PG&E's Corporate Security December 17, 2010 investigation memo to Greg Kiraly.
3	PG&E organization charts.
4.	Public appearances relating to smart meter program of Mr. Devereaux.
5.	Mr. Devereaux November 9, 2010, resignation email.
6	PG&E Mr. Devereaux meetings with CPUC staff.
7.	Stopsmartmeters.org.
8.	Ralph Florea (Mr. Devereaux) comment to ontheleveblog.com on July 17, 2010.
9.	Ralph Florea (Mr. Devereaux) comment to stopsmartmeters.org on August 27, 2010.
10.	SmartWarriorMarin Google group sign in webpage.
11.	May 11, 2010 e-mail from Mr. Hart stating that Mr. Devereaux misrepresented himself to gain access to the SmartWarriorMarin Google group.
12.	December 30, 2010, e-mail from Mr. Hart, containing Mr. Devereaux's e-mails to SmartWarriorMarin Google group members.
13.	EMF Safety Network Google group sign in webpage.
14.	November 9, 2010 e-mail exchange where EMF Network moderator discovers William Devereaux used alias, Ralph Florea, to attempt to join discussion group.
15.	April 6, 2010 application of EMF Safety Network for modification of D.06-07-027 and D.09-03-026.
16.	Mr. Devereaux September 20, 2010 e-mail from SmartWarriorMarin private Google group.
17.	Mr. Devereaux September 22, 2010 e-mail forwarded from private online smartmeters group.
18.	Mr. Devereaux October 11, 2010 e-mail request to PG&E's public relations firm to add the private SmartWarriorMarin Google group to its list of what it monitors.
19.	Mr. Devereaux October 27, 2010 e-mail from SmartWarriorMarin private Google group.
20.	Mr. Devereaux October 28, 2010 e-mail from SmartWarriorMarin private Google group.
21.	Mr. Devereaux November 4, 2010 e-mail from California EMF Safety Coalition private Google group.