

# Eagle Lake Guardians

503-150 Mahogany Way  
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July 1, 2012

Pacific Gas & Electric Corporation – PG&E Corporate Headquarters  
President Christopher P Johns  
Members of the PG&E Board of Directors  
One Market, Spear Tower, Suite 2400  
San Francisco, CA 94105-1125  
415 267-7070  
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Dear President Johns & Members of the PG&E Board of Directors:

The residents of Lassen County, California are concerned about weather modification programs in Northern California and how they impact our communities. In order for us to assess your weather modification programs we are formally requesting the following information from PG&E:

- **A copy of your Weather Modification Environmental Impact Statement for California.**
- **A list of all the Weather Modification programs ongoing in the past two years in California by County.**
- **A complete list of all chemicals, gases, particles and methods used for cloud seeding in California in the past two years.**

Please address the following questions regarding the use of cloud seeding by PG&E to modify precipitation in the region of interface between the northern Sierra Nevada and Southern Cascade Ranges, specifically the watershed for the Susan River, Pine Creek, the Eagle Lake Basin and other areas of Lassen County. (In addressing these questions, please include references to current scientific studies where indicated or current tests to document your answers.

## **1) PG&E Cloud Seeding Using Aircraft (past 5 years):**

- A.** How many airplane flights have been used in Lassen County in the last ten years that are used for cloud seeding?
- B.** What is the flight pattern of these flights in terms of altitude and geographic position?
- C.** What chemical species are released into the atmosphere during these flights?
- D.** Are the same chemicals released during every flight?
- E.** What is the amount of **each chemical** released during each flight? (Please list by total pounds).
- F.** What are the physical and aerodynamic properties of the chemicals at the time of release?
- G.** How many counties in California does PG& E use aircraft for the cloud seeding projects?
- H.** What is the type of aircraft being used – and who performs this work for PG&E?

## **2) Water, Air & Soil Testing by PG&E (10 year history including tests conducted in 2011 & 2012)**

- A.** What is the fate of the cloud seeding agents once they are released by all methods?

**B.** How many water, soil and air quality tests have been conducted by PG&E during and after cloud seeding events, where does the testing take place, who conducts the testing and which laboratory is used for this testing (both ground based cloud seeding or used during airplane flights)?

**C.** Please list the different types of cloud seeding methods used by PG&E in the last 5 years?

**D.** What contaminants does PG&E test for in Lassen County?

**E.** We are formally requesting the exact test results (not summary data), of all the above tests taken in Lassen County in the past Seven Years nothing the following:

- The location of the tests.
- The time and dates of all tests.
- The results of the tests (not summary data)

### **3) PG&E Cloud Seeding Using Ground-Based Methods:**

**A.** What Ground-Based Methods of Cloud Seeding are used in Lassen County?

**B.** What chemicals, particles, gases or other cloud seeding agents are used here?

**C.** How many ground-based platforms are there in Lassen County and where are they located?

**D.** What are their years dates of operation?

### **4) General Cloud Seeding Questions:**

**A.** What is the fate of the cloud seeding agents once they are released into the atmosphere?

**B.** Does release into the atmosphere alter their chemical composition?

**C.** Does release into the atmosphere alter their physical or aerodynamic properties?

**D.** What is the fate of your cloud seeding agents once they contact soil as a part of precipitation?

**E.** During which months does PG& E conduct cloud seeding activities each year?

**F.** How many total pounds, of each cloud seeding agent listed separately, are used in Lassen County California each year.

**G.** Do the chemicals penetrate the soil?

**H.** Are the chemicals carried by runoff into nearby surface water courses?

**I.** Does the interaction with soils or other water contaminants alter their chemical or physical properties?

**J.** What is the fate of these chemicals if they are deposited directly into surface water as a part of precipitation?

**K.** Does the direct contact with surface waters alter their chemical or physical properties?

**L.** How do the chemical species once they enter surface water affect the health of our animal and plan species living in these waters?

**M.** Do any of the chemical species that enter the water system have known negative effects on humans, animals, and/or aquatic life in those areas? How many studies has PG&E conducted to ascertain these impacts in the past ten years? (Please list the studies and the study dates).

## **5) Air Quality Impacts**

**A.** Winter inversions are common in many areas of Lassen County including the areas near Westwood and Eagle Lake Basin. When either aircraft or ground-based cloud seeding takes place, would the agents used concentrate near the ground surface, creating health problems for those living under these inversion layers?

**B.** Has PG& E conducted any air quality testing during times of inversions when they are seeding the clouds in Lassen County in the past ten years?

**C.** If air quality testing was conducted during any cloud seeding activities, please provide a listing of dates, test results or findings (not summaries) times, location, year and any other information obtained during these tests.

I look forward to hearing from you with regard to these questions and requests in the near future.

Sincerely,

### **Eagle Lake Guardians**

Rebecca George Walker, President  
503-150 Mahogany Way  
Susanville, CA 96130

**CC:** **California Public Utilities Commission**, Consumer Affairs Branch  
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2250, San Francisco, CA 94102

**U.S. Congressman Tom McClintock**  
8700 Auburn-Folsom Road, Suite 100, Granite Bay, CA 95746

**Lassen County, State Senator Ted Gaines**  
State Capital Room 3056  
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**Lassen County California State Assemblyman Dan Logue**  
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**Lassen County Board of Supervisors**  
707 Nevada St  
Susanville, CA 96130

**Lassen County Times Newspaper**  
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**Lahontan Regional Water Quality Control Board**  
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