

REVIEW COMMITTEE



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY LABOR RELATIONS DEPARTMENT 375 N. WIGET LANE, SUITE 130 WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598 (530) 246-6430 INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO LOCAL UNION 1245, I.B.E.W. P.O. BOX 2547 VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA 94696 (707) 452-2700

KIT STICE, SECRETARY

ROBIN WIX. CHAIRMAN

- DECISION
- LETTER DECISION
- PRE-REVIEW REFERRAL

Pre-Review Committee Number 23104 Electric Operations – Restoration Field Operations – San Francisco

Kelda Davies Company Member Local Investigating Committee Landis Martilla
Union Member
Local Investigating Committee

Subject of the Grievance

This case concerns the termination of a Troubleman for misuse of a Company vehicle for personal business outside of work hours and transporting non-company personnel in a Company vehicle in violation of the Employee Code of Conduct.

Facts of the Case

The grievant was a Troubleman with 10 years of service and no active discipline at the time of his termination.

The Company initiated an investigation following a customer complaint on January 29, 2015, that alleged the grievant was picking-up women in a marked PG&E vehicle in San Bruno in front of an address the customer claimed to be where prostitutes resided. The investigation determined that the grievant utilized a Company vehicle for personal business without permission and in violation of the Employee Code of Conduct. Specifically, he repeatedly used a marked PG&E vehicle to visit a commercial gambling establishment, and sometimes left the vehicle parked in the parking lot all night while he gambled. The grievant also used the vehicle to meet with and on various occasions transport a non-PG&E female to a motel. The grievant also transported two females in the vehicle on one occasion. Following his termination, the Company found several personal items belonging to the grievant in the vehicle that further confirmed the grievant's misuse of a Company vehicle.

Discussion

The Union argued that the grievant had undergone a traumatic personal event which resulted in his resorting to gambling to relieve his stress. The Union argued that the use of the vehicle was minor as the gambling establishment was on his route home. While the Union agreed the grievant used poor judgment, there was no evidence that any of the time used was paid time and therefore no monetary gain to the grievant. In light of the grievant's excellent work history as a Troubleman, the Union argued that termination was too severe.

The Company argued that the grievant not only used the Company vehicle to stop at a gambling establishment on his way home from work he used the vehicle on various occasions, including during his regular day off (RDO), to visit his girlfriend a couple of blocks from the gambling establishment. Additionally, the grievant transported non-PG&E females in the vehicle, including transporting his girlfriend to a local motel on various occasions and in violation of PG&E's Utility Standard TRANS-1002S and the Employee Code of Conduct. Furthermore, the Company argued the grievant's actions negatively impacted PG&E's image as demonstrated by the customer complaint which initiated the investigation.

Decision

The Committee agreed the termination was for just cause. This case is closed without adjustment.

Robin Wix, Chairman

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