

Environmental Groups Want Investigation of Power Lines in October Fires

Two environmental groups want California regulators to open a formal investigation into the role power lines might have had in last October's wildfires. KPBS Reporter Ed Joyce has details.

The [Sierra Club](#) and the [Center for Biological Diversity](#) want the state public utilities commission to open a public investigation into the relationship between power lines and the October 2007 wildfires in San Diego and other counties. David Hogan is with the Center for Biological Diversity.

Hogan: The California Public Utilities Commission has been very quiet about their review of what happened in October with the wildfires and power lines. Nobody really knows what they're doing. They've said they're doing an investigation but there's no record of it and they're not releasing any records of it. And have said that it's an internal investigation. And that the results would not be released. We don't feel that that's acceptable.

Hogan says the state agency hasn't responded to the request. San Diego Gas and Electric asked state regulators to review power line safety standards shortly after the October wildfires. The utility is facing a class action lawsuit on behalf of two county residents who lost their homes in the fires.

The suit alleges gross negligence on the part of SDG&E and parent company Sempra Energy, claiming the utility's transmission lines and power poles ignited the Witch and Rice fires.

Ed Joyce, KPBS News.