



## DIRECTOR'S MEMORANDUM

TO: All Hands

May 22, 2005

FROM: Jonathan Dorfan

SUBJECT: **Power Outage**

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The unexpected happens, and the ability to deal with it is a true measure of the spirit of an organization. This is why I would like to thank you all for the wonderful response at the laboratory to the difficulties and frustration caused by last week's power outage.

All the events that caused the power outage were beyond SLAC's control. Our main power lines come down from Skyline through the wooded hills west of the laboratory. SLAC maintains a wide easement under these lines, regularly trimming the trees and undergrowth to prevent interference with the lines. At 8:00 last Wednesday morning a 100ft tall pine tree, growing well outside the SLAC easement, snapped off at its base and crashed down, severing two of the three 230 KV transmission lines, immediately halting all electric power to the laboratory. This is the first time in 40 years that a tree has brought down our power lines in such a dramatic fashion. We have had power outages before but these were normally remedied quickly by restoring the 230 KV or by temporarily switching on to our 60 KV backup line. However, circumstances last week conspired against us as this backup line, which comes in from the eastern side of our site, had been disconnected because of the road work ongoing on Alpine Road.

After tremendous work by PG&E working in very inclement weather on the slope of Skyline, power was restored to SLAC on Friday evening. Since that time SLAC teams have been at work implementing a careful, phased restart of our many, complex systems. However, please be very careful when you return to work on Monday as there could be unexpected hazards at your places of work resulting from the outage. Each of you will be handed a safety reminder upon arrival on Monday, May 23rd.

My sincere thanks for your patience during the period that you were asked not to come to the site. A special thank you and gratitude to all those individuals that worked so carefully and effectively immediately after the outage to secure the laboratory, to connect emergency systems, and to those that have been working to get the laboratory up and running again. We can all be proud of the cooperation, mutual support, sense of dedication and respect for safety that brought us through this unexpected crisis.

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STANFORD LINEAR ACCELERATOR CENTER

*SLAC is a U.S. Department of Energy Research Facility Operated Under Contract by Stanford University*