

October 16, 2001

**ADVICE 2168-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U39 E)**

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California (CPUC)

Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, Wellhead–Gates Generation Substation Interconnection Project, County of Fresno

An electric utility regulated by the California Public Utilities Commission intends to construct new facilities near Coalinga, California in the outlying area of Fresno County. These facilities are being constructed to help alleviate the energy emergency currently facing California. Because of this energy emergency, the California Public Utilities Commission is considering such projects on an expedited basis. (California Public Utilities Commission Resolution E-3732.)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the Company) hereby submits pursuant to General Order (G.O.) 131-D, Section XI, Subsection B.4 the Notice of Proposed Construction and Reconstruction of a power line in the County of Fresno. The notice described in G.O. 131-D Section XI, Paragraph C, is submitted as Attachment I.¹

Purpose

This advice letter provides a copy of the Notice of Proposed Construction and Reconstruction (Attachment I) and the Notice Distribution List, which comply with the noticing requirements found in G.O. 131-D, Section XI, Subsections B and C.

Background

Wellhead has requested the Company to interconnect their proposed 49-megawatt generation plant near Gates Substation off South Butte Avenue. The

¹ The Company reserves all legal rights to challenge the decisions or statutes under which it has been required to make this advice filing, and nothing in this advice filing constitutes a waiver of such rights. Also, the Company reserves any additional legal rights to challenge the requirement to make this advice filing by reason of its status as a debtor under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and nothing in this advice filing constitutes a waiver of such rights.

proposed generation plant is located adjacent to the Company's Gates-Coalinga #2 70 kilovolt (kV) power line and approximately 1.5 miles from the Company's Gates substation. The interconnection would require relocating and intersetting a pole in the existing Company's Gates-Coalinga #2 70 kV power line near pole 2/4, and connecting to the proposed Wellhead generation plant. The existing pole 2/4 will be relocated/replaced approximately 75 feet in line to the east and the interconnect to the proposed facility will be approximately 40 feet to the north. The relocation and interconnection is scheduled to begin in early November 2001, or as soon as possible thereafter and to be in service in early November 2001 or as soon as construction is completed. Wellhead obtained approval from Fresno County to construct the project.

Pursuant to G.O. 131-D, Section III, Paragraph B, Subsections 1(c), 1(f), and 1(g), the relocation of this power line is exempt from a Permit to Construct. Subsection 1(c) states that a Permit to Construct is not required for the minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional supporting structures between existing supporting structures; 1(f) states power lines or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) as part of a larger project, and for which the final CEQA document (Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration) finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by the proposed line or substation; and 1(g) states power line facilities or substations to be located in an existing franchise, road-widening setback easement, or public utility easement; or in a utility corridor designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies for which a final Negative Declaration or EIR finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts.

Additionally, G.O. 131-D requires utilities to employ "no cost" and "low cost" measures to reduce public exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs). Because there are no EMF mitigation measures available on this project that would meet the CPUC's benchmark of 4% or less of the total project cost, no "no cost" or "low cost" measures will be employed.

This filing will not increase any rate or charge, cause the withdrawal of service, or conflict with any other rate schedule or rule.

Protests

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by filing a protest with the CPUC and the Company by **November 5, 2001**, at the following address:

Director, Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission

505 Van Ness Avenue, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94102
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

In addition, protests and all other correspondence regarding this advice letter should also be sent by letter to:

David T. Kraska
Attorney, Law Department
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P. O. Box 7442
San Francisco, California 94120
Facsimile (415) 973-0516

Bruce Beauregard
CEQA Unit
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave
San Francisco, CA 94102

Pam Nataloni
Legal Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Ave, Room 4300
San Francisco, CA 94102

The letter to the California Public Utilities Commission may also be filed by electronic mail at the following address: **construction@cpuc.ca.gov**. If you send a protest by electronic mail, please be sure to include your name and address.

Any protest letter must be received by the California Public Utilities Commission and Pacific Gas and Electric Company by November 5, 2001.

If the California Public Utilities Commission determines that the proposed project is a proper exemption and no protests are received by **November 5, 2001**, Pacific Gas and Electric Company may commence construction by **November 15, 2001**, or with the issuance of a California Public Utilities Commission Executive Director Resolution, whichever is earlier. If protest letters are properly filed with the California Public Utilities Commission and Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Pacific Gas and Electric Company may not start construction until a California Public Utilities Commission Executive Director Resolution is issued.

Persons or groups may protest the proposed construction and reconstruction if they believe that the Company has incorrectly applied for an exemption or that the conditions set out in G.O. 131-D, Section III.B.2, exist. The protest shall set forth the grounds upon which it is based and shall be submitted expeditiously.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **November 5, 2001**, which is 20 days after the date of filing.

Notice

In accordance with G.O. 96-A, Section III, Paragraph G, the Company is electronically and postal mailing copies of this advice letter to the utilities and interested parties shown on the attached list, including the parties listed in G.O. 131-D, Section XI, Paragraphs B.1 and B.2. These parties are identified in the "Notice Distribution List" included in Attachment I. Address change requests should be directed to Nelia Avendano at (415) 973-3529. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at:

http://www.pge.com/customer_services/business/tariffs/

Vice President -- Regulatory Relations

Attachments

bcc: David Kraska
Jo Lynn Lambert
Robert Masuoka
Robert Stiving
John Hagen
Don Triplett