

January 14, 2000

ADVICE 1953-E

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits for filing revisions to its electric tariff sheets. The affected tariff sheets are listed on the enclosed Attachment I.

The purpose of this filing is to submit changes to Schedule PX—*Power Exchange Energy Cost* in compliance with Assembly Bill (AB) 811.

Currently, the Power Exchange (PX) credit for direct access customers is equal to the average PX price for each rate schedule, or time of use (TOU) period if service is taken on a TOU rate schedule, multiplied by the customer's load during the month, where the average PX price is based on the average load profile for the rate schedule. AB 811, signed into law by Governor Davis on September 16, 1999, added Section 367.7 to the Public Utilities Code. Section 367.7(b) provides that the PX credit for a customer with a meter installed on or after June 30, 2000, that is capable of recording hourly data, be calculated based on the actual hourly data for that customer, not the average load profile for that customer in the method described above.

Section 367.7(b) also provides that the PX credit for a customer with a meter installed before June 30, 2000, that is capable of recording hourly data shall, at the election of the customer, on a one-time basis before June 30, 2000, be calculated based on either (1) the actual hourly data for that customer or (2) the average load profile for that customer class. Section 367.7(b) explains that if the customer fails to make an election, that customer's PX credit shall continue to be based on the average load profile for that customer class.

Pursuant to AB 811, PG&E will notify qualifying customers of their option in writing. PG&E will provide a draft of this written notification to the Commission's Public Advisor and any other interested parties within 15 days of the effective date of this advice letter. Within 15 days of the Public Advisor's approval of the draft written notification, PG&E will send the written notification to all those direct access customers with a meter capable of recording hourly data. PG&E will also make one or more subsequent written notifications to those direct access customers that install such meters after the initial notification, but before June 30, 2000. For those customers installing such meters within 10 business days of the June 30, 2000, deadline, PG&E proposes to allow a "grace period" of 10 business days for

that customer to make and return its election to PG&E. PG&E's proposal is not intended to affect Energy Service Providers' ability to contact their customers independently of PG&E's notification.

Subsection 1 of the "Bundled Service or Direct Access Service" section of Schedule PX has been revised to reflect the new requirements of AB 811. For those customers with hourly meters that elect to have their PX credit calculated based on actual hourly data, changes in the calculation of the PX credit will take effect starting with the next regular meter reading date following the receipt of the request, as long as the request is received by PG&E at least 15 days prior to the next scheduled meter read date. All requests received within the 15-day period will take effect starting with the following meter read period.

Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 367.7(c), the incremental billing costs incurred as a result of the implementation of AB 811 may be recoverable through rates for that customer class. Additionally, the implementation of AB 811 shall not result in any shifts in costs between customer classes, and shall be consistent with the "firewall" provision adopted in AB 1890.

PG&E requests that this advice filing become effective on **February 23, 2000**, which is 40 days after the date of filing.

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by sending a letter within 20 days of this filing. Protests should be mailed to:

IMC Branch Chief
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 4002
San Francisco, California 94102
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

Copies should also be mailed to the attention of the Director, Energy Division (address above), and Les Guliasi, Regulatory Relations Manager, 77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C, P.O. Box 770000, San Francisco, California 94177, Facsimile (415) 973-7451. The protest should set forth the grounds upon which it is based and shall be submitted expeditiously. There are no restrictions on who may file a protest.

In accordance with Section III, Paragraph G of General Order 96-A, PG&E is mailing copies of this advice filing to the utilities and interested parties shown

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on the attached list. Address change requests should be directed to Nelia Avendano at (415) 973-3529.

Vice President – Regulatory Relations

Attachments



SCHEDULE PX—POWER EXCHANGE ENERGY COST
(Continued)

BUNDLED
SERVICE OR
DIRECT ACCESS
SERVICE
(Cont'd.):

2. Revisions to Monthly Average PX Costs (T)

Average PX prices will be revised weekly. PG&E will calculate the average PX costs every Wednesday based on hourly prices for the previous 30-day period ending on Tuesday. PG&E will apply these average costs to calculate charges and credits on bills with billing periods that end during the next seven-day period. Beginning on or before January 1, 2000, the average PX cost shall be specific to the billing period of the customer and shall span all weeks from the time of the customer's previous billing through the week prior to the current billing. Billing periods that span 4 or less weeks shall use the 4-week average. Billing periods that span 12 or more weeks shall use the 12-week average. (L)

Exception: In some instances at the beginning of the summer billing season, the 30-day record period will include fewer than three summer season billing days. In such cases, price data from up to the last three winter billing season weekdays (those lying closest to the start of the summer billing season) will be used in order to calculate proxy average PX costs for those TOU periods that are applicable only to summer season usage. Also, beginning approximately one month after the start of the winter billing season, the 30-day record period may not include enough summer season billing days to calculate average PX costs for summer-only TOU periods. In such instances, the last average PX costs that have been calculated for the summer-only TOU periods will be retained as proxies, for use as needed with usage information from subsequent record periods.

3. Loads for Real-time Settlements:

At the end of each billing cycle, all monthly metered data must be gathered and allocated to each hour of the billing period using statistical load profiles. The load profile used in settlement will be the most currently available load profile at the time of settlement from the same load profile source as the one used for calculating the PX energy cost described above.

For a given date and hour, meter reads for every billing cycle that include that hour will be used to calculate the total energy consumed in that given hour of the given day. The fraction of billing period use allocated to a particular hour is equal to the fraction from the same day and hour taken from the statistical load profile associated with the customer's billing period. The total load for each hour is then multiplied by the appropriate DLF to determine the total hourly usage. This load information is then provided to the PX for settlement purposes.

4. Charges for purchases of electricity from the PX, as reflected in this schedule, are subject to competition. A customer may purchase electricity from another supplier.

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