

February 3, 2000

ADVICE 1965-E

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California (CPUC)

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits, in accordance with Section XI.B of General Order (GO) 131-D, notice of the construction of a substation in the City of Fresno. The Notice described in GO 131-D Section XI., Paragraph C, is submitted as Attachment I.

PG&E proposes to construct a new three bank 115 kilovolt substation in the unincorporated area of Pinedale, in the City of Fresno, as part of the new Palm Bluffs Corporate Center industrial park. The substation will be located within Lot 103 and shown on Tract No. 4637 recorded in Volume 62 of Plats at pages 39 through 48 Fresno County Records. PG&E will also construct take down structures from tower 7/38 of the existing Herndon-Bullard 115 kilovolt power line located on Lot 103. The line will then tie into the proposed substation. No other properties will be impacted by the construction of the proposed substation. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2000, and the new facilities should be in operation by the year 2002.

Pursuant to Section III, Paragraph B, Sections 1(f) and 1(g) of GO 131-D, the construction and location of this substation is exempt from a Permit to Construct. Sections 1(f) and 1(g) state that a Permit to Construct is not required for "power lines or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to 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 "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. ~~up to 2,000 feet in length~~." The City of Fresno prepared an Environmental Impact Report, No. 10096, dated November 9, 1988, for the Bullard Community Plan, State Clearing House No. 1987030914. Also filed was a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Palm Bluffs Corporate Center, Environmental Assessment No. E-95-07/R-95-10, dated October 30, 1996. No significant unavoidable environmental impacts were identified for PG&E's proposed substation.

Additionally, GO 131-D requires utilities to employ "no cost" and "low cost" measures to reduce public exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs). The following measures are proposed for this project:

- Compacting the equipment spacing within the substation. The 115 kilovolt Pinedale Substation equipment would fit in an approximately 300' x 300' area (two acres). A conventional three bank substation would require a larger area (approximately three acres) for the substation equipment only. This compaction reduces the EMF field at the fence line by increasing the distance between equipment and fence line.
- Low-side metal clad switchgear reduces low-side bus phase spacing from three feet (used in low-profile buses¹) to one foot. This reduces the EMF contribution from the 21 kilovolt bus.
- Use of underground 21 kilovolt feeder termination to the property limit.

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

PG&E requests that this advice filing become effective on **March 14, 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 after the date 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, CA 94102
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

Copies shall also be mailed to Les Guliasi, Manager, Regulatory Relations, 77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C, P.O. Box 770000, San Francisco, CA 94177, Facsimile: (415) 973-7226, and the PG&E Law Department; Attn.: David Kraska (GO 131-D), P.O. Box 7442, San Francisco, CA 94105. The protest shall set forth the grounds upon which it is based and shall be submitted expeditiously. There is no restriction on whom may file a protest.

In accordance with Section III, Paragraph G, of GO 96-A, PG&E is electronically and postal mailing copies of this advice letter to the utilities and

¹ A BUSS structure is where the wires from the towerline meet the wires from the substation.

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interested parties shown on the attached list, including the parties listed in GO 131-D, Section XI, Paragraphs B.1. and B.2. Address change requests should be directed to Nelia Avendano at (415) 973-3529.

Vice President -- Regulatory Relations

Attachments