

April 14, 2000

ADVICE 1990-E

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits revisions to electric Preliminary Statement Part BN--*Vegetation Management Quality Assurance Balancing Account* (VMQABA).

Advice 1902-E-A, dated September 20, 1999, submitted changes to its electric tariff sheets. D. 99-07-029 adopts the Tree Trimming Settlement in which PG&E agreed that, in addition to the amount authorized in the 1999 General Rate Case (GRC), shareholders will fund \$1.9 million for a vegetation management quality assurance program. PG&E was required to establish a new one-way balancing account to record unspent shareholder funds for this program.

The balancing account described in Preliminary Statement Part BN, records the difference between the costs of PG&E's VMQABA and the sum of the amount authorized in the 1999 GRC for Vegetation Management and the shareholder funding included in the settlement. A small amount of all electric distribution expense is allocated to FERC jurisdiction. When Preliminary Statement Part BN was originally filed, this allocation was not included in the description of the VMQABA balancing account.

The attached tariffs contain the VMQABA descriptions that were originally submitted on August 19, 1999, with the exception of additional descriptions of the allocation of appropriate vegetation management quality assurance expenses to FERC jurisdiction.

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 request that this advice filing become effective on **May 24, 2000**.

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Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by sending a letter within 20 days of 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, California 94102
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

Copies shall also be mailed to the attention of the Director, Energy Division (address above), and Les Guliasi, Manager, Regulatory Relations Department, P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B10A, San Francisco, CA 94177, Facsimile: (415) 973-7451. The protest shall set forth the grounds upon which it is based and shall be submitted expeditiously. There is no restriction on who may file a protest.

In accordance with Section III, Paragraph G, of General Order 96-A, PG&E is electronically and postal mailing copies of this advice to the utilities and interested parties shown on the attached list and to interested parties in OII 98-09-007. Address change requests should be directed to Nelia Avendano at (415) 973-3529.

Vice President -- Regulatory Relations

Attachments

U39E



PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

BN. VEGETATION MANAGEMENT QUALITY ASSURANCE BALANCING ACCOUNT (VMQABA)

1. PURPOSE

The purpose of the VMQABA is to record the difference between the actual and funded costs for the Vegetation Management Quality Assurance Program (PG&E Program) to allow for reconciliation to PG&E's adopted spending program. The VMQABA was created as part of the Tree Trimming Settlement (Settlement) adopted in Decision 99-07-029.

2. APPLICABILITY

The VMQABA shall be funded by shareholder and ratepayer funds. The account will become effective August 19, 1999, which is 30 days after the date of the Commission decision adopting the settlement and last for 3 years.

3. VMQABA RATES

The VMQABA will not have a rate component.

4. ACCOUNTING PROCEDURE

PG&E shall maintain the VMQABA by making entries at the end of each month as follows:

- A. A debit entry equal to all PG&E Program costs for the month less the vegetation management quality assurance expenses allocated to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jurisdiction (0.68 percent of total expenses based on Decision 00-02-046). (N)
 - B. A credit entry equal to one-twelfth of the amount authorized in the 1999 GRC for vegetation management quality assurance programs less the vegetation management quality assurance expenses allocated to FERC jurisdiction (0.68 percent of total expenses based on Decision 00-02-046). (N)
 - C. A credit entry equal to one-twelfth of the annual shareholder funding amount as follows:
 - 1. Year 1 - \$500,000
 - 2. Year 2 - \$700,000
 - 3. Year 3 - \$700,000
 - D. An entry equal to interest on the average balance in the account at the beginning of the month and the balance after entries 4.a through 4.c above, at a rate equal to one-twelfth the interest rate on three-month Commercial Paper for the previous month, as reported in the Federal Reserve Statistical Release, G. 13 or its successor.
5. PG&E shall file an advice letter on September 18 of each program year to determine the disposition of any credit balance in the account in a way that benefits ratepayers.

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