

September 18, 2000

**Advice 2035-E**

(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject:     Vegetation Management Quality Assurance Balancing Account**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the Company) hereby submits in accordance with Preliminary Statement Part BN – *Vegetation Management Quality Assurance Balancing Account (VMQABA)*: (1) a summary of the entries made to the VMQABA for the period August 19, 1999 through August 18, 2000, and (2) a request for approval to transfer the period balance to the Transition Revenue Account.

**Background**

Preliminary Statement Part BN – *Vegetation Management Quality Assurance Balancing Account (VMQABA)* requires the Company to record the difference between the actual and funded costs for the Vegetation Management Quality Assurance Program to allow for reconciliation to the Company's adopted spending from the Tree Trimming OII Settlement (D.99-07-029). The preliminary statement also requires the Company to file an annual advice letter, which shall include a summary of the entries to this account and a proposal for the disposition of any credit balance in the account.

Attachment I to this filing is a summary of the entries made to the VMQABA for the period August 19, 1999 to August 18, 2000 (first program year). The recorded expenses for this period total \$921,713. In accordance with the accounting procedure of the preliminary statement, this amount excludes expenses allocated to Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) jurisdiction.

D.99-07-029 adopted an estimated vegetation management quality assurance spending program year amount of \$1,218,000 (\$1,327,036 in 1999 dollars) plus an additional \$500,000 to be funded by shareholders in the first program year. However, excluding the FERC jurisdiction amount, the net adopted amount for the first program year is \$1,818,012.

The difference between the amount adopted in D.99-07-029 and the amount recorded for the first program year is \$896,299. This amount represents an overcollection, or credit balance, to the VMQABA. The Company requests approval to transfer this overcollection, including interest as required by the preliminary statement, to the Transition Revenue Account or its successor distribution-related account authorized by the Commission.

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 sending a letter within 20 days of the date of this filing. The protest must state the grounds upon which it is based, including such items as financial and service impact, and should be submitted expeditiously. Protests should be sent by U.S. mail and via facsimile 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 should also be mailed to the attention of the Director, Energy Division, Room 4005 and Jerry Royer, at the address shown above. It is also requested that a copy of the protest be sent via postal mail and facsimile to Pacific Gas and Electric Company on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission (at the address shown below).

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Attn: Les Guliasi  
Manager, Regulatory Relations  
77 Beale Street, Mailcode B10C  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177  
Facsimile: (415) 973-7226

### **Effective Date**

PG&E requests that this advice filing become effective on **October 28, 2000**, which is 40 days after the date of this filing.

**Notice**

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

Vice President - Regulatory Relations

Attachments