

November 28, 2000

**ADVICE 2058-E**

(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject:** Refund Plan - Electric Deferred Refund Account (EDRA)

**Purpose**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits its Electric Refund Plan (Refund Plan) as ordered in Decision (D.) 96-12-025, dated December 9, 1996, in OIR 94-04-031/OII 94-04-032, the Commission's Electric Industry Restructuring Proceeding.

As ordered in D. 96-12-025, PG&E established the Electric Deferred Refund Account (EDRA) in Advice 1639-E to record credits for electric disallowances ordered by the Commission, Utility Electric Generation Department (UEG) portions of gas disallowances ordered by the Commission or the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC), and electric and UEG amounts resulting from the settlement of reasonableness disputes at the Commission or FERC. Additionally, D. 96-12-025 ordered PG&E to submit a Refund Plan on or before January 31 of each year, to refund balances in the EDRA. The methodology for refunds is set forth in D. 96-12-025.

**Background**

Since PG&E's last electric Refund Plan filed in Advice 1938-E, dated December 7, 1999, the Commission has not ordered PG&E to credit any disallowances, refunds or other amounts to the EDRA. Furthermore, PG&E does not anticipate any new credits to the EDRA for the remainder of this year. The current EDRA balance of \$1,448,271 equals the residual EDRA balance carried over from the 1999 Refund Plan. This amount equals the balance in the EDRA as of December 31, 2000, including interest through December 31, 2000. Attachment I describes the Refund Plan in detail.

Preliminary Statement Part AA – Electric Deferred Refund Account, provides that the refund amounts shall be refunded to customers annually based on each customer's average monthly energy usage for the prior calendar-year period. To comply with the calendar-year requirement, PG&E requests authority to commence providing refunds on January 31, 2001, using each customer's billed usage for the twelve months proceeding the month in which the refund is issued. Since the current month and the previous twelve billing months establish the current limit of PG&E's on-line customer billing records,

a delay in implementing the refund beyond January 31, 2001, would require use of later recorded data upon which to base each customer's refund.

In D. 98-01-056, the Commission ordered PG&E to calculate its refund according to class average by first allocating the total annual amount to be refunded to each customer class in proportion to revenues billed for each customer class for the calendar-year period, and then, within each customer class, calculate individual refunds based on each customer's average monthly energy usage for the same period.<sup>1</sup>

The revenues used to allocate the refund have been calculated under the assumption that all direct access customers in all classes continued to take bundled service from PG&E; i.e., the refund allocation to each class will include imputed revenues associated with the Power Exchange credit received by Direct Access customers. Imputing revenues is appropriate in this case because the amounts being returned to customers in this refund plan were incurred either prior to the start of Direct Access or were non-procurement-related items.

### **Protests**

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, CA 94102  
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

Copies should also be mailed to the attention of the Director, Energy Division, room 4005 and Jerry Royer, Energy Division, 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  
Attention: Les Guliasi  
Director, Regulatory Relations  
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177  
Facsimile: (415) 973-7226

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<sup>1</sup>D.98-01-56, p. 9.

**Effective Date**

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on regular notice, **January 6, 2001**, which is 40 days after filing, but no later than January 31, 2001, to commence the refunds on January 31, 2001.

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

**Notice**

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

Vice President -- Regulatory Relations

Attachments