

August 2, 2001

**ADVICE 2148-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U39 E)**

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Notice of Proposed Construction of Facilities Pursuant to General Order 131-D, Electric Transmission System Replacement for the Three Mountain Power Plant Project in the County of Shasta

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the Company) hereby submits notice pursuant to General Order (G.O.) 131-D, Section XI, Subsection B.4 of the construction of facilities that are exempt from a Permit to Construct.¹

Purpose

This advice letter provides a copy of the Notice of Proposed Construction (Attachment I) and the Notice Distribution List, which comply with the noticing requirements found in G.O. 131-D, Section XI, Subsections B and C.

Background

To accommodate the Three Mountain Power Plant Project, the Company must perform the following work: 1) Replace wires and modify towers as necessary on portions of the existing Pit 1-Cottonwood 230 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line for approximately 50.5 miles, the existing Pit 3-Round Mountain 230 kV electric transmission line for approximately 24.5 miles, and the existing Pit 1-Pit 3 230 kV electric transmission line for approximately 13 miles. 2) Construct a new 230 kV electric transmission interconnection for approximately 2000 feet from the existing Pit 1-Cottonwood 230 kV electric transmission line and the existing Pit 1-Pit 3 230

¹ The Company reserves all legal rights to challenge the decisions or statutes under which it has been required to make this advice filing, and nothing in this advice filing constitutes a waiver of such rights. Also, the Company reserves any additional legal rights to challenge the requirement to make this advice filing by reason of its status as a debtor under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and nothing in this advice filing constitutes a waiver of such rights.

kV electric transmission line to a new electric switching station. 3) Construct a new electric switching station adjacent to the Three Mountain Power Plant facility near Burney. Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2001, or as soon as possible thereafter, and the new facilities are planned to be in operation as soon as possible after construction is completed.

This project qualifies as exempt from Permit to Construct filing requirements pursuant to G.O. 131-D, Section III, A and B.1, which exempts, "power lines or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (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 "the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on supporting structures already built."

The California Energy Commission (CEC) has issued Order No. 01-0516-17, adopting the Commission Decision of the Three Mountain Power Plant Project dated May 16, 2001, which includes the proposed electric transmission line replacement and construction and the switching station construction. The CEC acts as lead agency under CEQA, and its process is functionally equivalent to the traditional CEQA process pursuant to Public Resources Code, Section 21080.5. The CEC's environmental review identified no significant unavoidable environmental impacts for the Company's work.

Additionally, G.O. 131-D requires utilities to employ "no cost" and specified "low cost" measures to reduce public exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs). The Company will employ the "no cost" measure of cross phasing the two circuits to cancel magnetic fields on this project.

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 filing a protest with the CPUC and the Company by **August 22, 2001**, which is 20 days after the filing date, at the following address:

Director, Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94102
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

In addition, protests and all other correspondence regarding this advice letter should also be sent by letter and transmitted via facsimile to the attention of:

David T. Kraska
Attorney, Law Department
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 7442
San Francisco, California 94120
Facsimile (415) 973-0516

Les Guliasi
Director, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B10C
San Francisco, California 94177
Facsimile (415) 973-7226

Persons or groups may protest the proposed construction if they believe that the Company has incorrectly applied for an exemption or that the conditions identified in G.O. 131-D, Section III.B.2, exist.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **September 11, 2001**, which is 40 days after the date of filing. (In accordance with G.O. 131-D, construction will not begin until 45 days after notice is first published.)

Notice

In accordance with G.O. 96-A, Section III, Paragraph G, PG&E is electronically and postal mailing copies of this advice letter to the utilities and interested parties shown on the attached list, including the parties listed in G.O. 131-D, Section XI, Paragraphs B.1 and B.2. These parties are identified in the "Notice Distribution List" included in Attachment I. Address change requests should be directed to Nelia Avendano at (415) 973-3529. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at:

http://www.pge.com/customer_services/business/tariffs/

Vice President -- Regulatory Relations

Attachments

cc: Parties Listed in G.O. 131-D, Paragraphs B.1 and B.2

bcc: Christopher Ellis
David Kraska
Jo Lynn Lambert
Robert Masuoka
Oscar Sample
Scot Wilson