

January 10, 2002

Advice 2188-E

(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Revision to Rule 20, Replacement of Overhead with Underground Electric Facilities

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits for filing revisions to its electric tariffs. The affected tariff sheets are listed on the enclosed Attachment I.¹

Purpose

This filing revises Rule 20, Sections A and B, *Replacement of Overhead with Underground Electric Facilities*, in compliance with D. 01-12-009.

Background

On January 6, 2000, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) issued an Order Instituting Rulemaking (R.) 00-01-005 to look into the implementation of Assembly Bill (AB) 1149. AB 1149 requires the Commission to study ways to amend, revise, and improve the rules for the conversion of existing overhead electric and communications lines to underground service. Currently, under Rule 20A, PG&E ratepayers bear most of the costs of the underground conversion. Rule 20A funds are only available when undergrounding is "in the public interest."

On December 11, 2001, the Commission adopted D. 01-12-009 to revise the rules governing the State's program to convert overhead electric and communications distribution and transmission lines to underground. Decision 01-12-009, among other things, expands the Rule 20A criteria, extends the use of Rule 20A funds, allows cities to mortgage Rule 20A funds for five years, requires standardized reporting from the utilities, improves communication between utilities, cities, and residents, and orders the creation of an up-dated Undergrounding Planning Guide.

¹ PG&E 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, PG&E 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.

In compliance with D. 01-12-009, Ordering Paragraph 2, this filing revises the applicable sections of Rule 20, Sections A and B to: (1) expand Rule 20A criteria to include arterial streets or major collectors; (2) allow Rule 20A funds to be used in combination with Rule 20B funds to promote more conversion projects; and (3) allow cities to mortgage Rule 20A allocations for up to five years.

No cost information is required for this advice filing.

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

Protests

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by sending a letter by **January 30, 2002**, which is 20 days from 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 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 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, California 94177
Facsimile: (415) 973-7226

Effective Date

PG&E requests that this filing become effective on **February 19, 2002**, which is 40 days after the date of filing.

Notice

In accordance with General Order 96-A, Section III, Paragraph G, a copy of this advice letter is being sent electronically and via U.S. mail to parties shown on the attached list and the parties on the service list for R. 00-01-005. Address changes 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: Service List – R. 00-01-005



RULE 20—REPLACEMENT OF OVERHEAD WITH UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC FACILITIES

A. PG&E will, at its expense, replace its existing overhead electric facilities with underground electric facilities along public streets and roads, and on public lands and private property across which rights-of-ways satisfactory to PG&E have been obtained by PG&E, provided that:

1. The governing body of the city or county in which such electric facilities are and will be located has:

a. Determined, after consultation with PG&E and after holding public hearings on the subject, that such undergrounding is in the general public interest for one or more of the following reasons:

- 1) Such undergrounding will avoid or eliminate an unusually heavy concentration of overhead electric facilities;
- 2) The street or road or right-of-way is extensively used by the general public and carries a heavy volume of pedestrian or vehicular traffic; (T)
- 3) The street or road or right-of-way adjoins or passes through a civic area or public recreation area or an area of unusual scenic interest to the general public; and (T)
- 4) The street or road or right-of-way is considered an arterial street or major collector as defined in the Governor's Office of Planning and Research General Plan Guidelines and identified in the mandatory circulation element of the city or county general plan pursuant to the California Government Code. (N)
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(N)

b. Adopted an ordinance creating an underground district in the area in which both the existing and new facilities are and will be located requiring, among other things, (1) that all existing overhead communication and electric distribution facilities in such district shall be removed, (2) that each property served from such electric overhead facilities shall have installed in accordance with PG&E's rules for underground service, all electrical facility changes on the premises necessary to receive service from the underground facilities of PG&E as soon as it is available, and (3) authorizing PG&E to discontinue its overhead service.

(Continued)



RULE 20—REPLACEMENT OF OVERHEAD WITH UNDERGROUND ELECTRIC FACILITIES
(Continued)

A. (Cont'd.)

2. (Cont'd.)

d. However, Section 2 a, b, and c shall not apply to PG&E where the total amount available for allocation under Rule 20-A is equal to or greater than 1.5 times the previous year's statewide average on a per customer basis. In such cases, PG&E's total annual budgeted amount for undergrounding within any city or the unincorporated area of any county shall be allocated in the same ratio that the number of overhead meters in the city or unincorporated area of any county bears to the total system overhead meters.

e. Upon request by a city or county with a positive allocation balance, the amounts allocated may be exceeded for each city or county by an amount up to a maximum of five years' allocation at then-current levels where PG&E establishes that additional participation on a project is warranted and resources are available. Such allocated amounts may be carried over for a reasonable period of time in communities with active undergrounding programs. In order to qualify as a community with an active undergrounding program the governing body must have adopted an ordinance or ordinances creating an underground district and/or districts as set forth in Section A.1.b. of this Rule. Where there is a carry-over or additional requested participation as discussed above, PG&E has the right to set, as determined by its capability, reasonable limits on the rate of performance of the work to be financed by the funds carried over. When amounts are not expended or carried over for the community to which they are initially allocated they shall be assigned when additional participation on a project is warranted or be reallocated to communities with active undergrounding programs.

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(Continued)



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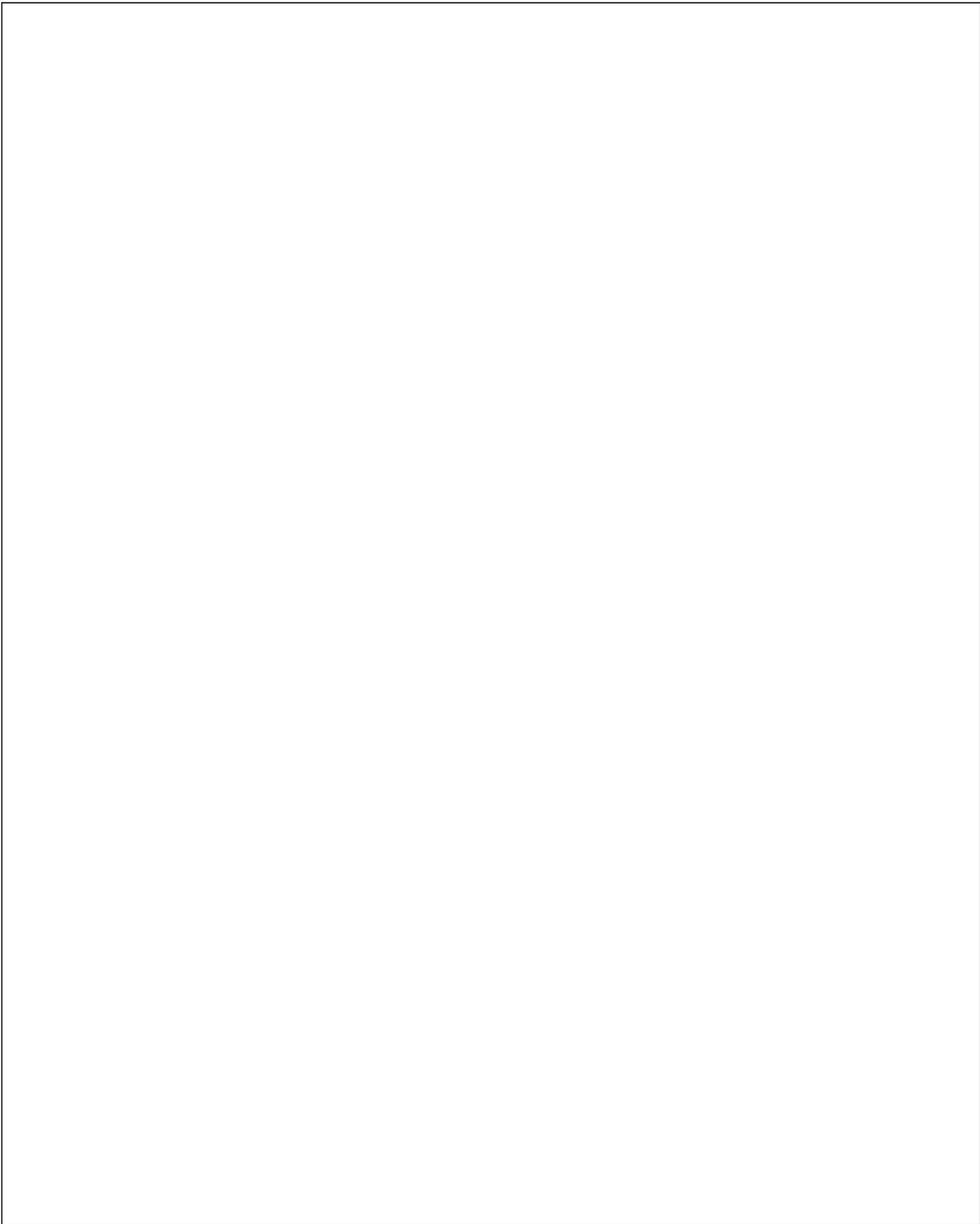
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
San Francisco, California

Cancelling

Revised
Revised

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

18684-E
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Advice Letter No. 2188-E
Decision No. 01-12-009

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Issued by
Karen A. Tomcala
Vice President
Regulatory Relations

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