

April 5, 2002

**Advice 2218-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U39 E)**

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of the Calwater Substation and 115 Kilovolt Power Line in the City of Bakersfield, County of Kern

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (the Company) hereby submits notice pursuant to General Order (G.O.) 131-D, Section XI, 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.

Background

Pacific Gas and Electric Company proposes to construct approximately 2.2 miles of new 115 kilovolt (kV) power line on wood poles, which will connect to a new two-bank substation located adjacent to the entrance of the California Water Service Company treatment plant near the intersection of Palodino and Morning Drives in the City of Bakersfield. PG&E will initially install only one 30 MVA bank at the substation, with the second bank to be constructed at a later date. The power line will tap the Westpark-Magunden 115 kV line at the Bear Mountain Cogeneration (Cogen) Plant and will then extend approximately 900 feet east and 1300 feet south along the existing Bear Mountain Cogen access road. The power line will then turn east and extend approximately 6400 feet along future Bella Road to Morning Drive. The power line will turn northerly and extend along Morning Drive to the proposed

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.

substation site at the entrance to the water treatment plant. The proposed substation and power line will serve new load created by the California Water treatment plant and the City of Bakersfield's proposed "City in the Hills" development. The construction is scheduled to begin in May 2002, or as soon as possible thereafter, with the facilities expected to be in service in August 2002 or as soon as construction is completed.

This project qualifies as exempt from Permit to Construct filing requirements, pursuant to G.O. 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1.f, which exempts, "power lines or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to 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." The City of Bakersfield prepared an Environmental Impact Report dated November 15, 2001 and amended March 1, 2002, for the City In The Hills, State Clearing House No. 2000011101. No significant unavoidable environmental impacts were identified for PG&E's proposed substation and wood power line.

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 following measures are proposed for this project:

- Compacting the equipment spacing within the substation. This compaction reduces the EMF field at the fence line by increasing the distance between equipment and fence line.
- Constructing the 21 kV bus structure (where power line wires meet substation wires) with low-side metal clad switchgear, reducing low-side bus phase spacing from three feet to one foot and thereby reducing the EMF contribution.

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 **April 25, 2002**, 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 set out in G.O. 131-D, Section III.B.2, exist.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **May 15, 2002**, 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, the Company 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 Rose Abao at (415) 973-2218. 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: David Kraska
Jo Lynn Lambert
John Hagen
Don Triplett
Robert Masuoka
Robert Stiving
Satvir Nagra