

August 5, 2002

**Advice 2270-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 Arcata Junction Switch 67 Replacement Project in the County of Humboldt

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.

Background

To maintain sufficient line voltage during winter peak load periods and emergency circuit outages, Pacific Gas and Electric Company will perform the following reinforcement to its 60 kilovolt electric transmission system at the Arcata Junction south of the City of Arcata in Humboldt County:

Remove an existing manually-operated switch, the switch pole, and one additional pole on the Fairhaven-Humboldt 60 kilovolt power line and install a new, automatically-operated switch on a new tubular steel pole immediately south of the former switch pole.

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.

Construction is scheduled to begin in September 2002, or as soon thereafter as possible, and the new switch is scheduled to be in operation by December 2002, or as soon thereafter as possible.

The Arcata Junction is located on PG&E property south of the City of Arcata about 0.5 mile south of the South G Street/U.S. 101 intersection and about 0.2 mile east of U.S. Highway 101.

This project qualifies as exempt from Permit to Construct filing requirements, pursuant to G.O. 131-D, Section III, Subsections B.1.b, c, e, and g, which exempt “the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures”; “the minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the inter-setting of additional support structures between existing support structures”; “the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on supporting structures already built”; and, “power line facilities or substations to be located in an existing franchise, road-widening setback easement, or public utility easement”.

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 measure is proposed for this project:

- Because there are no EMF mitigation measures available on this project that would meet the CPUC’s benchmark of 4% or less of the total project cost, no “no cost” or “low cost” measures will be employed.

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 26, 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 General Order 131-D, Section III.B.2 exist.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **September 14, 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: Robert Bonderud
Lloyd Coker
Robert English
David Kraska
Jo Lynn Lambert
Robert Masuoka
Mike Neer
Neal Rotlisberger
Robert Stiving
John Torrens