

November 27, 2002

Advice 2312-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U39 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: **Wilson-Le Grand 115 Kilovolt Power Line Reconstruction Project**

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

Several new electric generating facilities have recently been interconnected to the Company's 115 kilovolt (kV) transmission system to help support the electrical load in the Chowchilla, Le Grand, and Merced areas of Madera and Merced Counties. In order to accommodate this additional load, the Company proposes to replace approximately six miles of existing wire with new wire from Le Grand Substation to the intersection of Sandy Mush Road and Bliss Road in Merced County. In addition, the Company will replace approximately 88 poles at various locations along the existing power line route. All work will take place within the existing right-of-way. Construction is scheduled to begin in January 2003, or as soon as possible thereafter, and to be completed in May 2003, or as soon as possible thereafter.

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.

This project qualifies as exempt from Permit to Construct filing requirements, pursuant to G.O. 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1. (b) and (g), which exempts, "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures" and "power line facilities or substation to be located in an existing franchise, road-widening setback easement, or public utility easement; or in a utility corridor designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies for which a final Negative Declaration or EIR finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts."

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).

- 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 **December 17, 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 Gulas
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 **January 6, 2003**, 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 de la Torre at (415) 973-4716. 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