

August 19, 2003

**Advice 2409-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U39 E)**

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Colgate-Smartville #1 60 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line Transmission System Replacement Project in Yuba County

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 GO 131-D, Section XI, Subsections B and C.

Background

The Company plans to replace wires with new wires on (reconductor) the Colgate-Smartville #1 60 kV Pole Line in the County of Yuba, California. This project is needed to provide reliable electric transmission service to customers in Yuba County. The reconductoring will occur between the Company's Smartville Substation and the Colgate Powerhouse, a distance of approximately 11.2 miles over primarily agricultural grazing land. The wire replacement will begin on the north side of Smartville Substation in the town of Smartville, and run north for approximately 8.3 miles and then run east for approximately 2.9 miles to the Colgate Powerhouse switching station. Approximately 165 poles will be replaced to accommodate the new wires and to comply with General Order 95 requirements. Construction is scheduled to begin in October of 2003, or as soon

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.

as possible thereafter, and the new facilities are planned to be in operation by June 2004, or as soon as possible after construction is completed.

This project qualifies as exempt from Permit to Construct filing requirements pursuant to GO 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1. (b), (e) and (g), which exempts:

- The replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or 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; 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). 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" 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.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **September 28, 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.)

Protests

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by filing a protest with the CPUC and the Company by **September 8, 2003**, at the following address:

Director, Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, CA 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, CA 94105
Facsimile: (415) 973-0516

Brian Cherry
Director, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B10C
San Francisco, CA 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.

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 1. Address change requests should be directed to Sandra Ciach at (415) 973-7572. 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