

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

Tel. No. (415) 703-1691



December 16, 2003

Advice Letter ~~2440-E~~

Ms Anita Smith, Rate Analyst
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Mail Code 10B
San Francisco, CA 94177

Subject: Notice of proposed construction of Humboldt Substation to Arcata Junction New 60 kilovolt electric circuit

Dear Ms Smith:

Advice Letter 2440-E is effective December 24, 2003. A copy of the advice letter is returned herewith for your records.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Paul Clanon".

Paul Clanon, Director
Energy Division



**Pacific Gas and
Electric Company**

Karen A. Tomcala
Vice President
Regulatory Relations

77 Beale Street, Room 1065
San Francisco, CA 94105

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Mail Code B10A
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November 14, 2003

**Advice 2440-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U39 E)**

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject: Notice of Proposed Construction of Facilities Pursuant to
General Order 131-D, Humboldt Substation to Arcata Junction
New 60 Kilovolt Electric Circuit**

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

Proposed Project: In order to increase electric service reliability in the northern coastal area of Humboldt County, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to replace an existing single-circuit, 60-kilovolt (kV) pole line with a new double-circuit, 60-kV pole line between PG&E's Humboldt Substation and Arcata Junction. The 5.5-mile replacement pole line will be installed within existing PG&E easements that begin at Humboldt Substation located on Mitchell Heights Drive in Humboldt County and end at Arcata Junction, located about one mile south of Samoa Boulevard and about 900 feet east of U.S. 101 within the City of Arcata city limits. The project route crosses Myrtle Street near Pigeon Point Road, Hidden Valley Road, the Indianola Cutoff, Indianola Road, and McDonald Lane, all in Humboldt County, and the Bayside Cutoff within the City of Arcata. In order to support the additional circuit (three new wires), 23 wood poles with guy wires will be replaced with taller tubular steel poles without guy wires, and

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.

approximately 61 wood poles will be replaced with taller wood poles. Construction activities are scheduled to begin in June 2004, or as soon as possible thereafter, and project completion is scheduled for October 2004, or as soon as possible thereafter.

This project qualifies as exempt from Permit to Construct filing requirements, pursuant to G.O. 131-D, Section III, B. Paragraph B, Section 1 (g) states that a Permit to Construct is not required for "power line facilities or substations to be located in an existing franchise, road-widening set back 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).

- Circuits will be designed with a cross-phased configuration that can optimize the EMF self-canceling effect of multiple circuits.
- Taller poles will be used in residential areas to increase the conductor to ground distance in order to reduce EMF at ground level

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 4, 2003**, 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

Brian K. Cherry
Director, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B10C
San Francisco, California 94177
Facsimile: (415) 973-7226
E-Mail: RxDd@pge.com

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 G.O. 131-D, Section III.B.2, exist.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **December 24, 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 Sandra Ciach at (415) 973-7572. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at:

http://www.pge.com/customer_services/business/tariffs/

Karen A. Domeda / sds
Vice President -- Regulatory Relations

Attachments

cc: Parties Listed in G.O. 131-D, Paragraphs B.1 and B.2

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT NAME: Humboldt Substation to Arcata Junction New 60 Kilovolt Electric Circuit
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 2440-E

Proposed Project: In order to increase electric service reliability in the northern coastal area of Humboldt County, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to replace an existing single-circuit, 60-kilovolt (kV) pole line with a new double-circuit, 60-kV pole line between PG&E's Humboldt Substation and Arcata Junction. The 5.5-mile replacement pole line will be installed within existing PG&E easements that begin at Humboldt Substation located on Mitchell Heights Drive in Humboldt County and end at Arcata Junction, located about one mile south of Samoa Boulevard and about 900 feet east of U.S. 101 within the City of Arcata city limits. The project route crosses Myrtle Street near Pigeon Point Road, Hidden Valley Road, the Indianola Cutoff, Indianola Road, and McDonald Lane, all in Humboldt County, and the Bayside Cutoff within the City of Arcata. In order to support the additional circuit (three new wires), 23 wood poles with guy wires will be replaced with taller tubular steel poles without guy wires, and approximately 61 wood poles will be replaced with taller wood poles. Construction activities are scheduled to begin in June 2004, or as soon as possible thereafter, and project completion is scheduled for October 2004, or as soon as possible thereafter.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF): Pacific Gas and Electric Company will employ "no cost" and specified "low cost" measures to reduce public exposure to EMF in accordance with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Decision 93-11-013 and Pacific Gas and Electric Company's "EMF Design Guidelines of New Electrical Facilities: Transmission, Substation, and Distribution." The following measures are proposed for this project:

- Circuits will be designed with a cross-phased configuration that can optimize the EMF self-canceling effect of multiple circuits.
- Taller poles will be used in residential areas to increase the conductor to ground distance in order to reduce EMF at ground level

Exemption from CPUC Authority: CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, B.1, exempts projects meeting specific conditions from the CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct. Pacific Gas and Electric Company believes this project qualifies for the following exemption:

- "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."

Public Review Process: Persons or groups may protest the proposed construction if they believe that Pacific Gas and Electric Company has incorrectly applied for an exemption or that the conditions set out in Section III.B.2 of General Order 131-D exist;

- a. There is reasonable possibility that the activity may have an impact on an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies; or
- b. The cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant; or
- c. There is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Protests should include the following:

1. Your name, mailing address and daytime telephone number.
2. Reference to the CPUC Advice Letter Number and Project Name.
3. A clear description of the reason for the protest.
4. Whether you believe that evidentiary hearings are necessary to resolve factual disputes.

Protests for this project must be filed by December 4, 2003 at the following address:

Director, Energy Division
 California Public Utilities Commission
 505 Van Ness Avenue, Fourth Floor
 San Francisco, California 94102

With a copy mailed to:

David Kraska, Law Department
 Pacific Gas and Electric Company
 P.O. Box 7442
 San Francisco, California 94120

Pacific Gas and Electric Company must respond within five business days of receipt and serve copies of its response on each protestant and the Energy Division. Within 30 days after Pacific Gas and Electric Company has submitted its response, the Executive Director of the CPUC will send you a copy of an Executive Resolution granting or denying the request and stating the reasons for the decision.

Assistance in Filing a Protest: For assistance in filing a protest, contact the CPUC Public Advisor in San Francisco at (415) 703-2074 or 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free) or TTY (415) 703.5258 or public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

Additional Project Information: To obtain further information on the proposed project, please call Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Project Information Line at (415) 973-5530.

Notice Distribution List

Humboldt Substation to Arcata Junction New 60 Kilovolt Electric Circuit Advice 2440-E

Energy Commission

Mr. Stephen Rhoads, Executive Director
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Bob Therleksen
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39
Sacramento, California 95814

County of Humboldt
Kirk Girard, Director
Community Development Services Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501-4484

Courtesy Copy to
County of Humboldt
Alison Hunter
Community Development Services Department
3015 H Street
Eureka, California 95501-4484

Kevin R. Hamblin, Director
Community Development
City of Eureka
531 K Street
Eureka, California 95501

Tom Conlon, Director
City of Arcata
Community Development Department
Arcata City Hall
736 F Street
Arcata, California 95521

Newspaper
Eureka Times-Standard

**PG&E Electric Advice Filing List
General Order 96-A, Section III(G)**

ABAG Power Pool
ACN Energy, Inc.
Aglet Consumer Alliance
Agnews Developmental Center
Ahmed, Ali
Alcantar & Elsesser
Anderson Donovan & Poole P.C.
Applied Power Technologies
APS Energy Services Co Inc
Arter & Hadden LLP
Avista Corp
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.
BART
Bartle Wells Associates
Blue Ridge Gas
Bohannon Development Co
BP Energy Company
Braun & Associates
C & H Sugar Co.
CA Bldg Industry Association
CA Cotton Ginners & Growers Assoc.
CA League of Food Processors
CA Water Service Group
California Energy Commission
California Farm Bureau Federation
California ISO
Calpine
Calpine Corp
Calpine Gilroy Cogen
Cambridge Energy Research Assoc
Cameron McKenna
Cardinal Cogen
Cellnet Data Systems
Childress, David A.
City of Glendale
City of Healdsburg
City of Palo Alto
City of Redding
CLECA Law Office
Constellation New Energy
CPUC
Creative Technology
Crossborder Inc
CSC Energy Services
Davis, Wright Tremaine LLP
Davis, Wright, Tremaine, LLP
Defense Fuel Support Center
Department of the Army
Department of Water & Power City
Dept of the Air Force
DGS Natural Gas Services
DMM Customer Services
Downey, Brand, Seymour & Rohwer
Duke Energy
Duke Energy North America
Duncan, Virgil E.
Dutcher, John
Dynergy Inc.
Ellison Schneider
Energy Law Group LLP
Enron Energy Services
Exeter Associates
Foster, Wheeler, Martinez
Franciscan Mobilehome
Future Resources Associates, Inc
GLJ Energy Publications
Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz &
Grueenich Resource Advocates
Hanna & Morton
Heeg, Peggy A.
Hogan Manufacturing, Inc
House, Lon
Imperial Irrigation District
Integrated Utility Consulting Group
International Power Technology
J. R. Wood, Inc
JTM, Inc
Kaiser Cement Corp
Korea Elec Power Corp
Marcus, David
Masonite Corporation
Matthew V. Brady & Associates
Maynor, Donald H.
McKenzie & Assoc
McKenzie & Associates
Meek, Daniel W.
Meyer, Joseph
Mirant California, LLC
Modesto Irrigation Dist
Morrison & Foerster
Morse Richard Weisenmiller & Assoc.
New United Motor Mfg, Inc
Norris & Wong Associates
North Coast Solar Resources
Northern California Power Agency
PG&E National Energy Group
Pinnacle CNG Company
PPL EnergyPlus, LLC
Price, Roy
Product Development Dept
Provost Pritchard
R. M. Hairston & Company
R. W. Beck & Associates
Recon Research
Regional Cogeneration Service
RMC Lonestar
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
SCD Energy Solutions
Seattle City Light
Sempra
Sempra Energy
Sequoia Union HS Dist
SESCO
Sierra Pacific Power Company
Silicon Valley Power
Simpson Paper Company
Smurfit Stone Container Corp
Southern California Edison
SPURR
St. Paul Assoc
Stanford University
Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan
Tabors Caramanis & Associates
Tansev and Associates
Tecogen, Inc
TFS Energy
TJ Cross Engineers
Transwestern Pipeline Co
Turlock Irrigation District
United Cogen Inc.
URM Groups
Utility Cost Management LLC
Utility Resource Network
Wellhead Electric Company
Western Hub Properties, LLC
White & Case
WMA