

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



January 24, 2007

Advice Letter 2875-E

Rose de la Torre  
Pacific Gas & Electric  
77 Beale Street, Room 1088  
Mail Code B10C  
San Francisco, CA 94105

Subject: General Order 131-D, Metcalf-Hicks/Vasona 230 kV Reconductor Project

Dear Ms. de la Torre:

Advice Letter 2875-E is effective September 3, 2006. A copy of the advice letter is returned herewith for your records.

Sincerely,

Sean H. Gallagher, Director  
Energy Division

**REGULATORY RELATIONS**  
 Tariffs Section  
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 R Dela Torre  
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 D Poster  
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 Return to \_\_\_\_\_  
 Records \_\_\_\_\_  
 File \_\_\_\_\_  
 cc to \_\_\_\_\_



**Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company®**

**Brian K. Cherry**  
Vice President  
Regulatory Relations

77 Beale Street, Room 1087  
San Francisco, CA 94105

*Mailing Address*  
Mail Code B10C  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
P. O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

415.973.4977  
Internal: 223.4977  
Fax: 415.973.7226  
Internet: BKC7@pge.com

August 4, 2006

**Advice 2875-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 Metcalf-Hicks/Vasona 230kV  
Reconductor 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.

**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**

The Company is proposing to replace existing wires (conductor) with new wires (reconductor) on approximately 14.2 miles of Power Line in Santa Clara County in order to improve electric system reliability and meet the California Independent System Operator's (CAISO) requirements. The power line begins at Metcalf Substation, at the intersection of Metcalf Road and Monterey Road, just west of Highway 101. The line leaves the substation and travels west over Tulare Hill, the Santa Teresa Golf Club and Santa Teresa County Park. West of Almaden Expressway, the line continues west in a utility corridor through San Jose and Campbell, terminating at El Patio Substation, near the intersection of Highway 17 and Hamilton Avenue in Campbell.

Construction is expected to begin in September, 2006, or as soon possible thereafter, and to be completed by May, 2007, 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, Subsection B.1 which exempts, "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures," and, "the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on supporting structures already built."

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:

- 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 letter sent via U.S. mail, by facsimile or electronically, any of which must be received no later than 20 days after the date of this filing, which is **August 24, 2006**, at the following address:

CPUC Energy Division  
Attention: Tariff Unit, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102  
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200  
E-mail: [jjr@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jjr@cpuc.ca.gov) and [jnj@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jnj@cpuc.ca.gov)

Copies of protests also should be mailed to the attention of the Director, Energy Division, Room 4004, at the address shown above.

The protest also should be sent via U.S. mail (and by facsimile and electronically, if possible) to PG&E at the addresses shown below on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Attention: David T. Kraska  
Attorney, Law Department  
P.O. Box 7442  
San Francisco, California 94120  
Facsimile: (415) 973-0516

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Attention: Brian K. Cherry  
Vice President, Regulatory Relations  
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B10C  
San Francisco, California 94177  
Facsimile: (415) 973-7226  
E-mail: PGETariffs@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 in Section III.B.2 of G.O. 131-D exist.

**Effective Date**

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **September 3, 2006**, which is 30 calendar 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, a copy of this advice letter is being sent electronically and via U.S. mail to 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 changes 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/tariffs>



Vice President -- Regulatory Relations

Attachments

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

**CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

**ADVICE LETTER FILING SUMMARY  
ENERGY UTILITY**

**MUST BE COMPLETED BY UTILITY (Attach additional pages as needed)**

Company name/CPUC Utility No. **Pacific Gas and Electric Company (ID U39)**

Utility type: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ELC <input type="checkbox"/> GAS <input type="checkbox"/> PLC <input type="checkbox"/> HEAT <input type="checkbox"/> WATER	Contact Person: <u>Michelle Brown</u> Phone #: <u>(415) 973-4662</u> E-mail: <u>mtt3@pge.com</u>
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EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE ELC = Electric      GAS = Gas PLC = Pipeline      HEAT = Heat    WATER = Water	(Date Filed/ Received Stamp by CPUC)
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Advice Letter (AL) #: **2875-E**  
Subject of AL: General Order 131-D, Metcalf-Hicks/Vasona 230kV Reconductor Project

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): **Transmission Lines**  
AL filing type:  Monthly  Quarterly  Annual  One-Time  Other \_\_\_\_\_  
If AL filed in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:

Does AL replace a withdrawn or rejected AL? If so, identify the prior AL: N/A  
Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Resolution Required?  Yes  No  
Requested effective date: **September 3, 2006**      No. of tariff sheets: N/A  
Estimated system annual revenue effect (%): \_\_\_\_\_  
Estimated system average rate effect (%): \_\_\_\_\_  
When rates are affected by AL, include attachment in AL showing average rate effects on customer classes (residential, small commercial, large C/I, agricultural, lighting).  
Tariff schedules affected: N/A

Service affected and changes proposed<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_  
Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: N/A

**Protests and all other correspondence regarding this AL are due no later than 20 days after the date of this filing, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, and shall be sent to:**

<b>CPUC Energy Division</b> <b>Attention: Tariff Unit, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor</b> <b>505 Van Ness Avenue</b> <b>San Francisco, CA 94102</b> <b>jjr@cpuc.ca.gov and jnj@cpuc.ca.gov</b>	<b>Pacific Gas and Electric Company</b> <b>Attn: Brian K. Cherry</b> <b>Vice President, Regulatory Relations</b> <b>77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C</b> <b>P.O. Box 770000</b> <b>San Francisco, CA 94177</b> <b>E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com</b>
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<sup>1</sup> Discuss in AL if more space is needed.

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

**PROJECT NAME: Metcalf-Hicks/Vasona 230kV Reconductor Project**  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 2875-E**

**Proposed Project:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to replace existing wires (conductor) with new wires (reconductor) on approximately 13.3 miles of Metcalf – Hicks/Vasona 230 kV Transmission Line in Santa Clara County in order to improve electric system reliability and meet the California Independent System Operator's (CAISO) requirements. The transmission line begins at Metcalf Substation, at the intersection of Metcalf Road and Monterey Road, just west of Highway 101. The line leaves the substation and travels west over Tulare Hill, the Santa Teresa Golf Club and Santa Teresta County Park. West of Almaden Expressway, the line continues west in a utility corridor through San Jose and Los Gatos, terminating at Vasona Substation, at the intersection of Winchester Boulevard and Lark Avenue in Los Gatos. In order to provide safe ground clearance for the new conductor, 11 towers will be raised up to approximately 16 feet and 2 towers will be modified with additional steel members.

Construction is expected to begin in September, 2006, or as soon possible thereafter, and to be completed by May, 2007, 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 measure(s) 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.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III.A, 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(s):

- The placing of new or additional conducts, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built.

**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
- c.b. The cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant; or
- e.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.
- 5.4. Whether you believe that evidentiary hearings are necessary to resolve factual disputes.

**Protests for this project must be filed by August 24, 2006, at the following address:**

CPUC Energy Division  
 Attn: Tariff Unit, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 California Public Utilities Commission  
 505 Van Ness Avenue  
 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](mailto: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**

**Metcalf – Hicks/Vasona 230kV Power Line Reconductor Project**

**Advice 2875-E**

**Energy Commission**

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

Mr. Terry O'Brien, Deputy Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39  
Sacramento, CA 95814

**City of San Jose**

Mr. Joseph Horwedel  
Acting Director of Planning  
San Jose Planning Department  
200 East Santa Clara Street  
San Jose, CA 95113-1905

**City of Los Gatos**

Bud Lortz  
Community Development Director  
110 E. Main Street  
Los Gatos, CA 95030

**Newspaper**

San Jose Mercury News

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

ABAG Power Pool	DGS Natural Gas Services	PG&E National Energy Group
Accent Energy	Douglass & Liddell	Pinnacle CNG Company
Aglet Consumer Alliance	Downey, Brand, Seymour & Rohwer	PITCO
Agnews Developmental Center	Duke Energy	Plurimi, Inc.
Ahmed, Ali	Duke Energy North America	PPL EnergyPlus, LLC
Alcantar & Elsesser	Duncan, Virgil E.	Praxair, Inc.
Ancillary Services Coalition	Dutcher, John	Price, Roy
Anderson Donovan & Poole P.C.	Dynegy Inc.	Product Development Dept
Applied Power Technologies	Ellison Schneider	R. M. Hairston & Company
APS Energy Services Co Inc	Energy Law Group LLP	R. W. Beck & Associates
Arter & Hadden LLP	Energy Management Services, LLC	Recon Research
Avista Corp	Exelon Energy Ohio, Inc	Regional Cogeneration Service
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	Exeter Associates	RMC Lonestar
BART	Foster Farms	Sacramento Municipal Utility District
Bartle Wells Associates	Foster, Wheeler, Martinez	SCD Energy Solutions
Blue Ridge Gas	Franciscan Mobilehome	Seattle City Light
Bohannon Development Co	Future Resources Associates, Inc	Sempra
BP Energy Company	G. A. Krause & Assoc	Sempra Energy
Braun & Associates	Gas Transmission Northwest Corporation	Sequoia Union HS Dist
C & H Sugar Co.	GLJ Energy Publications	SESCO
CA Bldg Industry Association	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz &	Sierra Pacific Power Company
CA Cotton Ginners & Growers Assoc.	Hanna & Morton	Silicon Valley Power
CA League of Food Processors	Heeg, Peggy A.	Smurfit Stone Container Corp
CA Water Service Group	Hitachi Global Storage Technologies	Southern California Edison
California Energy Commission	Hogan Manufacturing, Inc	SPURR
California Farm Bureau Federation	House, Lon	St. Paul Assoc
California Gas Acquisition Svcs	Imperial Irrigation District	Stanford University
California ISO	Integrated Utility Consulting Group	Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan
Calpine	International Power Technology	Tabors Caramanis & Associates
Calpine Corp	Interstate Gas Services, Inc.	Tecogen, Inc
Calpine Gilroy Cogen	iUCG/Sunshine Design LLC	TFS Energy
Cambridge Energy Research Assoc	J. R. Wood, Inc	Transcanada
Cameron McKenna	JTM, Inc	Turlock Irrigation District
Cardinal Cogen	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps	U S Borax, Inc
Cellnet Data Systems	Manatt, Phelps & Phillips	United Cogen Inc.
Chevron Texaco	Marcus, David	URM Groups
Chevron USA Production Co.	Matthew V. Brady & Associates	Utility Cost Management LLC
Childress, David A.	Maynor, Donald H.	Utility Resource Network
City of Glendale	McKenzie & Assoc	Wellhead Electric Company
City of Healdsburg	McKenzie & Associates	Western Hub Properties, LLC
City of Palo Alto	Meek, Daniel W.	White & Case
City of Redding	Mirant California, LLC	WMA
CLECA Law Office	Modesto Irrigation Dist	
Commerce Energy	Morrison & Foerster	
Constellation New Energy	Morse Richard Weisenmiller & Assoc.	
CPUC	Navigant Consulting	
Cross Border Inc	New United Motor Mfg, Inc	
Crossborder Inc	Norris & Wong Associates	
CSC Energy Services	North Coast Solar Resources	
Davis, Wright, Tremaine LLP	Northern California Power Agency	
Defense Fuel Support Center	Office of Energy Assessments	
Department of the Army	OnGrid Solar	
Department of Water & Power City	Palo Alto Muni Utilities	