

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 23, 2009

Advice Letter 3390-E

Brian K. Cherry
Vice President, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177

**Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to G.O. 131-D,
for the Palermo-Colgate-Rio Oso 230kV Transmission
Line Reconductoring Project – Counties of Butte, Sutter,
and Yuba**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3390-E is effective April 7, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie A. Fitch".

Julie A. Fitch, Director
Energy Division



Brian K. Cherry
Vice President
Regulatory Relations

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale St., Mail Code B10C
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177

Fax: 415-973-7226

December 29, 2008

**Advice 3390-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 Palermo-Colgate-Rio Oso 230kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project - Counties of Butte, Sutter, and Yuba

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 Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

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 continue to maintain service reliability, meet increasing electric load demands in Sutter and Yuba Counties, and allow development of renewable resources in the area (hydroelectric generation produced around the Feather River, Lake Oroville, and North Yuba River), Pacific Gas and Electric Company is proposing to replace the wires (placing of new conductors and accessories on existing structures) on its existing Palermo-Colgate-Rio Oso 230kV tower line in a rural area between Palermo Substation (southeast of the City of Oroville), Colgate Powerhouse (Yuba County), and Rio Oso Substation in Sutter County, a distance of approximately 54 miles. In order to maintain minimum ground-to-conductor clearance as required by the Commission's General Order 95, approximately 81

towers must be raised by approximately 16.5 feet. No towers will be replaced. The project begins just east of Palermo Substation (Palermo Junction) and extends south approximately four miles before leaving the Palermo area, then continues south for about 13 miles to cross State Hwy 20, then approximately 13 miles south to cross State Hwy 65, and finally south about seven miles to reach the Rio Oso Substation in Rio Oso. After leaving the rural residential Palermo area, the north-south segment of the transmission line crosses almost entirely open space and agricultural lands and is paralleled by a second high-voltage transmission line between (approximately) La Porte Road and State Hwy 20 then again between Erle Road and the Rio Oso Substation. An approximately 16 mile-long loop east into the Colgate Powerhouse (located in the foothills of Yuba County) begins approximately 12 miles south of Palermo Junction and also crosses agricultural lands and open space (foothill woodlands); this transmission line segment is paralleled by two other high-voltage power lines for approximately three miles before reaching the Colgate Powerhouse. The Colgate Loop crosses (from west to east) Loma Rica Road, Fruitland Road, and Marysville Road. Portions of the north-south section of the project and small portions at either end of the Colgate Loop tap cross habitat for several listed species including the giant garter snake and vernal pool shrimp. The project has been scheduled and designed to avoid and minimize impacts, and the USFWS will issue a programmatic Biological Opinion to address the remaining minor project impacts.

Construction is scheduled to begin as early as possible in 2009, and the new facilities are planned to be in operation beginning in November, 2010, or as soon as possible after project completion.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection A, exempts projects meeting specific conditions from the CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct. The Company believes this project qualifies for the following exemption(s),

- Placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of 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) in accordance with CPUC Decision 06-01-042 and the "EMF Guidelines for Electrical Facilities." The following measures are proposed for this project:

- Optimize phase configuration by "cross-phasing" individual circuits to cancel magnetic fields.

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 **January 20, 2009¹**, which is 22 days after the date of this filing. Protests should be mailed to the following address:

CPUC Energy Division
Tariff Files, Room 4005
DMS Branch
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Facsimile: (415) 703-2200
E-Mail: jjj@cpuc.ca.gov and mas@cpuc.ca.gov

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

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

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
Vice President, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
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.

¹ The 20-day protest period concludes on a weekend and the following day is a holiday. PG&E is hereby moving this date to the next business day.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **January 28, 2009**, which is 30 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-B, Section IV, a copy of this advice letter is being sent electronically and via U.S. Mail to 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 to the General Order 96-B service list should be directed to Rose de la Torre at (415) 973-4716. Send all electronic approvals to PGETariffs@pge.com. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at <http://www.pge.com/tariffs>.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Cherry / mt".

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 M)**

Utility type:

ELC GAS
 PLC HEAT WATER

Contact Person: Linda Tom-Martinez

Phone #: (415) 973-4612

E-mail: lmt1@pge.com

EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE

ELC = Electric GAS = Gas
PLC = Pipeline HEAT = Heat WATER = Water

(Date Filed/ Received Stamp by CPUC)

Advice Letter (AL) #: **3390-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: Palermo-Colgate-Rio Oso 230kV Transmission Line Reconductoring (Counties of Butte, Sutter, and Yuba)

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): Power 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: No

Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL¹: _____

Is AL requesting confidential treatment? If so, what information is the utility seeking confidential treatment for:

Confidential information will be made available to those who have executed a nondisclosure agreement: Yes No

Name(s) and contact information of the person(s) who will provide the nondisclosure agreement and access to the confidential information: _____

Resolution Required? Yes No

Requested effective date: **January 28, 2009**

No. of tariff sheets: N/A

Estimated system annual revenue effect (%): N/A

Estimated system average rate effect (%): N/A

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 proposed¹: N/A

Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: N/A

Protests, dispositions, 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:

CPUC, Energy Division

Tariff Files, Room 4005

DMS Branch

505 Van Ness Ave.,

San Francisco, CA 94102

jnj@cpuc.ca.gov and mas@cpuc.ca.gov

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Attn: Brian K. Cherry

Vice President, Regulatory Relations

77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C

P.O. Box 770000

San Francisco, CA 94177

E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT NAME: PALERMO-COLGATE-RIO OSO 230kV TRANSMISSION LINE RECONDUCTORING, COUNTIES OF BUTTE, SUTTER AND YUBA

ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3390-E

Proposed Project: To continue to maintain service reliability, meet increasing electric load demands in Sutter and Yuba Counties, and allow development of renewable resources in the area (hydroelectric generation produced around the Feather River, Lake Oroville, and North Yuba River), Pacific Gas and Electric Company is proposing to replace the wires (placing of new conductors and accessories on existing structures) on its existing Palermo-Colgate-Rio Oso 230kV tower line in a rural area between Palermo Substation (southeast of the City of Oroville), Colgate Powerhouse (Yuba County), and Rio Oso Substation in Sutter County, a distance of approximately 54 miles. In order to maintain minimum ground-to-conductor clearance as required by the Commission's General Order 95, approximately 81 towers must be raised by approximately 16.5 feet. No towers will be replaced. The project begins just east of Palermo Substation (Palermo Junction) and extends south approximately four miles before leaving the Palermo area, then continues south for about 13 miles to cross State Hwy 20, then approximately 13 miles south to cross State Hwy 65, and finally south about seven miles to reach the Rio Oso Substation in Rio Oso. After leaving the rural residential Palermo area, the north-south segment of the transmission line crosses almost entirely open space and agricultural lands and is paralleled by a second high-voltage transmission line between (approximately) La Porte Road and State Hwy 20 then again between Erle Road and the Rio Oso Substation. An approximately 16 mile-long loop east into the Colgate Powerhouse (located in the foothills of Yuba County) begins approximately 12 miles south of Palermo Junction and also crosses agricultural lands and open space (foothill woodlands); this transmission line segment is paralleled by two other high-voltage power lines for approximately three miles before reaching the Colgate Powerhouse. The Colgate Loop crosses (from west to east) Loma Rica Road, Fruitland Road, and Marysville Road. Portions of the north-south section of the project and small portions at either end of the Colgate Loop tap cross habitat for several listed species including the giant garter snake and vernal pool shrimp. The project has been scheduled and designed to avoid and minimize impacts, and the USFWS will issue a programmatic Biological Opinion to address the remaining minor project impacts. Construction is scheduled to begin as early as possible in 2009, and the new facilities are planned to be in operation beginning in November 2010, or as soon as possible after project completion.

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 06-01-042 and Pacific Gas and Electric Company's "EMF Design Guidelines for Electrical Facilities." The following measures are proposed for this project:

- Optimize phase configuration by "cross-phasing" individual circuits to cancel magnetic fields.

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:

- Placing of new or additional conductors, 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
- 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 January 20, 2009, at the following address:

CPUC Energy Division
Attn: Tariff Unit, 4th 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.

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

PALERMO-COLGATE-RIO OSO 230kV TRANSMISSION LINE RECONDUCTORING COUNTIES OF BUTTE, SUTTER, AND YUBA

Advice 3390-E

Energy Commission

Ms. Melissa Jones, Executive Director
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39
Sacramento, California 95814

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

County of Butte

Charles Thistlethwaite
Planning Division Manager
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 538-7601

County of Sutter

Lisa Wilson
Planning Division Chief
1130 Civic Center Boulevard
Yuba City, CA 95993
(530) 822-7400

County of Yuba

Wendy Hartman
Planning Division Director
915 8th Street, Suite 123
Marysville, CA 95901
(530) 749-5470

Newspaper

Oroville Mercury Register
P.O. Box 651
2081 2nd Street
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 533-3131

Appeal-Democrat
P.O. Box 431
Marysville, CA 95901
(800) 831-2345

**PG&E Gas and Electric
Advice Filing List
General Order 96-B, Section IV**

Aglet	Department of the Army	Northern California Power Association
Agnews Developmental Center	Dept of General Services	Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc.
Alcantar & Kahl	Division of Business Advisory Services	OnGrid Solar
Ancillary Services Coalition	Douglas & Liddell	PPL EnergyPlus, LLC
Anderson & Poole	Douglass & Liddell	Pinnacle CNG Company
Arizona Public Service Company	Downey & Brand	Praxair
BART	Duke Energy	R. W. Beck & Associates
BP Energy Company	Duncan, Virgil E.	RCS, Inc.
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	Dutcher, John	RMC Lonestar
Bartle Wells Associates	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	Recon Research
Blue Ridge Gas	Energy Management Services, LLC	SCD Energy Solutions
Braun & Associates	FPL Energy Project Management, Inc.	SCE
C & H Sugar Co.	Foster Farms	SESCO
CA Bldg Industry Association	Foster, Wheeler, Martinez	SMUD
CAISO	Franciscan Mobilehome	SPURR
CLECA Law Office	G. A. Krause & Assoc.	Santa Fe Jets
CSC Energy Services	GLJ Publications	Seattle City Light
	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	Sempra Utilities
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn	Green Power Institute	Sequoia Union HS Dist
California Energy Commission	Hanna & Morton	Sierra Pacific Power Company
California League of Food Processors	Heeg, Peggy A.	Silicon Valley Power
California Public Utilities Commission	Hitachi	Smurfit Stone Container Corp
Calpine	Hogan Manufacturing, Inc.	Southern California Edison Company
Cameron McKenna	Imperial Irrigation District	St. Paul Assoc.
Cardinal Cogen	Innercite	Sunshine Design
Casner, Steve	International Power Technology	Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan
Cerox	Intestate Gas Services, Inc.	TFS Energy
Chamberlain, Eric	J. R. Wood, Inc.	Tabors Caramanis & Associates
Chevron Company	JTM, Inc.	Tecogen, Inc.
Chris, King	Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power	Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
City of Glendale	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP	Tioga Energy
City of Palo Alto	MBMC, Inc.	TransCanada
City of San Jose	MRW & Associates	Turlock Irrigation District
Clean Energy Fuels	Manatt Phelps Phillips	U S Borax, Inc.
Coast Economic Consulting	Matthew V. Brady & Associates	United Cogen
Commerce Energy	McKenzie & Associates	Utility Cost Management
Commercial Energy	Meek, Daniel W.	Utility Resource Network
Constellation	Merced Irrigation District	Utility Specialists
Constellation New Energy	Mirant	Vandenberg Air Force
Consumer Federation of California	Modesto Irrigation District	Verizon
Crossborder Energy	Morgan Stanley	Wellhead Electric Company
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Morrison & Foerster	Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA)
		White & Case
Day Carter Murphy	New United Motor Mfg., Inc.	eMeter Corporation
Defense Energy Support Center	Norris & Wong Associates	
Department of Water Resources	North Coast SolarResources	