

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE

SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



April 3, 2009

Advice Letter 3415-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 General
Order 131-D, for the Contra Costa – Las Positas 230kV
Reconductoring Project, Counties of Alameda and
Contra Costa**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3415-E is effective February 28, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "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

January 29, 2009

**Advice 3415-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39E)**

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Contra Costa–Las Positas 230kV Reconductoring Project, Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa

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 increase service reliability, meet increasing electric load demands in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and to prevent potential overloads due to the new Gateway Generating Station expected to be in service on June 1, 2009, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to replace the wires (placing of new conductors and accessories on existing structures) on its existing Contra Costa-Las Positas 230 kV Transmission Line. This 230 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line consists of two circuits, the Contra Costa-Las Positas 230 kV Line, which is 24 miles long, and the Contra Costa-Lone Tree 230 kV Line, which is 5.6 miles long and located on the same towers. The Contra Costa Power Plant is located in an unincorporated area of Contra Costa County just north of the City of Antioch and west of State Route (S.R.) 160. The transmission line originates from this point and angles southwest for approximately two miles across rural properties and grassland, crossing over State Route 4. The line then turns southeast for approximately four miles, passing through the City of Antioch towards the Lone Tree Substation. The Contra Costa-Las Positas 230 kV Line continues

southeast from this point for approximately 18 miles, passing through the City of Brentwood, John Marsh State Park/Cowell Ranch Property and the Los Vaqueros Watershed. The line then traverses across private rural property before reaching the City of Livermore, where it continues to the Las Positas Substation. The total length of the project is approximately 24 miles. In order to maintain minimum ground-to-conductor clearance as required by the Commission's General Order 95, approximately 12 towers must be raised by approximately 15 feet. Average existing tower height is 105 feet. No towers will be replaced. The project has been scheduled and designed to avoid and minimize impacts, and has received approval for coverage under the Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan for any temporary impacts that may occur during construction. The East Contra Costa County Conservancy has adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project, confirming that project impacts will be less than significant. Construction is scheduled to begin as soon as possible in March 2009, and the new facilities are planned to be in operation beginning in June 2009, 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:

- 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 California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) Decision 06-01-042 and Pacific Gas and Electric Company's "EMF Design Guidelines for Electrical Facilities." The following measure is proposed for this project:

- Increase the height of overhead lines, more than otherwise required, to reduce EMF strength 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 letter sent via U.S. mail, by facsimile or electronically, all of which must be received no later than **February 18, 2009**, which is 20 days after the date of this filing. Protests should be mailed to:

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

Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

E-Mail: anj@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 shown 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.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on **February 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 Cheung / mt".

Vice President, Regulatory Relations

Attachment

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) #: **3415-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: Contra Costa-Las Positas 230kV Transmission Line Reconductoring (Counties of Alameda and Contra Costa)

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: **February 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: CONTRA COSTA-LAS POSITAS 230 kV TRANSMISSION LINE RECONDUCTING, COUNTIES OF ALAMEDA AND CONTRA COSTA
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3415-E

Proposed Project: To increase service reliability, meet increasing electric load demands in Alameda and Contra Costa Counties, and to prevent potential overloads due to the new Gateway Generating Station expected to be in service on June 1, 2009, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to replace the wires (placing of new conductors and accessories on existing structures) on its existing Contra Costa-Las Positas 230 kV Transmission Line. This 230 kilovolt (kV) electric transmission line consists of two circuits, the Contra Costa-Las Positas 230 kV Line, which is 24 miles long, and the Contra Costa-Lone Tree 230 kV Line, which is 5.6 miles long and located on the same towers. The Contra Costa Power Plant is located in an unincorporated area of Contra Costa County just north of the City of Antioch and west of State Route (S.R.) 160. The transmission line originates from this point and angles southwest for approximately two miles across rural properties and grassland, crossing over State Route 4. The line then turns southeast for approximately four miles, passing through the City of Antioch towards the Lone Tree Substation. The Contra Costa-Las Positas 230 kV Line continues southeast from this point for approximately 18 miles, passing through the City of Brentwood, John Marsh State Park/Cowell Ranch Property and the Los Vaqueros Watershed. The line then traverses across private rural property before reaching the City of Livermore, where it continues to the Las Positas Substation. The total length of the project is approximately 24 miles. In order to maintain minimum ground-to-conductor clearance as required by the Commission's General Order 95, approximately 12 towers must be raised by approximately 15 feet. Average existing tower height is 105 feet. No towers will be replaced. The project has been scheduled and designed to avoid and minimize impacts, and has received approval for coverage under the Conservation Plan and Natural Community Conservation Plan for any temporary impacts that may occur during construction. The East Contra Costa County Conservancy has adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the project, confirming that project impacts will be less than significant. Construction is scheduled to begin as soon as possible in March 2009, and the new facilities are planned to be in operation beginning in June 2009, 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 measure is proposed for this project:

- Increase the height of overhead lines, more than otherwise required, to reduce EMF strength at ground level.

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 **February 18, 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

CONTRA COSTA - LAS POSITAS 230kV TRANSMISSION LINE RECONDUCTING COUNTIES OF ALAMEDA AND CONTRA COSTA

Advice 3415-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 Alameda

Albert Lopez
Planning Director
West Winton Ave., Room 111
Hayward, CA 95965
(510) 670-5400

County of Contra Costa

Catherine Kutsuris, Director,
Dept. of Conservation and Development
651 Pine Street, 4th Floor, North Wing
Martinez, CA 94553
(925) 335-1209

City of Antioch

Joseph Brandt, Director
Community Development Dept.
P.O. Box 5007
Antioch, CA 94531
(925) 779-7035

City of Brentwood

Casey McCann, Director,
Community Development
118 Oak Street,
Brentwood, CA 94513
(925) 516-5405

City of Livermore

Marc Roberts, Director
Community Development Department
1052 South Livermore Ave
Livermore, CA 94550
(925) 960-4400

Newspaper

Contra Costa Times

**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	

