

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

November 9, 2009

Advice Letter 3533-E

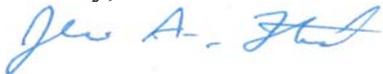
Brian K. Cherry
Vice President, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177

**Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to G.O. 131-D, for
the Construction of the San Benito Substation Project, County
of San Benito**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3533-E is effective October 29, 2009.

Sincerely,



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

September 29, 2009

Advice 3533-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 San Benito Substation
Project, County of San Benito**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) 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

As part of the new Earthbound Farms Project, and to continue to provide reliable electric service to the San Juan Bautista and rural San Benito County areas, the Company proposes to construct the San Benito Substation, a new 115/21 kilovolt (kV) distribution substation on a 2.4-acre parcel of land west of San Justo Road approximately one mile north of the City of San Juan Bautista. The substation, formerly known as the San Justo Substation, will be immediately adjacent to Earthbound Farms' planned expansion of its food processing plant. Approximately 4 new tubular steel poles (TSPs), each approximately 85 feet tall, will support an approximately 200-foot extension of the existing Hollister Tap 115kV Power Line circuit looped into and out of the substation. Two of the new TSPs will be placed in the alignment of the existing Hollister Tap 115kV Power Line, and two will be located on PG&E's proposed new substation property. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in early or mid-2010, or as soon thereafter as possible, and to be operational by May 2011, or as soon as possible after project construction.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1.f, 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:

- f) Power lines or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to CEQA as part of a larger project, and for which the final CEQA document (Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration) finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by the proposed line or substation.

On January 21, 2009, the San Benito County Planning Commission adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the new Earthbound Farms food processing plant expansion project, which included PG&E's San Justo (now San Benito) Substation project facilities. The MND found no significant unavoidable impacts caused by the proposed project. (State Clearinghouse Number 2008122022)

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:

- Keep high-current devices, transformers, capacitors, and reactors away from the substation property lines;
- Locate new substation expansion close to existing power lines to the extent practical;
- Increase the substation property boundary to the extent practical;
- Compacting equipment within the substation;
- Increase the height of overhead lines, more than otherwise required, to reduce EMF strength at ground level;
- Reduce conductor spacing to increase cancellation of the magnetic field and decrease the resultant field strength;
- 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 PG&E by **October 19, 2009**, which is 20 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 the Company 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

PG&E requests that this advice filing become effective on **October 29, 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 San Heng at 415-973-2640. 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) #: **3533-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: San Benito Substation Project(County of San Benito)

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: **October 29, 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: San Benito Substation Project, County of San Benito
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3533-E

Proposed Project: As part of the new Earthbound Farms Project, and to continue to provide reliable electric service to the San Juan Bautista and rural San Benito County areas, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to construct the San Benito Substation, a new 115/21 kilovolt (kV) distribution substation on a 2.4-acre parcel of land west of San Justo Road approximately one mile north of the City of San Juan Bautista. The substation, formerly known as the San Justo Substation, will be immediately adjacent to Earthbound Farms' planned expansion of its food processing plant. Approximately 4 new tubular steel poles (TSPs), each approximately 85 feet tall, will support an approximately 200-foot extension of the existing Hollister Tap 115kV Power Line circuit looped into and out of the substation. Two of the new TSPs will be placed in the alignment of the existing Hollister Tap 115kV Power Line, and two will be located on PG&E's proposed new substation property. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in early or mid-2010, or as soon thereafter as possible, and to be operational by May 2011, or as soon as possible after project construction.

Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF): PG&E 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 prepared in accordance with the EMF decision, which are available to the public upon request. The following measures are proposed for this project:

- Keep high-current devices, transformers, capacitors, and reactors away from the substation property lines;
- Locate new substation expansion close to existing power lines to the extent practical;
- Increase the substation property boundary to the extent practical;
- Compacting equipment within the substation;
- Increase the height of overhead lines, more than otherwise required, to reduce EMF strength at ground level;
- Reduce conductor spacing to increase cancellation of the magnetic field and decrease the resultant field strength;
- Optimize phase configuration by "cross-phasing" individual circuits to cancel magnetic fields.

Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement: 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. PG&E believes this project qualifies for the following exemption:

- f) Power lines or substations to be relocated or constructed which have undergone environmental review pursuant to CEQA as part of a larger project, and for which the final CEQA document (Environmental Impact Report (EIR) or Negative Declaration) finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by the proposed line or substation.

On January 21, 2009, the San Benito County Planning Commission adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the new Earthbound Farms food processing plant expansion project, which included PG&E's San Justo (now San Benito) Substation project facilities. The MND found no significant unavoidable impacts caused by the proposed project. (State Clearinghouse Number 2008122022)

Public Review Process: Persons or groups may protest the proposed construction if they believe that PG&E 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 October 19, 2009, 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 PG&E 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.

San Benito Substation Project, County of San Benito

Advice 3533-E

Energy Commission

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 San Benito

Planning Department
Attn: Art Henriques, Director
3224 Southside Road
Hollister, CA 95023

Newspaper

The Hollister Free Lance

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

Alcantar & Kahl	Defense Energy Support Center	North Coast SolarResources
Ameresco	Department of Water Resources	Northern California Power Association
Anderson & Poole	Department of the Army	Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc.
Arizona Public Service Company	Dept of General Services	OnGrid Solar
BART	Division of Business Advisory Services	Praxair
BP Energy Company	Douglas & Liddell	R. W. Beck & Associates
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	Douglass & Liddell	RCS, Inc.
Bartle Wells Associates	Downey & Brand	Recon Research
C & H Sugar Co.	Duke Energy	SCD Energy Solutions
CA Bldg Industry Association	Dutcher, John	SCE
CAISO	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	SMUD
CLECA Law Office	FPL Energy Project Management, Inc.	SPURR
CSC Energy Services	Foster Farms	Santa Fe Jets
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn	G. A. Krause & Assoc.	Seattle City Light
California Energy Commission	GLJ Publications	Sempra Utilities
California League of Food Processors	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	Sierra Pacific Power Company
California Public Utilities Commission	Green Power Institute	Silicon Valley Power
Calpine	Hanna & Morton	Southern California Edison Company
Cameron McKenna	Hitachi	Sunshine Design
Cardinal Cogen	International Power Technology	Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan
Casner, Steve	Intestate Gas Services, Inc.	Tabors Caramanis & Associates
Chamberlain, Eric	Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power	Tecogen, Inc.
Chevron Company	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP	Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
Chris, King	MBMC, Inc.	Tioga Energy
City of Glendale	MRW & Associates	TransCanada
City of Palo Alto	Manatt Phelps Phillips	Turlock Irrigation District
Clean Energy Fuels	Matthew V. Brady & Associates	U S Borax, Inc.
Coast Economic Consulting	McKenzie & Associates	United Cogen
Commerce Energy	Merced Irrigation District	Utility Cost Management
Commercial Energy	Mirant	Utility Specialists
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)
Day Carter Murphy	New United Motor Mfg., Inc.	eMeter Corporation
	Norris & Wong Associates	