

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



December 5, 2012

Advice Letter 3640-E

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

**Subject: Submits of Notice of Construction, Pursuant to GO 131-D, for the
Construction of Paradise-Butte 115kV Reconductor Project in the
County of Butte**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3640-E is effective April 23, 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward F. Randolph".

Edward F. Randolph, Director
Energy Division

March 24, 2010

Advice 3640-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 Paradise-Butte 115kV
Reconductor Project in the County of Butte**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company ("PG&E" or "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

In order to provide reliable transmission service and to reduce the risk of outages in its service area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to replace existing aged and deteriorated conductor with new conductor (replacement of new conductor on supporting structures already built) along an approximately two-mile segment of its existing Paradise-Butte 115kV Power Line (existing easement) in Butte County. The project is located approximately four miles southwest of the City of Paradise and one mile southeast of the City of Chico, to the north of the Skyway (county road). This segment of power line is located in rural woodland habitat that has been historically plagued by wildfires. Existing conductor will be replaced with conductor meeting current standards and will eliminate splice weaknesses (resulting from past wildfire outages) in the existing conductor along this section.

To support the new conductor, existing wood poles will need to be replaced with light-duty, self-weathering steel poles (replacement of existing facilities) in order to maintain required ground to wire clearances and to resist future wildfires.

Approximately 31 wood poles will be replaced with light-duty steel poles; of these, one will be the same height as existing, 23 will be approximately 5-10 feet taller than existing, five will be approximately 15 feet taller than existing to provide required line clearance over roadways, other power lines, and ground/vegetation along the pole line. Two poles will be 35 feet taller because existing poles are set atop dredger tailing piles within Butte Creek Canyon, and the replacement poles will be placed beside those piles. At four structure locations along the pole line, existing two-pole structures will be replaced by new three-pole structures (intersetting of additional support structures). At one location on the rim of Butte Creek Canyon, an existing pole will be eliminated in order to remove it from a property owner's canyon view shed.

Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2010, or as soon as possible thereafter, with work expected to be completed by October 2010, or as soon as possible after project initiation.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsections B.1.b, c, e, and g exempt 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):

- b. the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures.
- c. the minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures.
- e. the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on supporting structures already built.
- g. 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.

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:

- 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 filing a protest with the CPUC and the Company by **April 13, 2010**, 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: jjn@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

Jane K. Yura
Vice President, Regulation and Rates
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B10B
San Francisco, California 94177

Facsimile: (415) 973-6520
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 **April 23, 2010**, 2010, 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 and all electronic approvals should be sent to e-mail PGETariffs@pge.com. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at <http://www.pge.com/tariffs/>.

Handwritten signature of Jane Yura-OB in cursive script.

Vice President - Regulation and Rates

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

Attachments

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: Olivia Brown

Phone #: (415) 973-9312

E-mail: oxb4@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) #: **3640-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Paradise-Butte 115kV Reconductor Project in the County of Butte

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 #: N/A

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: **April 23, 2010**

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 proposed: 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
jn@cpuc.ca.gov and mas@cpuc.ca.gov

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Attn: Jane K. Yura
Vice President, Regulatory Relations
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10B
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, CA 94177
E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT NAME: PARADISE-BUTTE 115kV RECONDUCTOR PROJECT, COUNTY OF BUTTE

ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3640-E

Proposed Project: In order to provide reliable transmission service and to reduce the risk of outages in its service area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to replace existing aged and deteriorated conductor with new conductor (replacement of new conductor on supporting structures already built) along an approximately two-mile segment of its existing Paradise-Butte 115kV Power Line (existing easement) in Butte County. The project is located approximately four miles southwest of the City of Paradise and one mile southeast of the City of Chico, to the north of the Skyway (county road). This segment of power line is located in rural woodland habitat that has been historically plagued by wildfires. Existing conductor will be replaced with conductor meeting current standards and will eliminate splice weaknesses (resulting from past wildfire outages) in the existing conductor along this section. To support the new conductor, existing wood poles will need to be replaced with light-duty, self-weathering steel poles (replacement of existing facilities) in order to maintain required ground to wire clearances and to resist future wildfires. Approximately 31 wood poles will be replaced with light-duty steel poles; of these, one will be the same height as existing, 23 will be approximately 5-10 feet taller than existing, five will be approximately 15 feet taller than existing to provide required line clearance over roadways, other power lines, and ground/vegetation along the pole line. Two poles will be 35 feet taller because existing poles are set atop dredger tailing piles within Butte Creek Canyon, and the replacement poles will be placed beside those piles. At four structure locations along the pole line, existing two-pole structures will be replaced by new three-pole structures (intersetting of additional support structures). At one location on the rim of Butte Creek Canyon, an existing pole will be eliminated in order to remove it from a property owner's canyon view shed. Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2010, or as soon as possible thereafter, with work expected to be completed by October 2010, or as soon as possible after project initiation.

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:

- 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.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(s):

- b. the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures.
- c. the minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures.
- e. the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on supporting structures already built.
- g. 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 April 13, 2010, 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

PARADISE-BUTTE 115kV RECONDUCTOR PROJECT COUNTY OF BUTTE Advice 3640-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

Newspaper

Chico Enterprise-Record
400 E. Park Ave.
Chico, CA 95928
Phone: 530-891-1234

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

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