

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 18, 2010

**Advice Letter 3644-E**

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

**Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to G.O.131-D, for  
the Construction of Rio Oso-Lincoln 115 kV Power Line  
Project in the City of Lincoln, Counties of Placer and Sutter**

Dear Ms. Yura:

Advice Letter 3644-E is effective April 29, 2010.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie A. Fitch".

Julie A. Fitch, Director  
Energy Division



**Jane K. Yura**  
Vice President  
Regulation and Rates

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale St., Mail Code B10B  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

Fax: 415-973-7226

March 30, 2010

**Advice 3644-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 Rio Oso-Lincoln 115 kV Power Line Project in the City of Lincoln, Counties of Placer and Sutter**

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 maintain service reliability and meet increasing electric demands in the City of Lincoln, PG&E is proposing to install approximately 12 miles of new 115kV power line between Rio Oso Substation in Sutter County, and Lincoln Substation in the City of Lincoln, Placer County. The project will include replacing the existing wires (conductors) with new wires on a roughly two-mile portion of the Smartville-Lincoln 60kV Power Line (existing franchise) parallel to Gladding Road between Lincoln Substation in the City of Lincoln and Wise Road north of the City of Lincoln, and by overbuilding approximately ten miles of the existing Wheatland 1101 and 1103, East Nicholas 1103, and Lincoln 1103 12kV distribution lines (existing franchise) from the Rio Oso Substation east to the intersection of Gladding and Wise Road north of the City of Lincoln. For the Smartville-Lincoln work, which will occur in an agricultural area of Placer County and an industrial area of Lincoln, existing wood poles ranging in height from 35 to 60 feet will be replaced with new wood, concrete, and tubular steel poles ranging in height from 80 to 90 feet to comply with minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements. For the overbuilt part of this project, which is located

entirely in rural Placer and Sutter Counties, existing wood poles between 35 and 55 feet in height will be replaced with poles 40 to 85 feet in height to support both lines, to cross Dowd Road and Highway 65, and to otherwise meet minimum General Order 95 clearance requirements. Two new 80' tall concrete poles will be installed on either side of Dowd Road, and two 60' tall wood poles will be replaced with two 75' tall TSPs on either side of Highway 65, to maintain minimum clearance requirements. Modifications will also be made at Lincoln and Rio Oso substations to support the new 115 kV power line. A small portion of the alignment is in Giant Garter Snake (GGS) habitat, and wetlands exist in the area, but U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued (1) a decision appending the project to its programmatic biological opinion for GGS and (2) an opinion that the project as proposed is not likely to adversely affect vernal pool crustaceans or fairy shrimp critical habitat. Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2010 or as soon thereafter as possible, with completion in approximately 8 months or as soon as possible after construction begins.

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

"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:

- 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 filing a protest with the CPUC and the Company by **April 19, 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: [jjj@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jjj@cpuc.ca.gov) and [mas@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto: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) 973-7226  
E-Mail: [PGETariffs@pge.com](mailto: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 29, 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](mailto:PGETariffs@pge.com). Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at <http://www.pge.com/tariffs/>.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Jane Yura /emt". The signature is written in a cursive style.

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: 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) #: **3644-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: **Rio Oso-Lincoln New 115kV Power Line Project (City of Lincoln and Counties of Placer and Sutter)**

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 AL<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

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 29, 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<sup>1</sup>: 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: Jane K. Yura**

**Vice President, Regulation and Rates**

**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:** RIO OSO-LINCOLN NEW 115KV POWER LINE PROJECT (CITY OF LINCOLN AND COUNTIES OF PLACER AND SUTTER)  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER:** 3644-E

**Proposed Project:** In order to maintain service reliability and meet increasing electric demands in the City of Lincoln, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to install approximately 12 miles of new 115kV power line between Rio Oso Substation in Sutter County, and Lincoln Substation in the City of Lincoln, Placer County. The project will include replacing the existing wires (conductors) with new wires on a roughly two-mile portion of the Smartville-Lincoln 60kV Power Line (existing franchise) parallel to Gladding Road between Lincoln Substation in the City of Lincoln and Wise Road north of the City of Lincoln, and by overbuilding approximately ten miles of the existing Wheatland 1101 and 1103, East Nicholas 1103, and Lincoln 1103 12kV distribution lines (existing franchise) from the Rio Oso Substation east to the intersection of Gladding and Wise Road north of the City of Lincoln. For the Smartville-Lincoln work, which will occur in an agricultural area of Placer County and an industrial area of Lincoln, existing wood poles ranging in height from 35 to 60 feet will be replaced with new wood, concrete, and tubular steel poles ranging in height from 80 to 90 feet to comply with minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements. For the overbuilt part of this project, which is located entirely in rural Placer and Sutter Counties, existing wood poles between 35 and 55 feet in height will be replaced with poles 40 to 85 feet in height to support both lines, to cross Dowd Road and Highway 65, and to otherwise meet minimum General Order 95 clearance requirements. Two new 80' tall concrete poles will be installed on either side of Dowd Road, and two 60' tall wood poles will be replaced with two 75' tall TSPs on either side of Highway 65, to maintain minimum clearance requirements. Modifications will also be made at Lincoln and Rio Oso substations to support the new 115 kV power line. A small portion of the alignment is in Giant Garter Snake (GGS) habitat, and wetlands exist in the area, but U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (USFWS) has issued (1) a decision appending the project to its programmatic biological opinion for GGS and (2) an opinion that the project as proposed is not likely to adversely affect vernal pool crustaceans or fairy shrimp critical habitat. Construction is scheduled to begin in May 2010 or as soon thereafter as possible, with completion in approximately 8 months or as soon as possible after construction begins.

**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:

- 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.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:

- 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 19, 2010, 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 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**  
**RIO OSO-LINCOLN NEW 115KV NEW POWER LINE PROJECT**  
**(CITY OF LINCOLN AND COUNTIES OF PLACER AND SUTTER)**  
Advice 3644-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

**City of Lincoln**

Rodney Campbell  
Community Development Director  
600 Sixth Street  
Lincoln, CA 95648  
(916) 434-2470

**County of Placer**

Michael Johnson  
Planning Director  
3091 County Center Drive  
Auburn, CA 95603  
530-745-3000

**County of Sutter**

Lisa Wilson  
Planning Division Chief  
1130 Civic Center Drive  
Yuba City, CA 95993  
530-882-7400

**Newspaper**

The Sacramento Bee  
2100 Q Street  
Sacramento, CA 95816  
916-321-1371

**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	