

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 7, 2012

**Advice Letter 3814-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 Notice of Construction, Pursuant to G.O. 131-D, for the  
Construction of the Panoche Substation Expansion Project, County  
of Fresno**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3814-E is effective July 23, 2012.

Sincerely,

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

Edward F. Randolph, 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: 415-973-6520

March 17, 2011

**Advice 3814-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 Panoche Substation  
Expansion Project, County of Fresno**

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**

To help provide needed energy to northern California residents, Panoche Energy Center LLC (PEC) completed construction of a 400 MW natural gas-fired peaker power plant in June 2009. The PEC plant is located in rural Fresno County, on Panoche Road approximately 12 miles southwesterly of the City of Mendota and approximately 2 miles east of Interstate Route 5. PG&E, which owns Panoche Substation adjacent to the new plant, proposes to correct deficiencies on its 230 kilovolt (kV) bus configuration at Panoche Substation in order to better support PEC's plant and other area load. To accomplish this, and to otherwise increase the long-term reliability and flexibility of the substation, PG&E proposes to ultimately expand the existing 230 kV portion of Panoche Substation by approximately 9 acres (approximately 750 feet by 540 feet), which will accommodate the installation of a new bus configuration as well as upgrading the substation's protection and automation equipment. The initial work will consist of installing two new 230 kV bays, two 230 kV bus sectionalizing breakers, and one new 230 kV bus paralleling breaker. The 9-acre substation expansion will be located adjacent to the southeasterly boundary (on the back side) of the existing Panoche Substation property. Approximately 1500 feet of the existing Gates-

Panoche #1 & #2 230 kV electric transmission lines between the substation and PEC's plant will also be reconfigured to tie into new substation bay positions to improve the substation's reliability (existing easement, minor relocation). This reconfiguration will include the removal of one tower and two lattice steel poles, and the installation of two new tubular steel poles. As set forth below, PG&E's substation expansion work was included in the environmental review for the PEC plant completed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) (larger project CEQA). Construction on the initial phase is planned to start in May 2011 or as soon thereafter as possible, and is planned to be completed by May 2013 or as soon thereafter as possible.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1.c, f, and 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),

- c. The minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing structures.
- 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.
- 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.

On December 19, 2007, the California Energy Commission (CEC) issued its Final Decision and Adoption Order, for the Panoche Energy Center, and on March 25, 2009, issued its amended Notice of Decision, both of which were issued after performing the functional equivalent of CEQA review under Public Resources Code Section 21080.5. The environmental review concluded that PG&E's substation expansion and transmission line reconfiguration would result in no significant unavoidable impacts.. See Adoption Order, Findings 1 and 3; Final Decision at 3B and 160-282, Final Staff Assessment, and Notice of Decision (Compliance Proceeding 06-AFC-5C), available for review at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/panoche/documents/index.html#figures>. (State Clearinghouse #2007121095)

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.

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 6, 2011**, 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) 973-6520  
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 16, 2011**, 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**

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. 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/>.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Jane Yura" followed by a slanted line and the letters "lmt".

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) #: **3814-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: **Panoche Substation Expansion Project (County of Fresno)**

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 16, 2011**

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:** Panoche Substation Expansion, County of Fresno

**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER:** 3814-E

**Proposed Project:** To help provide needed energy to northern California residents, Panoche Energy Center LLC (PEC) completed construction of a 400 MW natural gas-fired peaker power plant in June 2009. The PEC plant is located in rural Fresno County, on Panoche Road approximately 12 miles southwesterly of the City of Mendota and approximately 2 miles east of Interstate Route 5. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), which owns Panoche Substation adjacent to the new plant, proposes to correct deficiencies on its 230 kilovolt (kV) bus configuration at Panoche Substation in order to better support PEC's plant and other area load. To accomplish this, and to otherwise increase the long-term reliability and flexibility of the substation, PG&E proposes to ultimately expand the existing 230 kV portion of Panoche Substation by approximately 9 acres (approximately 750 feet by 540 feet), which will accommodate the installation of a new bus configuration as well as upgrading the substation's protection and automation equipment. The initial work will consist of installing two new 230 kV bays, two 230 kV bus sectionalizing breakers, and one new 230 kV bus paralleling breaker. The 9-acre substation expansion will be located adjacent to the southeasterly boundary (on the back side) of the existing Panoche Substation property. Approximately 1500 feet of the existing Gates-Panoche #1 & #2 230 kV electric transmission lines between the substation and PEC's plant will also be reconfigured to tie into new substation bay positions to improve the substation's reliability (existing easement, minor relocation). This reconfiguration will include the removal of one tower and two lattice steel poles, and the installation of two new tubular steel poles. As set forth below, PG&E's substation expansion work was included in the environmental review for the PEC plant completed by the California Energy Commission (CEC) (larger project CEQA). Construction on the initial phase is planned to start in May 2011 or as soon thereafter as possible, and is planned to be completed by May 2013 or as soon thereafter as possible.

**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:

- 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.

**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):

- c. The minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing structures.
- 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.
- 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.

On December 19, 2007, the California Energy Commission (CEC) issued its Final Decision and Adoption Order, for the Panoche Energy Center, and on March 25, 2009, issued its amended Notice of Decision, both of which were issued after performing the functional equivalent of CEQA review under Public Resources Code Section 21080.5. The environmental review concluded that PG&E's substation expansion and transmission line reconfiguration would result in no significant unavoidable impacts. See Adoption Order, Findings 1 and 3; Final Decision at 3B and 160-282, Final Staff Assessment, and Notice of Decision (Compliance Proceeding 06-AFC-5C), available for review at <http://www.energy.ca.gov/sitingcases/panoche/documents/index.html#figures>. (State Clearinghouse #2007121095)

**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 6, 2011, 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](tel:4159735530).

## **Notice Distribution List**

### **Panoche Substation Expansion, County of Fresno Advice 3814-E**

#### **Energy Commission**

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

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

#### **County of Fresno**

Public Works and Planning Department  
Attn: Alan Weaver, Director  
County of Fresno  
2220 Tulare Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

#### **Newspaper**

The Fresno Bee

## PG&E Gas and Electric Advice Filing List

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