

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 10, 2012

**Advice Letters 3821-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 General Order 131-D, for the  
Panoche-Helm 230 kV Reconductoring Project in the County of Fresno**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letters 3821-E are effective April 29, 2011.

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 30, 2011

**Advice 3821-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 Panoche-Helm 230 kV Reconductoring Project in the 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**

PG&E is proposing to reconductor (replace wires) on existing structures on approximately 25 miles of the existing Panoche-Helm 230 kV Transmission Line (placing new conductors on supporting structures already built). This line begins at Panoche Substation, located on West Panoche Road, approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Interstate 5 in western Fresno County. From Panoche Substation, the line runs south for approximately five miles, turning east at a point three-fourths of a mile south of West Manning Avenue, then extending east and parallel to Manning Avenue for approximately 20 miles before entering the Helm Substation, located approximately one mile south of the City of San Joaquin. To support the new conductors, comply with the CPUC's General Order 95 clearance requirements, and reduce electric and magnetic fields strength at ground level, tower extensions will be added to approximately 68 of the 126 towers (approximately every other tower) to add approximately 16 to 22 feet to tower heights. One tower in an agricultural area adjacent to Panoche Substation and the Panoche Energy Center will be raised approximately 32 feet in order to maintain clearance from a 115 kV power line passing underneath the Panoche-Helm 230 kV Transmission Line. Another tower in an agricultural

area, the single angle tower south of Manning Avenue where the Transmission Line turns east, will be raised 27 feet to support new tower foundations. In addition, PG&E proposes to install one new tubular steel pole (approximately 85 feet in height) on the existing Panoche-Schindler 115 kV No. 1 Power Line in order to accommodate a new switch. The new tubular steel pole will be erected in the existing alignment of the power line (intersetting of additional support structures), at a location 650 feet north of West Kamm Avenue and approximately 3000 feet east of Interstate 5 in Fresno County. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in June 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and is scheduled for completion in March 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Sections III.A and III.B 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):

- Section III.A (lines over 200 kV): The placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built
- Section III.B (c) (lines 50-200 kV): The minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures.

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, 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: [jnj@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jnj@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](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, 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](mailto:PGETariffs@pge.com). Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at <http://www.pge.com/tariffs/>.



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) #: **3821-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: **Panoche-Helm 230 kV Reconductoring 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 29, 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-Helm 230 kV Reconductoring Project (County of Fresno)**  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3821-E**

**Proposed Project:** In order to continue to maintain compliance with applicable grid reliability criteria and ensure continued safe and reliable electric service to the Central Valley area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to reconductor (replace wires) on existing structures on approximately 25 miles of the existing Panoche-Helm 230 kV Transmission Line (placing new conductors on supporting structures already built). This line begins at Panoche Substation, located on West Panoche Road, approximately 2.5 miles northeast of Interstate 5 in western Fresno County. From Panoche Substation, the line runs south for approximately five miles, turning east at a point three-fourths of a mile south of West Manning Avenue, then extending east and parallel to Manning Avenue for approximately 20 miles before entering the Helm Substation, located approximately one mile south of the City of San Joaquin. To support the new conductors, comply with the CPUC's General Order 95 clearance requirements, and reduce electric and magnetic fields strength at ground level, tower extensions will be added to approximately 68 of the 126 towers (approximately every other tower) to add approximately 16 to 22 feet to tower heights. One tower in an agricultural area adjacent to Panoche Substation and the Panoche Energy Center will be raised approximately 32 feet in order to maintain clearance from a 115 kV power line passing underneath the Panoche-Helm 230 kV Transmission Line. Another tower in an agricultural area, the single angle tower south of Manning Avenue where the Transmission Line turns east, will be raised 27 feet to support new tower foundations. In addition, PG&E proposes to install one new tubular steel pole (approximately 85 feet in height) on the existing Panoche-Schindler 115 kV No. 1 Power Line in order to accommodate a new switch. The new tubular steel pole will be erected in the existing alignment of the power line (intersetting of additional support structures), at a location 650 feet north of West Kamm Avenue and approximately 3000 feet east of Interstate 5 in Fresno County. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in June 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and is scheduled for completion in March 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D Sections III.A and III.B exempt projects meeting specific conditions from the CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct. Pacific Gas and Electric Company believe this project qualifies for the following exemption(s):

Section III.A (lines over 200 kV): The placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built

Section III.B (c) (lines 50-200 kV): The minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures.

**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:

- PG&E proposes to raise the height of eight towers near rural residential areas by approximately 16 feet taller than otherwise required to meet General Order 95 clearance requirements. No other low-cost mitigation is available for this project.
- Optimize phase configuration by "cross-phasing" individual circuits to cancel magnetic fields.

**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, 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.

**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  
Panoche-Helm 230 kV Reconductoring Project**

**Advice 3821-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**

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

**Newspapers**

Fresno Bee

**PG&E Gas and Electric  
Advice Filing List**

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