

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 10, 2012

**Advice Letters 3838-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 Construction of the Merced #1 70 kV Power Line Pole Replacement Project in the County of Merced**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3838-E is effective June 2, 2011.

Sincerely,

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

Edward F. Randolph, Director  
Energy Division



**Brian K. Cherry**  
Vice President  
Regulation and Rates

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale St., Mail Code B10C  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

Fax: 415-973-6520

May 3, 2011

**Advice 3838-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 Merced #1 70 kV Power Line Pole Replacement Project in the County of Merced**

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 accommodate the replacement (reconductoring) of 12 kilovolt (kV) distribution wires attached to poles below the Merced #1 70 kV Power Line in Merced County, PG&E proposes to replace approximately 17 wood poles (replacement of existing facilities) with approximately 17 new wood poles in the rural agricultural area located south of the City of Merced. Reconductoring of the 12 kV distribution wires is needed to serve increasing electrical demand in the surrounding areas. The poles will be replaced along a 1.8-mile power line segment that begins approximately 1,230 feet south of the intersection of East Mission Avenue and State Highway 59, and extending south on the east side of State Highway 59 (existing franchise). In order to meet California Public Utilities Commission ("CPUC") General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements and current design standards, 15 of the 17 new wood poles will be approximately 5 to 15 feet taller and two poles will remain the same height. Work is scheduled to begin in September 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by January 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

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

- b) The replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures.
- 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.

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 **May 23, 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: [jjn@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jjn@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

Brian K. Cherry  
Vice President, Regulation and Rates  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B10C  
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 **June 2, 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/>.



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) #: **3838-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: **Merced #1 70 kV Power Line Pole Replacement Project (County of Merced)**

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: **June 2, 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: Brian K. Cherry**

**Vice President, Regulation and Rates**

**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: Merced #1 70 kV Power Line Pole Replacement Project (Merced County)**  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3838-E**

**Proposed Project:** To accommodate the replacement (reconductoring) of 12 kilovolt (kV) distribution wires attached to poles below the Merced #1 70 kV Power Line in Merced County, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to replace approximately 17 wood poles (replacement of existing facilities) with approximately 17 new wood poles in the rural agricultural area located south of the City of Merced. Reconductoring of the 12 kV distribution wires is needed to serve increasing electrical demand in the surrounding areas. The poles will be replaced along a 1.8-mile power line segment that begins approximately 1,230 feet south of the intersection of East Mission Avenue and State Highway 59, and extending south on the east side of State Highway 59 (existing franchise). In order to meet California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements and current design standards, 15 of the 17 new wood poles will be approximately 5 to 15 feet taller and two poles will remain the same height. Work is scheduled to begin in September 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by January 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

**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(s):

- b) The replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures.
- 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 May 23, 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.

**Notice Distribution List**

**Merced #1 70 kV Pole Replacement Project  
Merced County**

Advice 3838-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 Merced**

Paul A. Fillebrown  
Interim Director  
Merced County Planning & Community Development  
2222 "M" St.  
Merced, CA 95340

**Newspaper**

Merced Sun Star

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

|  |   |  |
|--|---|--|
| AT&T                                     | Dept of General Services                    | Northern California Power Association                      |
| Alcantar & Kahl LLP                      | Douglass & Liddell                          | Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc.                          |
| Ameresco                                 | Downey & Brand                              | OnGrid Solar   |
| Anderson & Poole                         | Duke Energy                                 | Praxair  |
| Arizona Public Service Company           | Dutcher, John                               | R. W. Beck & Associates                                    |
| BART                                     | Economic Sciences Corporation               | RCS, Inc.  |
| Barkovich & Yap, Inc.                    | Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP              | Recurrent Energy   |
| Bartle Wells Associates                  | Foster Farms                                | SCD Energy Solutions                                       |
| Bloomberg                                | G. A. Krause & Assoc.                       | SCE  |
| Bloomberg New Energy Finance             | GLJ Publications                            | SMUD   |
| Boston Properties                        | GenOn Energy, Inc.                          | 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                  |  |