

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 10, 2011

**Advice Letter 3842-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 Carrizo-Midway 230 KV Reconductoring Project (Kern County and San Luis Obispo County); Caliente Switching Station Project (San Luis Obispo County); and Solar Switching Station Project (San Luis Obispo County)**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3842-E is effective September 14, 2011 per Resolution E-4434.

Sincerely,

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

Julie A. Fitch, 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 5, 2011

**Advice 3842-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 Carrizo-Midway 230 KV Reconductoring Project (Kern County and San Luis Obispo County); Caliente Switching Station Project (San Luis Obispo County); and Solar Switching Station Project (San Luis Obispo County)**

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 and Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

**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 accommodate up to 800 MW of new renewable energy from the SunPower California Valley Ranch Project and the First Solar Topaz Solar Farm Project, both in San Luis Obispo County, PG&E must replace existing wires with new wires (reconductor) on an approximately 35-mile section of the double-circuit Morro Bay-Midway 230 kV Transmission Line between Solar Switching Station in the community of California Valley in San Luis Obispo County, approximately 10 miles west of the Kern County border, and Midway Substation, in the town of Buttonwillow in Kern County. The line begins approximately one mile west of Tracy Lane in California Valley and trends eastbound approximately one to four miles north of Highway 58 through the Temblor Mountains. The line continues eastbound through the San Joaquin Valley in Kern County approximately 0.25 mile south of Lokern Road and Highway 58, terminating at Midway Substation approximately 0.25 mile west of Wasco Road in Buttonwillow. To support the new

conductor and conform to ground clearance requirements, approximately 85 of the 171 existing lattice structures (approximately every other tower) will be modified by raising the height by approximately 20 feet from an average height of 118 feet to a new average height of approximately 127 feet tall. No lattice structures will be replaced or added. A new optical ground wire (OPGW) and static ground wire, supported by peak extensions, will be installed along the top of the existing transmission line from Solar Switching Station to Marisol Road. The OPGW line will then transfer to an existing distribution wood pole line and trend north of Marisol Road and east on Highway 58 to an existing underground conduit box at Midway Substation. The static wire will terminate at a tower location 0.3 mile east of Marisol Road. Four new wood poles will accommodate an OPGW clearance under existing foreign lines located 0.25 mile south of Lokern Road and 0.5 mile west of Highway 33 in Kern County. Work is scheduled to begin in July 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by December 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

PG&E will also construct the Caliente Switching Station as part of SunPower's California Valley Ranch Project (San Luis Obispo County Conditional Use Permit: DRC2008-00097). The 4.7-acre switching station is located approximately 2 miles west of the San Luis Obispo-Kern County border and 2 miles north of Highway 58 in the Temblor Mountains. A new 0.7-mile, 24-foot wide access road will connect the switching station to an existing access road off of Highway 58. Two existing lattice structures will be replaced and moved in line on the existing Morro Bay-Midway 230 kV Transmission Line, and two new towers will be installed on both sides of the switching station to accommodate interconnection with the existing transmission line. Two new circuits, approximately 700 feet long on the west and 950 feet long on the east, will be installed between the Caliente Switching Station and the Morro Bay-Midway 230kV Transmission Line. SunPower's 230kV generation interconnection line will connect to the PG&E transmission system at the Caliente Switching Station. Before the permanent interconnection is established, a temporary line will be constructed from SunPower's generation interconnection line to the existing Morro Bay-Midway 230 kV Transmission Line. Three wood or light-duty steel poles and one circuit will be temporarily installed from SunPower's interconnection line 400 feet north to the existing Morro Bay-Midway 230 kV Transmission Line. The temporary facilities will be removed when the permanent interconnection is established. Work is scheduled to begin in August 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by September 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

To connect new electric load from First Solar's Topaz Solar Farm Project (San Luis Obispo County Conditional Use Permit: DRC2008-00009), PG&E will construct the Solar Switching Station, which was also analyzed in the environmental review for SunPower's California Valley Ranch Project. The 6.3-acre switching station is located approximately 10 miles west of the San Luis Obispo-Kern County border and one mile north of Highway 58 in the community of California Valley. First Solar will construct an access road to connect the Solar

Switching Station Site to Highway 58. Two existing lattice structures will be replaced and moved in line on the existing Morro Bay-Midway 230 kV Transmission Line, and two new towers will be installed on both sides of the new switching station to accommodate interconnection with the existing transmission line. Two new circuits, approximately 105 feet long, will be installed to connect PG&E's Solar Switching Station to First Solar's Topaz Substation. Work is scheduled to begin in September 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by October 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsections A and B.1, 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):

III.A: "The placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built."

III.B.1.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."

The County of San Luis Obispo certified an Environmental Impact Report for the SunPower California Valley Ranch Project on April 19, 2011, finding no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed facilities. (State Clearinghouse #2009021009)  
<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/environmental/EnvironmentalNotices/sunpower.htm>)

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 25, 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

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](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 **June 4, 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/>.

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Brian Cherry" followed by a stylized flourish.

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) #: **3842-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: **Carrizo-Midway 230 kV Reconductoring Project (Kern and San Luis Obispo Counties), Caliente Switching Station Project (San Luis Obispo County), Solar Switching Station Project (San Luis Obispo County)**

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 4, 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:** Carrizo-Midway 230 kV Reconductoring Project (Kern County and San Luis Obispo County); Caliente Switching Station Project (San Luis Obispo County); and Solar Switching Station Project (San Luis Obispo County)

**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER:** 3842-E

**Proposed Project:** In order to accommodate up to 800 MW of new renewable energy from the SunPower California Valley Ranch Project and the First Solar Topaz Solar Farm Project, both in San Luis Obispo County, PG&E must replace existing wires with new wires (reconductor) on an approximately 35-mile section of the double-circuit Morro Bay-Midway 230 kV Transmission Line between Solar Switching Station in the community of California Valley in San Luis Obispo County, approximately 10 miles west of the Kern County border, and Midway Substation, in the town of Buttonwillow in Kern County. The line begins approximately one mile west of Tracy Lane in California Valley and trends eastbound approximately one to four miles north of Highway 58 through the Temblor Mountains. The line continues eastbound through the San Joaquin Valley in Kern County approximately 0.25 mile south of Lokern Road and Highway 58, terminating at Midway Substation approximately 0.25 mile west of Wasco Road in Buttonwillow. To support the new conductor and conform to ground clearance requirements, approximately 85 of the 171 existing lattice structures (approximately every other tower) will be modified by raising the height by approximately 20 feet from an average height of 118 feet to a new average height of approximately 127 feet tall. No lattice structures will be replaced or added. A new optical ground wire (OPGW) and static ground wire, supported by peak extensions, will be installed along the top of the existing transmission line from Solar Switching Station to Marisol Road. The OPGW line will then transfer to an existing distribution wood pole line and trend north of Marisol Road and east on Highway 58 to an existing underground conduit box at Midway Substation. The static wire will terminate at a tower location 0.3 mile east of Marisol Road. Four new wood poles will accommodate an OPGW clearance under existing foreign lines located 0.25 mile south of Lokern Road and 0.5 mile west of Highway 33 in Kern County. Work is scheduled to begin in July 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by December 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

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**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Sections III.A (reconductoring) and III.B.1 (switching stations) 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):

- III.A: "The placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built."

- III.B.1.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."

The County of San Luis Obispo certified an Environmental Impact Report for the SunPower California Valley Ranch Project on April 19, 2011, finding no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed facilities. (State Clearinghouse #2009021009)  
(<http://www.slocounty.ca.gov/planning/environmental/EnvironmentalNotices/sunpower.htm>)

**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 25, 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**

### **Carrizo to Midway 230 kV Reconductoring Project San Luis Obispo and Kern Counties**

#### **Advice 3842-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 Kern**

Lorelei H. Oviatt  
AICP, Director  
Public Services Building  
2700 "M" Street, Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370

#### **County of San Luis Obispo**

Jason Giffen, Planning Director  
SLO County Planning & Building Department - Environmental Division  
976 Osos St., Room 200  
San Luis Obispo, CA 93408

#### **Newspapers**

San Luis Obispo Tribune  
Bakersfield Californian

**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	