

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 25, 2012

**Advice Letters 3881-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 Nicolaus-Wilkins Slough 60 kV Pole Replacement Project in the Counties of Sutter, Yolo and Colusa**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letters 3881-E is effective August 28, 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

July 29, 2011

**Advice 3881-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 Nicolaus–Wilkins Slough 60 kV Pole Replacement Project in the Counties of Sutter, Yolo and Colusa**

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**

The proposed reliability project will replace approximately 300 wood poles with light duty steel poles (LDS) between the Wilkins Slough and East Nicolaus Substations in Colusa, Yolo, and Sutter counties, California. The purpose of this project is to improve the resistance of the line to failures caused by extreme wind speeds (in excess of 70 mph) and to minimize future outages to Wilkins Slough Substation and 4 Reclamation District Substations. The line is 42.6 miles long and has a total of 802 structures.

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

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 **August 18, 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

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 **August 28, 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) #: **3881-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: **Nicolaus–Wilkins Slough 60 kV Pole Replacement Project in the Counties of Sutter, Yolo and Colusa**

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: **August 28, 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: Nicolaus–Wilkins Slough 60 kV Pole Replacement Project in the Counties of Sutter, Yolo and Colusa**  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3881-E**

**Proposed Project:** In order to provide reliable transmission service and to reduce the risk of outages in its service area, PG&E proposes to replace the existing aged and deteriorated wood poles with new light-duty steel poles (LDS) along the existing Nicolaus–Wilkins Slough 60 kV Power Line in Sutter, Yolo and Colusa Counties. The ±43-mile line includes approximately 756 existing wood poles. The proposed reliability project will replace approximately 300 wood poles with light-duty steel poles (LDS) between the Wilkins Slough and East Nicolaus Substations in Colusa, Yolo, and Sutter counties, California. The purpose of this project is to improve the resistance of the line to failures caused by extreme wind speeds (in excess of 70 mph) and to minimize future outages to Wilkins Slough Substation and 4 Reclamation District Substations.

Pole replacement work will involve replacing existing wooden poles with steel poles. New LDS will be placed immediately adjacent to the existing poles, within the current transmission alignment. The existing conductor will be transferred from the wooden pole to the new LDS at each replacement location. Spoils from the new steel pole will be used to backfill the adjacent excavation area created by the associated wood pole removal. A storm Water Pollution Prevention Plan (SWPPP) has been prepared for the proposed pole replacement.

The work areas will generally be accessed by existing paved and unpaved roads. Due to the large number of established agricultural roads in the area, almost all replacement poles are readily accessible by way of existing roads. In some cases access to pole replacement locations will be through cultivated or fallow fields and orchards. Access, staging and work areas were designed to avoid sensitive resources and none of the access routes will require grading.

**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(s):

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

**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 August 18, 2011, at the following address:**

CPUC Energy Division  
 Attn: Tariff Unit, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
 California Public Utilities Commission  
 505 Van Ness Avenue  
 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**

### **Nicolaus–Wilkins Slough 60 kV Pole Replacement Project in the Counties of Sutter, Yolo and Colusa**

#### **Advice 3881-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

#### **County of Sutter**

Lisa Wilson  
Planning Manager  
1130 Civic Center Blvd., Suite A  
Yuba City, CA 95993

#### **County of Yolo**

John Bencomo  
Director Planning and Public Works  
292 West Beamer Street  
Woodland, CA 95695

#### **County of Colusa**

Stephen Hackney, AICP  
Director of Planning and Building  
220 12th St.  
Colusa, CA 95932

#### **Newspaper**

Woodland Daily Democrat  
711 Main Street  
Woodland, CA 95695  
(530) 662-5421

## PG&E Gas and Electric Advice Filing List

AT&T	Department of Water Resources	North Coast SolarResources
Alcantar & Kahl LLP	Dept of General 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	Economic Sciences Corporation	R. W. Beck & Associates
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	RCS, Inc.
Bartle Wells Associates	Foster Farms	Recurrent Energy
Bloomberg	G. A. Krause & Assoc.	SCD Energy Solutions
Bloomberg New Energy Finance	GLJ Publications	SCE
Boston Properties	GenOn Energy, Inc.	SMUD
Braun Blaising McLaughlin, P.C.	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	SPURR
Brookfield Renewable Power	Green Power Institute	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
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.
City of San Jose	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)
Defense Energy Support Center	North America Power Partners	eMeter Corporation