

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



October 25, 2011

**Advice Letter 3906-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 Wilson-Le Grand 115 kV Relocation  
Project – Merced County**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3906-E is effective October 17, 2011.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "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

September 16, 2011

**Advice 3906-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 Wilson-Le Grand 115kV Relocation project – Merced 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.

### **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 State Route 99 (SR-99) Freeway-Widening Project in Merced County, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has been requested by Caltrans to relocate approximately 7 poles along two segments of the Wilson-Le Grand 115 kilovolt (115 kV) Power Line in Merced County. The two segments are located along the north side of Sandy Mush Road (existing franchise) on either side of SR-99. On the east side of the highway, PG&E will replace five existing wood poles with four new tubular steel poles along an approximately 1,376-foot segment between SR-99 and Plainsburg Road and relocate approximately 900 feet of the power line within this segment (minor relocation) to create a perpendicular (rather than diagonal) power line crossing over the new freeway in compliance with Caltrans requirements. In order to maintain the California Public Utility Commission’s General Order 95 clearance requirements, the new tubular steel poles will be approximately 55 to 70 feet tall (approximately 10 to 15 feet taller than the existing wood poles). On the second segment, which begins approximately 2,000 feet west of SR-99, PG&E will relocate

approximately 655 feet of the line up to approximately 37 feet north of its current location (minor relocation). To do this PG&E will move one wood pole, replace one wood pole (replacement of existing facilities) with a similar-sized light-duty steel pole (which will weathers to resemble wood), and install a new 30-foot tall guy pole on the south side of Sandy Mush Road to support the new angle (existing franchise). Work is scheduled to begin in October 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by June 2012, or as soon thereafter as possible.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1, 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.
- 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 support 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 **October 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: [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 October 17, 2011, which is 31<sup>1</sup> 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

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<sup>1</sup> The regular 30-day notice period ends on a weekend so it is extended one day to end on a regular business day.

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 "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: Greg Backens

Phone #: (415) 973-4390

E-mail: gab4@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) #: **3906-E**

**Tier: N/A**

Subject of AL: **Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of the Wilson-Le Grand 115kV Relocation project - Merced 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: N/A

Is AL requesting confidential treatment? No. If so, what information is the utility seeking confidential treatment for: N/A

Confidential information will be made available to those who have executed a nondisclosure agreement: N/A

Name(s) and contact information of the person(s) who will provide the nondisclosure agreement and access to the confidential information: N/A

Resolution Required?  Yes  No

Requested effective date: **October 17, 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: 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**

**[jj@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jj@cpuc.ca.gov) and [mas@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto: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](mailto:PGETariffs@pge.com)**

## NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

**PROJECT NAME: Wilson-Le Grand 115kV Relocation Project - Merced County**  
**ADVISE LETTER NUMBER: 3906-E**

**Proposed Project:** To accommodate the State Route 99 (SR-99) Freeway-Widening Project in Merced County, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) has been requested by Caltrans to relocate approximately 7 poles along two segments of the Wilson-Le Grand 115 kilovolt (115 kV) Power Line in Merced County. The two segments are located along the north side of Sandy Mush Road (existing franchise) on either side of SR-99. On the east side of the highway, PG&E will replace five existing wood poles with four new tubular steel poles along an approximately 1,376-foot segment between SR-99 and Plainsburg Road and relocate approximately 900 feet of the power line within this segment (minor relocation) to create a perpendicular (rather than diagonal) power line crossing over the new freeway in compliance with Caltrans requirements. In order to maintain the California Public Utility Commission's General Order 95 clearance requirements, the new tubular steel poles will be approximately 55 to 70 feet tall (approximately 10 to 15 feet taller than the existing wood poles). On the second segment, which begins approximately 2,000 feet west of SR-99, PG&E will relocate approximately 655 feet of the line up to approximately 37 feet north of its current location (minor relocation). To do this PG&E will move one wood pole, replace one wood pole (replacement of existing facilities) with a similar-sized light-duty steel pole (which will weathers to resemble wood), and install a new 30-foot tall guy pole on the south side of Sandy Mush Road to support the new angle (existing franchise). Work is scheduled to begin in October 2011, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by June 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. 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.
- 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 support 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 October 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.

## **Notice Distribution List**

### **Wilson-Le Grand 115kV Relocation Project – Merced County**

Advice 3906-E

#### **Energy Commission**

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 Merced**

Merced Planning & Community Development Department  
Attn: Paul A. Fillebrown, Interim Director  
2222 M Street  
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	Economic Sciences Corporation	R. W. Beck & Associates
BART	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	RCS, Inc.
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	Foster Farms	Recurrent Energy
Bartle Wells Associates	G. A. Krause & Assoc.	SCD Energy Solutions
Bloomberg	GLJ Publications	SCE
Bloomberg New Energy Finance	GenOn Energy, Inc.	SMUD
Boston Properties	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	SPURR
Braun Blasing McLaughlin, P.C.	Green Power Institute	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
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
City of San Jose	Modesto Irrigation District	Turlock Irrigation District
Clean Energy Fuels	Morgan Stanley	United Cogen
Coast Economic Consulting	Morrison & Foerster	Utility Cost Management
Commercial Energy	NLine Energy, Inc.	Utility Specialists
Consumer Federation of California	NRG West	Verizon
Crossborder Energy	NaturEner	Wellhead Electric Company
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Navigant Consulting	Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA)
Day Carter Murphy	Norris & Wong Associates	eMeter Corporation
Defense Energy Support Center	North America Power Partners	
Department of Water Resources	North Coast SolarResources	