

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 28, 2012

**Advice Letter 3981-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 Waukena Switching Station & Solar Project  
Interconnection in the City of Corcoran, County of Kings**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3981-E is effective January 28, 2012.

Sincerely,

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

Edward F. Randolph, Director  
Energy Division

December 29, 2011

**Advice 3981-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 Waukena Switching Station and Solar Project Interconnection in the City of Corcoran, County of Kings**

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**

In order to connect Solar Project Solutions' planned Corcoran Solar Generation Facilities Project to PG&E's electrical system in Kings County, PG&E is proposing the Waukena Switching Station, a 3.52-acre switching station located approximately one-half mile east of the intersection of the Central Valley Highway (Hwy 43) and Nevada Avenue, on the north side of Nevada Avenue, adjacent to the existing Kingsburg-Corcoran 115 (kV) Power Line, in a rural area north of Corcoran. To interconnect the new switching station to the existing power line, PG&E will replace three existing 75-foot-tall lattice steel poles with four 70- to 90-foot-tall tubular steel poles within the existing power line alignment located approximately 120 feet from the west side of the switching station. From two of the new poles, PG&E will construct approximately 120-foot-long power line spans to loop the line into and out of the switching station. The potential environmental impacts of PG&E's interconnection facilities were analyzed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted for the Corcoran Irrigation Solar Generation Facilities Project, which found no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by the interconnection facilities (larger project CEQA). Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2012 or as soon thereafter as possible, with completion in February 2013 or as soon as possible after construction is completed.

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

- 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 Kings County Planning Commission, County of Kings, adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Solar Project Solutions Corcoran Solar Generation Facility, finding no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed facilities. (State Clearinghouse #2010121062.) The environmental review included PG&E's interconnection facilities and found 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 **January 18, 2012**, 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 shown 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 **January 28, 2012**, 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/>.

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Brian Cherry".

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 U39E)**

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) #: **3981-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: **Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of the Waukena Switching Station and Solar Project Interconnection in the City of Corcoran, County of Kings**

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: **January 28, 2012**

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:** Waukena Switching Station and Solar Project Interconnection (Kings County)  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER:** 3981-E

**Proposed Project:** In order to connect Solar Project Solutions' planned Corcoran Solar Generation Facilities Project to PG&E's electrical system in Kings County, PG&E is proposing the Waukena Switching Station, a 3.52-acre switching station located approximately one-half mile east of the intersection of the Central Valley Highway (Hwy 43) and Nevada Avenue, on the north side of Nevada Avenue, adjacent to the existing Kingsburg-Corcoran 115 (kV) Power Line, in a rural area north of Corcoran. To interconnect the new switching station to the existing power line, PG&E will replace three existing 75-foot-tall lattice steel poles with four 70- to 90-foot-tall tubular steel poles within the existing power line alignment located approximately 120 feet from the west side of the switching station. From two of the new poles, PG&E will construct approximately 120-foot-long power line spans to loop the line into and out of the switching station. The potential environmental impacts of PG&E's interconnection facilities were analyzed in the Mitigated Negative Declaration adopted for the Corcoran Irrigation Solar Generation Facilities Project, which found no significant unavoidable environmental impacts caused by the interconnection facilities (larger project CEQA). Construction is scheduled to begin in February 2012 or as soon thereafter as possible, with completion in February 2013 or as soon as possible after construction is completed.

**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:

- 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 Kings County Planning Commission, County of Kings, adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the Solar Project Solutions Corcoran Solar Generation Facility, finding no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed facilities. (State Clearinghouse #2010121062.) The environmental review included PG&E's interconnection facilities and found 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 January 18, 2012, 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**

**Waukena Switching Station**

Advice 3981-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 Kings**

Mr. Gregory R. Gatzka  
Director of Community Development  
Kings County Planning Department  
1400 West Lacey Boulevard  
Hanford, CA 93230

**Newspaper**

The Corcoran Journal

## **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
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
City of Santa Rosa	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	