

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 28, 2012

Advice Letter 3996-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 Smartville-Nicolaus No. 2 60 kV Pole Replacement Project
In the County of Yuba**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3996-E is effective March 2, 2012.

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

February 1, 2012

Advice 3996-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 Smartville-Nicolaus No. 2 60 kV Pole Replacement Project in the County of Yuba

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 maintain service reliability and improve resistance to failures caused by extreme wind speeds, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) will be replacing approximately 98 50- to 60-foot-tall wood poles (replacement of existing facilities) with light-duty steel poles (which are stronger than wood poles but weather to resemble wood) on a roughly 6-mile portion of the existing Smartville-Nicolaus No. 2 60 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line (existing easement) in Yuba County. The line extends south from approximately Big Oak Valley to Beale Air Force Base and Waldo Junction, generally following along or near Smartville Road. Additionally, approximately 5.6 miles of conductor will be replaced to meet the legal requirements of the new structures. In order to comply with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements, 96 poles will increase approximately 1 to 12 feet in height and 2 poles will increase approximately 22 feet in height to correct excessive sag on the line. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2012 or

as soon thereafter as possible, with completion in approximately eight months or as soon as possible after construction begins.

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

“The replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures”;

“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.”

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 **February 21, 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: jjj@cpuc.ca.gov and 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 **March 2, 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 blue ink that reads "Brian Cherry". To the right of the signature is a small circular stamp containing the number "131".

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 E)**

Utility type:

ELC GAS
 PLC HEAT WATER

Contact Person: Britta Brown

Phone #: (415) 973-8584

E-mail: B2Bn@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) #: **3996-E**

Tier: N/A

Subject of AL: **Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Smartville-Nicolaus No. 2 60 kV Pole Replacement Project in the County of Yuba**

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): **Powerlines**

AL filing type: Monthly Quarterly Annual One-Time Other _____

If AL filed in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #: **N/A**

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? If so, what information is the utility seeking confidential treatment for: **No**

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: _____

Resolution Required? Yes No

Requested effective date: **March 2, 2012**

No. of tariff sheets: **0**

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

jn@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: SMARTVILLE-NICOLAUS NO. 2 60 KV POLE REPLACEMENT PROJECT (Yuba County)
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3996-E

Proposed Project: In order to maintain service reliability and improve resistance to failures caused by extreme wind speeds, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) will be replacing approximately 98 50- to 60-foot-tall wood poles (replacement of existing facilities) with light-duty steel poles (which are stronger than wood poles but weather to resemble wood) on a roughly 6-mile portion of the existing Smartville-Nicolaus No. 2 60 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line (existing easement) in Yuba County. The line extends south from approximately Big Oak Valley to Beale Air Force Base and Waldo Junction, generally following along or near Smartville Road. Additionally, approximately 5.6 miles of conductor will be replaced to meet the legal requirements of the new structures. In order to comply with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements, 96 poles will increase approximately 1 to 12 feet in height and 2 poles will increase approximately 22 feet in height to correct excessive sag on the line. Construction is scheduled to begin in March 2012 or as soon thereafter as possible, with completion in approximately eight months or as soon as possible after construction begins.

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 Authority: 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.
- 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 February 21, 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.

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

Smartville-Nicolaus No. 2 60 kV Pole Replacement Project

Advice 3996-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 Yuba

Wendy Hartman, Planning Director
915 8th Street, Suite 123
Marysville, CA 95901

Newspaper

Appeal Democrat
1530 Ellis Lake Drive
Marysville, Ca 95901
530-749-4700

**PG&E Gas and Electric
Advice Filing List
General Order 96-B, Section IV**

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|--|---|--|
| AT&T | Department of Water Resources | North America Power Partners |
| Alcantar & Kahl LLP | Dept of General Services | North Coast SolarResources |
| Ameresco | Douglass & Liddell | Northern California Power Association |
| Anderson & Poole | Downey & Brand | Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc. |
| BART | Duke Energy | OnGrid Solar |
| Barkovich & Yap, Inc. | Economic Sciences Corporation | Praxair |
| Bartle Wells Associates | Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP | R. W. Beck & Associates |
| Bloomberg | Foster Farms | RCS, Inc. |
| Bloomberg New Energy Finance | G. A. Krause & Assoc. | Recurrent Energy |
| Boston Properties | GLJ Publications | SCD Energy Solutions |
| Braun Blaising McLaughlin, P.C. | GenOn Energy, Inc. | SCE |
| Brookfield Renewable Power | Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie | SMUD |
| CA Bldg Industry Association | Green Power Institute | SPURR |
| CLECA Law Office | Hanna & Morton | San Francisco Public Utilities Commission |
| CSC Energy Services | Hitachi | Seattle City Light |
| California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn | In House Energy | Sempra Utilities |
| California Energy Commission | International Power Technology | Sierra Pacific Power Company |
| California League of Food Processors | Intestate Gas Services, Inc. | Silicon Valley Power |
| California Public Utilities Commission | Lawrence Berkeley National Lab | Silo Energy LLC |
| Calpine | Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power | Southern California Edison Company |
| Cardinal Cogen | Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP | Spark Energy, L.P. |
| Casner, Steve | MAC Lighting Consulting | Sun Light & Power |
| Center for Biological Diversity | MBMC, Inc. | Sunshine Design |
| Chris, King | MRW & Associates | Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan |
| City of Palo Alto | Manatt Phelps Phillips | Tabors Caramanis & Associates |
| City of Palo Alto Utilities | McKenzie & Associates | Tecogen, Inc. |
| City of San Jose | Merced Irrigation District | Tiger Natural Gas, Inc. |
| City of Santa Rosa | Modesto Irrigation District | TransCanada |
| Clean Energy Fuels | Morgan Stanley | Turlock Irrigation District |
| Coast Economic Consulting | Morrison & Foerster | United Cogen |
| Commercial Energy | Morrison & Foerster LLP | Utility Cost Management |
| Consumer Federation of California | NLine Energy, Inc. | Utility Specialists |
| Crossborder Energy | NRG West | Verizon |
| Davis Wright Tremaine LLP | NaturEner | Wellhead Electric Company |
| Day Carter Murphy | Navigant Consulting | Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA) |
| Defense Energy Support Center | Norris & Wong Associates | eMeter Corporation |