

**PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION**

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



July 22, 2014

**Advice Letter: 4445-E**

Brian Cherry  
Vice President, Regulation and Rates  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

**SUBJECT: SUBMITS NOTICE OF CONSTRUCTION, PURSUANT TO  
GENERAL ORDER 131-D, FOR THE CONSTRUCTION OF LE GRAND-  
CHOWCHILLA 115KV RELIABILITY PROJECT (MADERA COUNTY, MERCED  
COUNTY, AND CITY OF CHOWCHILLA)**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 4445-E is effective as of July 25, 2014.

Sincerely,

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

Edward Randolph  
Director, Energy Division



Brian K. Cherry  
Vice President  
Regulatory Relations

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale St., Mail Code B10C  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

Fax: 415.973.7226

June 25, 2014

**Advice 4445-E**  
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Le Grand-Chowchilla 115kV Reliability Project (Madera County, Merced County, and City of Chowchilla).**

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 ensure safe and reliable electrical service in the Central Valley, PG&E is proposing to reconductor (replace wires on) approximately 11 miles of the existing Le Grand-Chowchilla 115 kV Power Line in Merced County, Madera County, and the City of Chowchilla (existing easement). The project begins at Le Grand Substation, located west of South Minturn Road and south of Porters Road in Merced County. From the substation, the line runs east for approximately 4 miles through agricultural fields and grazing land. After crossing to the east side of White Rock Road, the line then runs south for approximately 4 miles, crossing the Chowchilla River into Madera County and Ash Slough. After crossing Avenue 26, the line turns west for approximately 2½ miles through agricultural fields and the Pheasant Run Golf Course, crossing Highway 99. West of Highway 99, the line continues west into Chowchilla Substation, located on the east side of Chowchilla Boulevard in the City of Chowchilla. PG&E will add extensions to raise the height of approximately nine existing lattice steel towers by approximately 10-16 feet (placing new conductors or accessories on supporting structures already built), replace one lattice steel tower located inside Le Grand Substation with a smaller structure (replacement of existing structures), and raise the height of one existing lattice steel tower on the Wilson-Borden 230 kV Transmission Line north of Le Grand Substation by approximately 16 feet (new or additional accessories) to meet clearance

requirements where the lines cross. PG&E will also replace approximately 85 wood or light-duty steel poles with new wood or light-duty steel poles that will be approximately 10 to 20 feet taller. The taller towers and poles are needed to support the new conductors, comply with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 ground-to-conductor clearance requirements, and reduce electric and magnetic field strength at ground level. Project construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2014, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is scheduled to be complete in January 2015, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Sections III A and B.1 exempt a utility from the CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct if a project meets specific conditions. This project qualifies for the following exemption(s):

- A. "the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built."
- B.1.b. "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures."
- B.1.e. "the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on supporting structures already built."
- B.1.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 [Environmental Impact Report] 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:

- PG&E proposes to raise the height of five towers in the residential land use area by approximately 10-to-15-feet taller than otherwise needed to comply with General Order 95 clearance requirements.

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 letter sent via U.S. mail, by facsimile or electronically, any of which must be received no later than July 15, 2014, which is 20 days after the date of this filing. Protests should be mailed to:

CPUC Energy Division  
ED Tariff Unit  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

Facsimile: (415) 703-2200  
E-mail: EDTariffUnit@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 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, Regulatory Relations  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, California 94177

Facsimile: (415) 973-7226  
E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

Individuals 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-exist.

### **Public Comment**

Individuals or groups who do not file an official protest may still submit a comment on the request to the Energy Division at the address noted above, reference Advice Letter 4445-E.

**Effective Date**

This Company requests that this advice filing become effective on July 25, 2014, 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/>.

Handwritten signature of Brian Cherry/KAC in cursive script.

Vice President, Regulatory Relations

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: Kingsley Cheng

Phone #: (415) 973-5265

E-mail: k2c0@pge.com and PGETariffs@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) #: **4445-E**

Tier: N/A

Subject of AL: **Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Le Grand-Chowchilla 115kV Reliability Project (Madera County, Merced County, and City of Chowchilla)**

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 #: 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: \_\_\_\_\_

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: **July 25, 2014**

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

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:

**California Public Utilities Commission**

**Director, Energy Division**

**505 Van Ness Ave., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor**

**San Francisco, CA 94102**

**E-mail: EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov**

**Pacific Gas and Electric Company**

**Attn: Brian K. Cherry, Vice President, Regulatory Relations**

**77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C**

**P.O. Box 770000**

**San Francisco, CA 94177**

**E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com**

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION**

Para mas detalles llame al 1-800-660-6789

**PROJECT NAME: LE GRAND-CHOWCHILLA 115 KV RELIABILITY PROJECT (Madera County, Merced County, and City of Chowchilla, P.No. 03851)**  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 4445-E**

**Proposed Project:** To ensure safe and reliable electrical service in the Central Valley, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to reconductor (replace wires on) approximately 11 miles of the existing Le Grand-Chowchilla 115 kV Power Line in Merced County, Madera County, and the City of Chowchilla (existing easement). The project begins at Le Grand Substation, located west of South Minturn Road and south of Porters Road in Merced County. From the substation, the line runs east for approximately 4 miles through agricultural fields and grazing land. After crossing to the east side of White Rock Road, the line then runs south for approximately 4 miles, crossing the Chowchilla River into Madera County and Ash Slough. After crossing Avenue 26, the line turns west for approximately 2½ miles through agricultural fields and the Pheasant Run Golf Course, crossing Highway 99. West of Highway 99, the line continues west into Chowchilla Substation, located on the east side of Chowchilla Boulevard in the City of Chowchilla. PG&E will add extensions to raise the height of approximately nine existing lattice steel towers by approximately 10-16 feet (placing new conductors or accessories on supporting structures already built), replace one lattice steel tower located inside Le Grand Substation with a smaller structure (replacement of existing structures), and raise the height of one existing lattice steel tower on the Wilson-Borden 230 kV Transmission Line north of Le Grand Substation by approximately 16 feet (new or additional accessories) to meet clearance requirements where the lines cross. PG&E will also replace approximately 85 wood or light-duty steel poles with new wood or light-duty steel poles that will be approximately 10 to 20 feet taller. The taller towers and poles are needed to support the new conductors, comply with California Public Utility Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 ground-to-conductor clearance requirements, and reduce electric and magnetic field strength at ground level. Project construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2014, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is scheduled to be complete in January 2015, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

**Electric and Magnetic Fields (EMF):** PG&E 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 PG&E’s “EMF Design Guidelines for Electrical Facilities.” The following measures are proposed for this project:

- PG&E proposes to raise the height of five towers in the residential land use area by approximately 10-to-15-feet taller than otherwise needed to comply with General Order 95 clearance requirements.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Sections III A and B.1 exempt a utility from the CPUC’s requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct if a project meets specific conditions. This project qualifies for the following exemption(s):

- A. “the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built.”
- B.1.b. “the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures.”
- B.1.e. “the placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on supporting structures already built.”
- B.1.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 [Environmental Impact Report] finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts.”

**Additional Project Information:** To obtain further information on the proposed project, please call PG&E’s Project Information Line at (415) 973-5530.

**Public Review Process:** Individuals or groups may protest the proposed construction if they believe that PG&E 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 July 15, 2014 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

PG&E must respond within five business days of receipt and serve its response on each protestant and the Energy Division. Within 30 days after PG&E has submitted its response, the CPUC Executive Director will send you a copy of an Executive Resolution granting or denying PG&E's request and stating the reasons for the decision.

**Assistance in Filing a Protest:** If you need assistance in filing a protest, contact the CPUC Public Advisor:  
email: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov) or call: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free), or (415) 703-2074, or TTY (415) 703-5258.

**Public Comment:** Even if you do not want to file an official protest, you may still comment on the request. To do so, send your comments to the Energy Division at the address noted above. Please reference Advice Letter 4445-E.

## **Notice Distribution List**

### **LE GRAND-CHOWCHILLA 115 KV RELIABILITY PROJECT**

#### **Advice 4445-E**

#### **Energy Commission**

Mr. Robert Oglesby, Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Drew Bohan, Deputy Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39  
Sacramento, California 95814

#### **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Ms. Sarah Bahm  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Central Region  
1234 E. Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710

#### **County of Merced**

Mr. Mark J. Hendrickson  
Interim Planning & Community Development Director  
County of Merced  
2222 M Street, 2<sup>nd</sup> Floor  
Merced, CA 95340

#### **County of Madera**

Mr. Norman L. Allinder  
Planning Director  
County of Merced  
2037 W. Cleveland Avenue, Mail Stop G  
Madera, CA 93637

#### **City of Chowchilla**

Mark Lewis, Esq.  
City Administrator  
City of Chowchilla  
130 S. Second Street, Civic Center Plaza  
Chowchilla, CA 93610

**Newspaper**

Merced Sun-Star

Madera Tribune

The Chowchilla News

## PG&E Gas and Electric Advice Filing List

AT&T	Douglass & Liddell	Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc.
Alcantar & Kahl LLP	Downey & Brand	OnGrid Solar
Anderson & Poole	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
BART	G. A. Krause & Assoc.	Praxair
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	GenOn Energy Inc.	Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc.
Bartle Wells Associates	GenOn Energy, Inc.	SCD Energy Solutions
Braun Blaising McLaughlin, P.C.	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	SCE
CENERGY POWER	Green Power Institute	SDG&E and SoCalGas
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn	Hanna & Morton	SPURR
California Energy Commission	In House Energy	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
California Public Utilities Commission	International Power Technology	Seattle City Light
California State Association of Counties	Intestate Gas Services, Inc.	Sempra Utilities
Calpine	K&L Gates LLP	SoCalGas
Casner, Steve	Kelly Group	Southern California Edison Company
Center for Biological Diversity	Linde	Spark Energy
City of Palo Alto	Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force	Sun Light & Power
City of San Jose	Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power	Sunshine Design
Clean Power	MRW & Associates	Tecogen, Inc.
Coast Economic Consulting	Manatt Phelps Phillips	Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
Commercial Energy	Marin Energy Authority	TransCanada
Cool Earth Solar, Inc.	McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP	Utility Cost Management
County of Tehama - Department of Public Works	McKenzie & Associates	Utility Power Solutions
Crossborder Energy	Modesto Irrigation District	Utility Specialists
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Morgan Stanley	Verizon
Day Carter Murphy	NLine Energy, Inc.	Water and Energy Consulting
Defense Energy Support Center	NRG Solar	Wellhead Electric Company
Dept of General Services	Nexant, Inc.	Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA)
Division of Ratepayer Advocates	North America Power Partners	