# PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 24, 2015

**Advice Letter 4681-E** 

Erik Jacobson Director, Regulatory Relations Pacific Gas and Electric Company 77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C P.O. Box 770000 San Francisco, California 94177

SUBJECT: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Frontier Solar 1 Interconnection Project Including Crow Creek Switching Station in the County of Stanislaus

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

Advice Letter 4681-E is effective as of August 30, 2015.

Sincerely,

Edward Randolph

Director, Energy Division

Edward Randofon



Erik Jacobson Director 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

July 31, 2015

#### Advice 4681-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 Frontier Solar 1 Interconnection Project Including Crow Creek Switching Station in the County

of Stanislaus

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 interconnect the proposed Frontier Solar 1 Project to the electric transmission system, the solar developer is proposing to construct a new approximately 5-acre 60 kilovolt (kV) switching station in rural Stanislaus County and transfer its ownership to PG&E. The new Crow Creek Switching Station will be located approximately 0.6 mile southwest of the intersection of Davis Road and Interstate 5. To interconnect the new switching station, located within the solar project boundaries and west of PG&E's Salado-Newman #1 60 kV Power Line, PG&E will relocate and loop approximately 900 feet of the existing power line into and out of the switching station. To relocate the power line, PG&E will install approximately two tubular steel poles in-line with the existing power line and two light-duty steel poles west of the existing power line and adjacent to the switching station. The new poles will be approximately 80 to 90 feet tall. PG&E will also remove approximately 430 feet of the existing power line and one existing approximately 50-foot-tall wood pole to complete the loop. In addition, the solar developer will install and transfer to PG&E a new underground fiber optic cable

between the switching station and an existing PG&E telecommunication connection facility, located approximately 2.5 miles west of the switching station. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2015, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is scheduled to be completed in January 2016, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

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),

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 County of Stanislaus adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Frontier Solar 1 Project (referred to as Beltran Ranch Solar Facility Project in the MND) on November 4, 2010 and Addendum dated June 26, 2015, finding no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed facilities. (State Clearinghouse # 2011112013)

This filing will not 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 20, 2015, which is 20 days after the date of this filing. Protests should be mailed to the following address:

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 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

Erik Jacobson
Director, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B10C
San Francisco, California 94177

Facsimile: (415) 973-7226 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 30, 2015, 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/.

/S/

Erik Jacobson
Director, 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: Conta		Contact Person: Kings	Contact Person: Kingsley Cheng	
☑ ELC			65	
□ PLC	□ HEAT □ WATER	E-mail: k2c0@pge.com and PGETariffs@pge.com		
			(Date Filed/ Received Stamp by CPUC)	
ELC = Electric GAS = Gas		1112	(Sale Fried Free et Salin p e) e. e e)	
PLC = Pipeline		WATER = Water		
Advice Letter (AL) #: 4681-E  Subject of AL: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Frontier  Solar 1 Interconnection Project Including Crow Creek Switching Station in the County of Stanislaus				
Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): <u>Power Lines</u>				
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: $\underline{No}$				
Confidential information will be made available to those who have executed a nondisclosure agreement: $\underline{N/A}$				
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: <u>August 30, 2015</u>			No. of tariff sheets: $\underline{N/A}$	
Estimated system annual revenue effect (%): $\underline{N/A}$				
Estimated system average rate effect (%): <u>N/A</u>				
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: <u>N/A</u>				
Service affected and changes proposed: $\underline{N/A}$				
Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: $\underline{N/A}$				
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:				
			ic Gas and Electric Company	
Director, Energy Division			Erik Jacobson, Director, Regulatory Relations ale Street, Mail Code B10C	
505 Van Ness Ave., 4 <sup>th</sup> Floor			ale Street, Maii Code BioC Box 770000	
San Francisco, CA 94102 E-mail: EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov		San I	San Francisco, CA 94177	
E-man. ED Tarmomtecpuc.ca.gov		E-ma	il: PGETariffs@pge.com	

#### NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

Para más detalles llame 1-800-660-6789

PROJECT NAME: Frontier Solar 1 Interconnection Project Including Crow Creek Switching Station

(Stanislaus County, P. No. 08572) ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 4681-E

Proposed Project: To interconnect the proposed Frontier Solar 1 Project to the electric transmission system, the solar developer is proposing to construct a new approximately 5-acre 60 kilovolt (kV) switching station in rural Stanislaus County and transfer its ownership to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E). The new Crow Creek Switching Station will be located approximately 0.6 mile southwest of the intersection of Davis Road and Interstate 5. To interconnect the new switching station, located within the solar project boundaries and west of PG&E's Salado-Newman #1 60 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line, PG&E will relocate and loop approximately 900 feet of the existing power line into and out of the switching station. To relocate the power line, PG&E will install approximately two tubular steel poles in-line with the existing power line and two light-duty steel poles west of the existing power line and adjacent to the switching station. The new poles will be approximately 80 to 90 feet tall. PG&E will also remove approximately 430 feet of the existing power line and one existing approximately 50-foot-tall wood pole to complete the loop. In addition, the solar developer will install and transfer to PG&E a new underground fiber optic cable between the switching station and an existing PG&E telecommunication connection facility, located approximately 2.5 miles west of the switching station. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2015, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is scheduled to be completed in January 2016, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1, exempts 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 exemptions:

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 County of Stanislaus adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) for the Frontier Solar 1 Project (referred to as Beltran Ranch Solar Facility Project in the MND) on November 4, 2010 and Addendum dated June 26, 2015, finding no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed facilities. (State Clearinghouse # 2011112013)

**Additional Project Information:** To obtain further information on the proposed project, please call PG&E's <u>Project</u> 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:

- 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 20, 2015 at the following address:

Director, Energy Division ED Tariff Unit 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 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 4681-E.

#### **Notice Distribution List**

Crow Creek Switching Station and Frontier Solar Project Interconnection (Stanislaus County)

#### Advice 4681-E

# **Energy Commission**

Mr. Robert Oglesby, Executive Director California Energy Commission 1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39 Sacramento, California 95814 Rob.Oglesby@energy.ca.gov

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

# California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

# **County of Stanislaus**

Ms. Angela Freitas, Planning Director Planning and Community Development 1010 10th Street Suite 3400, 3rd Floor Modesto, CA 95354 Planning@stancounty.com

## Newspaper

The Modesto Bee

# PG&E Gas and Electric Advice Filing List

AT&T Albion Power Company Alcantar & Kahl LLP Anderson & Poole

**BART** 

Barkovich & Yap, Inc. Bartle Wells Associates

Braun Blaising McLaughlin, P.C.

**CENERGY POWER** 

**CPUC** 

California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn

California Energy Commission
California Public Utilities Commission
California State Association of Counties

Calpine Casner, Steve

Center for Biological Diversity

City of Palo Alto City of San Jose Clean Power

Coast Economic Consulting

Commercial Energy Cool Earth Solar, Inc.

County of Tehama - Department of Public

Works

Crossborder Energy
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP

**Day Carter Murphy** 

Defense Energy Support Center Dept of General Services

Division of Ratepayer Advocates

Don Pickett & Associates, Inc.

Douglass & Liddell Downey & Brand

Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP

G. A. Krause & Assoc. GenOn Energy Inc. GenOn Energy, Inc.

Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz &

Ritchie

Green Power Institute Hanna & Morton In House Energy

International Power Technology Intestate Gas Services, Inc.

Kelly Group

Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Linde

Los Angeles County Integrated Waste

Management Task Force

Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power

MRW & Associates

Manatt Phelps Phillips

Marin Energy Authority

McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP

Modesto Irrigation District

McKenzie & Associates

Morgan Stanley NLine Energy, Inc. NRG Solar

Nexant, Inc. ORA

Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc.

Office of Ratepayer Advocates

OnGrid Solar

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

Praxair

Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc.

SCD Energy Solutions

SCE

SDG&E and SoCalGas

**SPURR** 

San Francisco Water Power and Sewer

Seattle City Light

Sempra Energy (Socal Gas)

Sempra Utilities SoCalGas

Southern California Edison Company

Spark Energy
Sun Light & Power

Sunshine Design Tecogen, Inc.

Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.

TransCanada

Troutman Sanders LLP Utility Cost Management Utility Power Solutions

**Utility Specialists** 

Verizon

Water and Energy Consulting Wellhead Electric Company Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA)

YEP Energy