

November 25, 2002

**Advice 2427-G/2309-E**

(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 M)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject: Revisions to PG&E's Balanced Payment Plan  
(Update and Implementation)**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits for filing revisions to its gas and electric rules. The affected tariff sheets are listed on the enclosed Attachment I.<sup>1</sup>

**Purpose**

The purpose of this filing is to implement the tariff changes approved by the Commission in Advice 2381-G/2223-E by letter dated May 31, 2002.

Billing by the CorDaptix system commences on December 5, 2002. Therefore, this filing updates the affected rate schedules with the revisions to PG&E's Balanced Payment Plan (BPP) that were approved in Advice 2381-G/2223-E.

**Background**

As part of its on-going efforts to provide exceptional service to its customers, PG&E is switching from its current billing system to the new CorDaptix system. Earlier this year, PG&E identified tariff improvements that would make the transition to CorDaptix easier and more efficient to implement and received advanced Commission approval through the following series of advice letters:

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<sup>1</sup> PG&E reserves all legal rights to challenge the decisions or statutes under which it has been required to make this advice filing, and nothing in this advice filing constitutes a waiver of such rights. Also, PG&E reserves any additional legal rights to challenge the requirement to make this advice filing by reason of its status as a debtor under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and nothing in this advice filing constitutes a waiver of such rights. PG&E reserves all rights to amend or revise its filings before the Commission and other agencies to implement the requirements of the order or orders of the Bankruptcy Court confirming PG&E's plan of reorganization as originally filed on September 20, 2001, and subsequently amended.

2379-G/2221-E Non-residential Fixed Charges – Daily Equivalents  
2380-G/2222-E Revisions to Gas and Electric Standard Form 01-6330 –  
*Energy Statement-Central Mailing*  
2381-G/2223-E Revisions to PG&E's Balance Payment Plan  
2224-E Revisions to Electric Rate Schedules E-19, E-20, and E-37 –  
*Seasonal Crossover*  
2225-E Revisions to Electric Tariffs to Eliminate Power Factor Billing  
for Customers with Demands Below 500 kW

### **Tariff Revisions**

This filing submits the actual tariff sheets implementing the approved revisions to the BPP rules. The revisions eliminate the 12-month settlement requirement of BPP accounts.

### **Protests**

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by sending a letter by **December 15, 2002**, which is 20 days from the date of this filing. The protest must state the grounds upon which it is based, including such items as financial and service impact, and should be submitted expeditiously. Protests should be mailed to:

IMC Branch Chief – Energy Division  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, California 94102

Facsimile: (415) 703-2200  
E-mail: [jjr@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jjr@cpuc.ca.gov)

Protests also should be sent by e-mail and facsimile to Mr. Jerry Royer, Energy Division, as shown above, and by U.S. mail to Mr. Royer at the above address.

The protest should be sent via both e-mail and facsimile to PG&E on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission at the address shown below.

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

Facsimile: (415) 973-7226  
E-mail: [RxDd@pge.com](mailto:RxDd@pge.com)

**Effective Date**

This advice filing becomes effective on **December 5, 2002**, which is the date that billing by the CorDaptix system commences.

**Notice**

In accordance with General Order 96-A, Section III, Paragraph G, a copy of this advice letter is being sent electronically and via U.S. mail to parties shown on the attached list. Address changes should be directed to Rose de la Torre at (415) 973-4716. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at:

[http://www.pge.com/customer\\_services/business/tariffs/](http://www.pge.com/customer_services/business/tariffs/)

Vice President - Regulatory Relations

Attachments



RULE 9—RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS  
(Continued)

F. CLOSING BILL PAYABLE ON PRESENTATION

Removal bills, special bills, bills rendered on vacation of premises or bills rendered to persons discontinuing the service, shall be paid on presentation. Bills for connection or reconnection of service and payments for deposits or to reinstate deposits as required under the rules of PG&E shall be paid before service will be connected or reconnected.

G. BALANCED PAYMENT PLAN

Single family residential customers who wish to minimize variations in monthly bills, may elect to participate in the Balanced Payment Plan (BPP). This plan is detailed as follows:

1. A Customer can join the plan in any month of the year and the plan will extend through the following twelve months.
2. Participation is subject to approval by PG&E.
3. Meters will be read and billed at regular intervals.
4. Customers will be expected to pay the BPP amount shown due.
5. The BPP amount will be one-twelfth of the annual bill as estimated by PG&E, based on the customer's most recent twelve months history of use, or, if that is not available, the usage pattern of comparable customers similarly situated.

(D)

6. BPP amounts will be reviewed three times a year or at other times due to a rate change, and adjusted if required to reduce the likelihood of a large imbalance between actual charges and BPP charges. Customers will be notified of any change in the BPP amount by bill message.
7. Participants will be removed from the plan if a bill containing a prior unpaid BPP amount becomes delinquent as defined in Rule 11.

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RULE 9—RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS  
(Continued)

(L)

H. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

If a check, tendered in payment of amounts owing PG&E, is not honored by a bank and is returned to PG&E unpaid, PG&E will add to the customer's bill a charge of \$6.00 for processing each such returned check. Where service is subject to discontinuance under Rule 11, the returned check charge shall be included in the total amount due and payable.

I. FIELD COLLECTION CHARGE

PG&E may require payment of a Field Collection Charge of \$10.00 when an authorized PG&E representative makes a field call to a customer's premises to discontinue gas service in accordance with Rule 11 for nonpayment of a past due billing for service. PG&E may also require payment of the \$10.00 Field Collection Charge when an authorized PG&E representative makes a field call to discontinue gas service for nonpayment of a credit deposit that was requested in accordance with Rule 6.

Where service is discontinued the Provisions of gas Rule 11, the field collection charge will be included in the total amount due and payable.

If, at the time the authorized PG&E representative makes the field call to the customer's premises, the customer makes payment in full or makes acceptable payment arrangements in order to avoid discontinuance of service, PG&E may still require payment of the \$10.00 Field Collection Charge.

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