

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



June 18, 2012

Advice Letters 3246-G-A

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: Compliance Modifications to the Core Procurement
Incentive Mechanism**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3246-G-A is effective November 1, 2011.

Sincerely,

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

Edward F. Randolph, Director
Energy Division

May 2, 2012

Advice 3246-G-A

(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Supplemental Advice Letter - Compliance Modifications to the Core Procurement Incentive Mechanism

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits for filing this supplemental advice letter requesting conforming revisions to its Core Procurement Incentive Mechanism (CPIM) to integrate the Ruby Pipeline (Ruby) and Rocky Mountain supplies, and a separate revision to eliminate the Silverado Path from the Benchmark Sequence, as previously authorized by the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission). This supplemental advice letter supersedes in its entirety PG&E's initial Advice Letter 3246-G, by revising Modification No. 10 below, to reflect a two-month commodity benchmark transition, in which index prices published two months prior to gas flow are used to set the gas source sequence. PG&E and the Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA), who protested the original Advice Letter, have agreed to the terms detailed in this supplemental advice letter. DRA has authorized PG&E to inform the Commission that it withdraws its earlier protest to Advice Letter 3246-G, and fully supports the modifications stated below.

Background

In Decision (D.) 08-11-032, the Commission authorized PG&E's firm transportation arrangement with Ruby Pipeline for the Core portfolio, and adopted "conforming revisions" described below that established specific parameters by which the CPIM benchmark and actual costs are to be modified to reflect the costs of Ruby transportation and access to Rocky Mountain natural gas supplies.¹ In approving PG&E's proposed CPIM revisions, the Commission noted that there was no opposition by other parties. Further, the Commission noted that DRA was the only party to respond to PG&E's proposed modifications, and "DRA supports PG&E's proposal." Finally, the Commission noted that "All remaining commodity sequencing is unchanged," and that "all other aspects of CPIM would remain unchanged." Accordingly, this Advice Letter only proposes to implement the conforming revisions adopted in D.08-11-032.

¹ Decision 08-11-032, pages 46-48, Findings of Fact 11, Conclusion of Law 7, and Ordering Paragraph 3.xi.

In a separate matter, this Advice Letter formalizes the Commission's adoption and approval of the Settlement Agreement in PG&E's Application (A.) 09-09-013 (Gas Accord V) in D.11-04-031, authorizing elimination of Core's allocation of annual firm PG&E Silverado Path pipeline capacity (Schedule G-AFT) from the CPIM sequence.²

The resulting modifications are fully described below.

Specific CPIM Modifications Adopted by the Commission

Elimination of the Silverado Path from the benchmark will occur retroactively effective May 1, 2011, in conjunction with Gas Accord V implementation. The specific modifications are:

1. The PG&E Core allocation of 1.0 thousand decatherms per day (MDth/day) of Silverado Path PG&E Pipeline capacity (Schedule G-AFT) is eliminated from the benchmark;
2. California – sourced gas supplies (which utilized the Core's former capacity assignment on the Silverado Path) will be eliminated from the purchasing sequence.

The remaining conforming modifications integrating Ruby will be implemented on November 1, 2011, in conjunction with the start date of PG&E's Ruby contract for the core portfolio, as approved in D.08-11-032:

3. The CPIM Benchmark will be adjusted to reflect a reduction of 250 MDth/day of pipeline capacity from Canada (Gas Transmission Northwest capacity and the associated upstream amounts on Foothills Pipeline and Nova Gas Transmission, Ltd.), and the addition of 250 MDth/day of capacity via Ruby Pipeline to the Rocky Mountain supply area;
4. The CPIM Benchmark will include a dollar amount equal to the actual firm transportation rates that PG&E pays under the Ruby Pipeline Precedent Agreement, which will be \$0.68/Dth or less, plus all tariff charges for fuel and L&U gas, and any FERC approved surcharges, to the extent allowed pursuant to Section 3(b) of the Precedent Agreement;³

² As proposed in PG&E's Prepared Testimony, A.09-09-013, Chapter 12, Section B.2, and evidenced by absence of a Silverado capacity assignment in D.11-04-031, Appendix A, Table A-1.

³ Section 3(b) of the Precedent Agreement states that PG&E's Core Gas Supply will pay an Anchor Shipper Negotiated Monthly Reservation Rate, that is the lower of (A) a rate equivalent to \$0.68/Dth or (B) a rate that is five percent (5%) lower than the initial recourse reservation rate approved by FERC as set forth in the Ruby Pipeline tariff, for service from Opal, Wyoming, to Malin, Oregon or (C) any lower rate paid by similarly situated shippers.

5. Ruby Pipeline capacity will be treated the same as all other firm interstate transmission capacity held for the Core portfolio under the current CPIM mechanism;
6. Any revenue resulting from the temporary release of Ruby Pipeline capacity will be credited against actual pipeline costs;
7. The CPIM Commodity Benchmark will include the “Rocky Mountain, Northwest Pipeline Corp.” monthly index as published in Platt’s Inside FERC’s Gas Market Report, to reflect Rocky Mountain purchases delivered into the Ruby Pipeline;
8. In the future PG&E and DRA may substitute another published Rocky Mountain price index if the parties determine and agree that an alternative index for deliveries into the Ruby Pipeline is more appropriate;
9. The current two 100 MDth/day firm annual supply blocks will be replaced by three Annual Firm Supply Blocks of 75 MDth/day each from the Rocky Mountain Supply Area, the AECO “C” Hub in Alberta, and the San Juan Basin and will be deemed to be the first flowing gas sequenced on any given day;
10. All remaining supplies will be sequenced on a least cost basis, determined by monthly gas price indices from the AECO “C” Hub in Alberta, the Rocky Mountain Supply Area, and the San Juan Basin:
 - a. The sequence will utilize a two-month transition to accommodate price changes between supply areas;
 - b. The two-month transition from each supply area creates a six (6) segment purchasing sequence, which is set just after the first of the month prior to the gas flow month (“one month lag”);⁴
 - c. The sequence may vary from month-to-month, depending on actual price relationships between the supply areas as determined by published price indices used in constructing the CPIM sequence; and
 - d. The resulting details of the purchasing sequence will be reported, along with other pertinent CPIM information, in the Cumulative Monthly CPIM Reports and PG&E’s Annual CPIM Performance Reports, provided to DRA and the Energy Division on a confidential basis.

All remaining commodity sequencing is unchanged.

⁴ This “one month lag” is consistent with how the segment purchasing sequence has been set in prior years.

Protests

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by sending a letter to the address below by **May 22, 2012**, which is twenty (20) days from the date of this filing.

Protests should be mailed to:

CPUC Energy Division
Tariff Files, Room 4005
DMS Branch
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:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Attention: Brian Cherry
Vice President, Regulation and Rates
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177

Facsimile: (415) 973-6520
E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

Effective Date

PG&E requests approval of this Tier 2 filing by the Commission by **June 1, 2012**, which is 30 days after the date of filing, with an **effective date of November 1, 2011**, corresponding to the beginning of PG&E's CPIM Year 19. For the elimination of the Silverado Path from the benchmark, PG&E requests an **effective date of May 1, 2011**, corresponding to the Gas Accord V implementation.

This filing will not affect any other rate or charge, cause the withdrawal of service, or conflict with any other rate schedule or rule.

Notice

In accordance with General Order 96-B, Section IV, a copy of this advice letter is being sent electronically and via U.S. mail to parties shown on the attached list and the service list for A.09-09-013. Address changes to the General Order 96-B service list should be directed to email PGETariffs@pge.com. For changes to any other service list, please contact the Commission's Process Office at (415) 703-2021 or at Process_Office@cpuc.ca.gov. Send all electronic approvals to 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". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the typed name and title.

Vice President, Regulation and Rates

cc: Richard A. Myers - Energy Division
Franz Cheng - Energy Division
Belinda Gatti - Energy Division
Jonathon Bromson - Legal Division
R. Mark Pocta - Division of Ratepayer Advocates
David Peck - Division of Ratepayer Advocates
Pearlie Sabino - Division of Ratepayer Advocates
Marcel Hawiger - The Utility Reform Network
Service list for A.09-09-013

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 G)**

Utility type:

ELC GAS
 PLC HEAT WATER

Contact Person: Greg Backens

Phone #: 415-973-4390

E-mail: gab4@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) #: **3246-G-A**

Tier: 2

Subject of AL: **Supplemental Advice Letter - Compliance Modifications to the Core Procurement Incentive Mechanism**

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): Core

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: 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: Requested approval by **June 1, 2012**, with an **effective date of November 1, 2011**. For the elimination of the Silverado Path from the benchmark, PG&E requests an **effective date of May 1, 2011** 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:

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

EDTariffUnit@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

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

AT&T	Dept of General Services	North Coast SolarResources
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
Casner, Steve	MAC Lighting Consulting	Sunrun Inc.
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
Department of Water Resources	North America Power Partners	