

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 12, 2013

**Advice Letter 4180-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 GO 131-D, for the Construction of Quinto Solar Interconnection and Switching Station Project in the County of Merced: Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring in the Counties of Merced and Stanislaus**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 4180-E is effective as of February 16, 2013.

Sincerely,

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

Edward F. 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

January 17, 2013

**Advice 4180-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 Quinto Solar Interconnection and Switching Station Project in the County of Merced; Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring in the Counties of Merced and 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 or Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity.

**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 connect California's electric power grid to electricity generated from the SunPower Corporation's Quinto Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility, to be located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Santa Nella just south of McCabe Road on the west side of Interstate 5, PG&E is proposing to reconductor, or replace the wires on, approximately 36 miles of the existing Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Transmission Line (placing of new conductors), and relocate approximately 1000 feet of the line (minor relocation of existing power line facilities) to connect it to the new Quinto Switching Station, an approximately four-acre, 230 kV switching station located adjacent to Quinto's solar facility on McCabe Road. The new switching station will be constructed and owned by PG&E (larger-project CEQA). The existing Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Transmission Line is located in an existing easement that extends north from Los Banos Substation (located near the intersection of State Routes 152 and 33) to a PG&E tower supporting a 230 kV transmission line owned by Turlock Irrigation

and Modesto Irrigation Districts located approximately 2.5 miles south of the intersection of Ingram Creek Road and Interstate 5 (existing easement). Approximately 95 of the 151 towers (approximately 100-160 feet tall) will be raised approximately 16.5 to 22 feet in height by installing extensions on the existing structures in order to maintain the required safe conductor distance above ground. PG&E proposes to install approximately 4 temporary wood poles approximately 85 feet in height in the existing transmission line alignment at approximately 0.2 mile north of Orestimba Road in order to serve as a supporting junction during construction. The relocated line segment connecting into Quinto Switching Station will be supported by approximately 3 new towers and one relocated tower, all approximately 110 feet tall. Helicopter construction may be used on portions of this project. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in April 2013, or as soon thereafter as possible, and is scheduled for completion in April 2015, or as soon thereafter as possible.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection A and 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):

III.A: The minor relocation of existing power line facilities.

III.A: The placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built.

III.B.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 Merced certified an EIR for the Quinto Solar PV Project on November 6, 2012 (State Clearinghouse #2010121039), which concluded there would be no significant unavoidable environmental impacts as a result of the PG&E interconnection facilities.

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 6, 2013**, 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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
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

Brian K. Cherry  
Vice President, 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 **February 16, 2013**, 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 / IG in black ink.

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: Igor Grinberg

Phone #: 415-973-8580

E-mail: ixg8@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) #: **4180-E**

Tier: N/A

Subject of AL: **Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Quinto Solar Interconnection and Switching Station Project in the County of Merced; Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring in the Counties of Merced and Stanislaus**

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 #: 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: N/A

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: N/A

Resolution Required?  Yes  No

Requested effective date: **February 16, 2013**

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

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:

Director, Energy Division  
California Public Utilities Commission  
505 Van Ness Avenue, Fourth Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

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

**PROJECT NAME:** Quinto Solar Interconnection and Switching Station Project (Merced County); Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Transmission Line Reconductoring Project – (Merced and Stanislaus Counties)

**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER:** 4180-E

**Proposed Project:** In order to connect California's electric power grid to electricity generated from the SunPower Corporation's Quinto Solar Photovoltaic (PV) facility, to be located approximately 1.5 miles northwest of the unincorporated community of Santa Nella just south of McCabe Road on the west side of Interstate 5, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to reductor, or replace the wires on, approximately 36 miles of the existing Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Transmission Line (placing of new conductors), and relocate approximately 1000 feet of the line (minor relocation of existing power line facilities) to connect it to the new Quinto Switching Station, an approximately four-acre, 230 kV switching station located adjacent to Quinto's solar facility on McCabe Road. The new switching station will be constructed and owned by PG&E (larger-project CEQA). The existing Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Transmission Line is located in an existing easement that extends north from Los Banos Substation (located near the intersection of State Routes 152 and 33) to a PG&E tower supporting a 230 kV transmission line owned by Turlock Irrigation and Modesto Irrigation Districts located approximately 2.5 miles south of the intersection of Ingram Creek Road and Interstate 5 (existing easement). Approximately 95 of the 151 towers (approximately 100-160 feet tall) will be raised approximately 16.5 to 22 feet in height by installing extensions on the existing structures in order to maintain the required safe conductor distance above ground. PG&E proposes to install approximately 4 temporary wood poles approximately 85 feet in height in the existing transmission line alignment at approximately 0.2 mile north of Orestimba Road in order to serve as a supporting junction during construction. The relocated line segment connecting into Quinto Switching Station will be supported by approximately 3 new towers and one relocated tower, all approximately 110 feet tall. Helicopter construction may be used on portions of this project. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in April 2013, or as soon thereafter as possible, and is scheduled for completion in April 2015, or as soon thereafter as possible.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III.A (reconductoring, minor relocation) and III.B.1 (switching station) 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):

III.A: The minor relocation of existing power line facilities.

III.A: The placing of new or additional conductors, insulators, or their accessories on or replacement of supporting structures already built.

III.B.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 Merced certified an EIR for the Quinto Solar PV Project on November 6, 2012 (State Clearinghouse #2010121039), which concluded there would be no significant unavoidable environmental impacts as a result of the PG&E interconnection facilities.

**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 6, 2013 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](mailto: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 \(415\) 973-553](#)



## **Notice Distribution List**

Los Banos-Westley 230 kV Power Line Reconductoring Project – (Merced and Stanislaus Counties)

### **Advice 4180-E**

#### **Energy Commission**

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

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

#### **California Department of Fish and Game**

Sarah Bahm  
Environmental Scientist  
California Department of Fish and Game, Central Region  
1234 E. Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710

#### **County of Merced**

Alan Weaver, Director  
Public Works and Planning  
2220 Tulare Street, 6<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

#### **County of Stanislaus**

Angela Freitas, Planning Director  
Planning and Community Development  
1010 10<sup>th</sup> Street  
Suite 3400, 3<sup>rd</sup> Floor  
Modesto, CA 95354

#### **Newspaper**

Merced Sun-Star

The Patterson Irrigator

**PG&E Gas and Electric  
Advice Filing List**

1st Light Energy	Department of General Services	North America Power Partners
AT&T	Department of Water Resources	North Coast SolarResources
Alcantar & Kahl LLP	Dept of General Services	Northern California Power Association
Ameresco	Douglass & Liddell	Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc.
Anderson & Poole	Downey & Brand	OnGrid Solar
BART	Duke Energy	PG&E
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.	SCD Energy Solutions
Boston Properties	GLJ Publications	SCE
Braun Blaising McLaughlin, P.C.	GenOn Energy Inc.	SMUD
Brookfield Renewable Power	GenOn Energy, Inc.	SPURR
CA Bldg Industry Association	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
CENERGY POWER	Green Power Institute	Seattle City Light
CLECA Law Office	Hanna & Morton	Sempra Utilities
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn	Hitachi	Sierra Pacific Power Company
California Energy Commission	In House Energy	Silicon Valley Power
California League of Food Processors	International Power Technology	Silo Energy LLC
California Public Utilities Commission	Intestate Gas Services, Inc.	Southern California Edison Company
Calpine	Lawrence Berkeley National Lab	Spark Energy, L.P.
Cardinal Cogen	Los Angeles County Office of Education	Sun Light & Power
Casner, Steve	Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power	Sunrun Inc.
Center for Biological Diversity	MAC Lighting Consulting	Sunshine Design
Chris, King	MRW & Associates	Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan
City of Palo Alto	Manatt Phelps Phillips	Tecogen, Inc.
City of Palo Alto Utilities	Marin Energy Authority	Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
City of San Jose	McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP	TransCanada
City of Santa Rosa	McKenzie & Associates	Turlock Irrigation District
Clean Energy Fuels	Merced Irrigation District	United Cogen
Clean Power	Modesto Irrigation District	Utility Cost Management
Coast Economic Consulting	Morgan Stanley	Utility Specialists
Commercial Energy	Morrison & Foerster	Verizon
Consumer Federation of California	Morrison & Foerster LLP	Wellhead Electric Company
Crossborder Energy	NLine Energy, Inc.	Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA)
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	NRG West	eMeter Corporation
Day Carter Murphy	NaturEner	
Defense Energy Support Center	Norris & Wong Associates	