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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Continue Implementation and Administration of California Renewables Portfolio Standard Program.

Rulemaking 08-08-009
(Filed August 21, 2008)

**ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING
ACCEPTING 2011 TRANSMISSION RANKING COST REPORTS**

This ruling accepts the 2011 Transmission Ranking Cost Reports (TRCRs).¹

Background

Transmission costs are considered in the least-cost, best-fit ranking of certain project bids. These are bids submitted by prospective sellers as part of competitive solicitations undertaken pursuant to the California Renewables Portfolio Standard (RPS) Program for electricity to be generated from eligible renewable resources. (Pub. Util. Code § 399.11 et seq.) Decision (D.) 04-06-013 adopted a methodology for the development and consideration of transmission costs for this purpose. D.05-07-040 modified the transmission cost methodology in part.

The Commission directed that the assigned Commissioner assess TRCRs based on comments and reply comments, and determine whether each TRCR

¹ The TRCRs are referred to herein as 2011 TRCRs (even though originally filed in 2010) since the solicitation will occur in 2011.

should be accepted, modified, or other steps taken before a TRCR is used in the ranking of bids in the next RPS solicitation. (D.09-06-018, Ordering Paragraph 6.) A schedule for the filing of draft TRCRs, along with comments and reply comments, was adopted. (See November 2, 2009 Amended Scoping Memo.) Draft TRCRs were filed on January 20, 2010, with comments due February 10, 2010, and reply comments due February 17, 2010.

Discussion

No party filed comments on the draft TRCRs. No party recommended rejection of a TRCR. No reasons are known to modify or reject any TRCR.

The RPS statute provides that the Commission review and accept, modify or reject each electrical corporation's renewable energy procurement plan prior to the commencement of renewable energy procurement. (Pub. Util. Code § 399.14(c).) The Commission generally provides each electrical corporation considerable flexibility in how it satisfies RPS program goals, subject to limited and specific Commission-directed program requirements and guidance. Each electrical corporation must then reach program targets (within flexible compliance provisions) or face the possibility of penalties. (See D.09-06-018 at 9-10 and 53-54.) In this context, each TRCR, as part of each utility's current RPS Procurement Plan, should be accepted.

IT IS RULED that the Transmission Ranking Cost Reports filed on January 20, 2010 by Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company are accepted for use in the next Renewables Portfolio Standard competitive procurement.

Dated February 9, 2011, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MICHAEL R. PEEVEY

Michael R. Peevey
Assigned Commissioner

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Dated February 9, 2011, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JEANNIE CHANG
Jeannie Chang

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