

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 12, 2009

**Advice Letter 3395-E**

Brian K. Cherry  
Vice President, Regulatory Relations  
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 General Order  
131-D, for the Wasco Area Power Line Pole Replacement  
Project – County of Kern**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3395-E is effective February 5, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie A. Fitch".

Julie A. Fitch, 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 6, 2009

**Advice 3395-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 Wasco Area Power Line Pole Replacement Project - County of Kern**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (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**

In order to accommodate the replacement of 12 Kilovolt (12kV) distribution wires attached to poles below the (a) McFarland Tap 70 Kilovolt (70kV) Power Line; (b) Semitropic-Famoso 70kV Power Line and (c) Semitropic-Famoso 115kV Power Line in the County of Kern, the Company will be replacing approximately 59 wood poles with approximately 58 new wood poles and 1 new steel pole (replacement of existing facilities) in the rural agricultural area located east of the City of Wasco in Kern County. There will be no increase in the capacity of the power lines. The Company proposes to (a) replace 30 existing wood poles in the McFarland Tap 70kV Power Line starting approximately 340 feet northerly of the intersection of Highway 46 (Hwy 46) and Smith Road and extending northerly on the westerly side of Smith Road (existing franchise) for approximately 2 miles; (b) replace 19 existing wood poles in the Semitropic-Famoso 70kV Power Line starting at the intersection of Hwy 46 and Smith Road and extending easterly on the northerly side of Hwy 46 (existing franchise) for approximately 1.4 miles and (c) replace 10 existing wood poles in the Semitropic-Famoso 115kV Power Line with 9 new wood poles and 1 new steel pole (private utility easement) starting at the existing power pole located approximately 2,600 feet northerly of Hwy 46 and approximately 450 feet easterly of Root Road and extending westerly for approximately 4,000 feet to the existing PG&E Charca Substation. In order to maintain legal ground clearances,

all of the existing wood poles will increase approximately 5 to 10 feet in height (most existing poles are approximately 55 to 65 feet tall). In order to provide for the framing of a new power line switch and maintain legal ground clearances, the most westerly power pole (65 feet tall) on the Semitropic-Famoso 115kV Power Line, located just north of the PG&E substation, will be replaced with a new steel pole (approximately 15-foot increase in height). Work is scheduled to begin in February 2009, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by May 2009, or as soon thereafter as possible.

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 exemptions:

- b) The replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures.
- g) Power line facilities or substations to be located in an existing franchise road-widening setback easement, or public utility easement; or in a utility corridor designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies for which a final Negative Declaration or EIR finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts.

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 **January 26, 2009**, which is 20 days after the date of this filing. Protests should be mailed to the following address:

CPUC Energy Division  
Tariff Files, Room 4005  
DMS Branch  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, California 94102

Facsimile: (415) 703-2200  
E-Mail: [jjn@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jjn@cpuc.ca.gov) and [mas@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:mas@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 the Company 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 5, 2009**, 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**

In accordance with G.O. 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, 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. Address changes to the General Order 96-B service list should be directed to Rose de la Torre at (415) 973-4716. 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 / mt".

Vice President - Regulatory Relations

Attachments

cc: Parties Listed in G.O. 131-D, Paragraphs B.1 and B.2

# 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 M)**

Utility type:

ELC       GAS  
 PLC       HEAT       WATER

Contact Person: Linda Tom-Martinez

Phone #: (415) 973-4612

E-mail: lmt1@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) #: **3395-E**

Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: Wasco Area Power Line Pole Replacement Project (County of Kern)

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<sup>1</sup>: \_\_\_\_\_

Is AL requesting confidential treatment? If so, what information is the utility seeking confidential treatment for:

Confidential information will be made available to those who have executed a nondisclosure agreement:  Yes  No

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: **February 5, 2009**

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<sup>1</sup>: N/A

Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: 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:

**CPUC, Energy Division**  
**Tariff Files, Room 4005**  
**DMS Branch**  
**505 Van Ness Ave.,**  
**San Francisco, CA 94102**  
**jnj@cpuc.ca.gov and mas@cpuc.ca.gov**

**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: Wasco Area Power Line Pole Replacement Project, County of Kern**  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3395-E**

**Proposed Project:** In order to accommodate the replacement of 12 Kilovolt (12kV) distribution wires attached to poles below the (a) McFarland Tap 70 Kilovolt (70kV) Power Line; (b) Semitropic-Famoso 70kV Power Line and (c) Semitropic-Famoso 115kV Power Line in the County of Kern, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) will be replacing approximately 59 wood poles with approximately 58 new wood poles and 1 new steel pole (replacement of existing facilities) in the rural agricultural area located east of the City of Wasco in Kern County. There will be no increase in the capacity of the power lines. PG&E proposes to (a) replace 30 existing wood poles in the McFarland Tap 70kV Power Line starting approximately 340 feet northerly of the intersection of Highway 46 (Hwy 46) and Smith Road and extending northerly on the westerly side of Smith Road (existing franchise) for approximately 2 miles; (b) replace 19 existing wood poles in the Semitropic-Famoso 70kV Power Line starting at the intersection of Hwy 46 and Smith Road and extending easterly on the northerly side of Hwy 46 (existing franchise) for approximately 1.4 miles and (c) replace 10 existing wood poles in the Semitropic-Famoso 115kV Power Line with 9 new wood poles and 1 new steel pole (private utility easement) starting at the existing power pole located approximately 2,600 feet northerly of Hwy 46 and approximately 450 feet easterly of Root Road and extending westerly for approximately 4,000 feet to the existing PG&E Charca Substation. In order to maintain legal ground clearances, all of the existing wood poles will increase approximately 5 to 10 feet in height (most existing poles are approximately 55 to 65 feet tall). In order to provide for the framing of a new power line switch and maintain legal ground clearances, the most westerly power pole (65 feet tall) on the Semitropic-Famoso 115kV Power Line, located just north of the PG&E substation, will be replaced with a new steel pole (approximately 15-foot increase in height). Work is scheduled to begin in February 2009, or as soon thereafter as possible, and will be completed by May 2009, or as soon thereafter as possible.

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

- b) The replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures.
- g) Power line facilities or substations to be located in an existing franchise road-widening setback easement, or public utility easement; or in a utility corridor designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies for which a final Negative Declaration or EIR finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts.

**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 January 26, 2009, 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) 973-5530.

## **Notice Distribution List**

### **McFarland Tap 70kV – Distribution Reconductor Project County of Kern**

Advice 3395-E

#### **Energy Commission**

Melissa Jones, Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39  
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Terry O'Brien, Deputy Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39  
Sacramento, California 95814

#### **County of Kern**

Planning Department  
Mr. Ted James, AICP, Director  
Public Services Building  
2700 "M" Street., Suite 100  
Bakersfield, CA 93301-2370

#### **Newspaper**

The Bakersfield Californian

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

Aglet	Department of the Army	Northern California Power Association
Agnews Developmental Center	Dept of General Services	Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc.
Alcantar & Kahl	Division of Business Advisory Services	OnGrid Solar
Ancillary Services Coalition	Douglas & Liddell	PPL EnergyPlus, LLC
Anderson & Poole	Douglass & Liddell	Pinnacle CNG Company
Arizona Public Service Company	Downey & Brand	Praxair
BART	Duke Energy	R. W. Beck & Associates
BP Energy Company	Duncan, Virgil E.	RCS, Inc.
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	Dutcher, John	RMC Lonestar
Bartle Wells Associates	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	Recon Research
Blue Ridge Gas	Energy Management Services, LLC	SCD Energy Solutions
Braun & Associates	FPL Energy Project Management, Inc.	SCE
C & H Sugar Co.	Foster Farms	SESCO
CA Bldg Industry Association	Foster, Wheeler, Martinez	SMUD
CAISO	Franciscan Mobilehome	SPURR
CLECA Law Office	G. A. Krause & Assoc.	Santa Fe Jets
CSC Energy Services	GLJ Publications	Seattle City Light
	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	Sempra Utilities
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn	Green Power Institute	Sequoia Union HS Dist
California Energy Commission	Hanna & Morton	Sierra Pacific Power Company
California League of Food Processors	Heeg, Peggy A.	Silicon Valley Power
California Public Utilities Commission	Hitachi	Smurfit Stone Container Corp
Calpine	Hogan Manufacturing, Inc.	Southern California Edison Company
Cameron McKenna	Imperial Irrigation District	St. Paul Assoc.
Cardinal Cogen	Innercite	Sunshine Design
Casner, Steve	International Power Technology	Sutherland, Asbill & Brennan
Cerox	Intestate Gas Services, Inc.	TFS Energy
Chamberlain, Eric	J. R. Wood, Inc.	Tabors Caramanis & Associates
Chevron Company	JTM, Inc.	Tecogen, Inc.
Chris, King	Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power	Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
City of Glendale	Luce, Forward, Hamilton & Scripps LLP	Tioga Energy
City of Palo Alto	MBMC, Inc.	TransCanada
City of San Jose	MRW & Associates	Turlock Irrigation District
Clean Energy Fuels	Manatt Phelps Phillips	U S Borax, Inc.
Coast Economic Consulting	Matthew V. Brady & Associates	United Cogen
Commerce Energy	McKenzie & Associates	Utility Cost Management
Commercial Energy	Meek, Daniel W.	Utility Resource Network
Constellation	Merced Irrigation District	Utility Specialists
Constellation New Energy	Mirant	Vandenberg Air Force
Consumer Federation of California	Modesto Irrigation District	Verizon
Crossborder Energy	Morgan Stanley	Wellhead Electric Company
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Morrison & Foerster	Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA)
		White & Case
Day Carter Murphy	New United Motor Mfg., Inc.	eMeter Corporation
Defense Energy Support Center	Norris & Wong Associates	
Department of Water Resources	North Coast SolarResources	