July 6, 2009

Advice Letter 3462-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 Construction of Paradise-Butte 115 kV Wildfire Reliability Project, County of Butte

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 3462-E is effective June 26, 2009.

Sincerely,

Julie A. Fitch, Director
Energy Division
May 27, 2009

Advice 3462-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 Paradise-Butte 115kV Wildfire Reliability Project, County of Butte

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 provide reliable transmission service and to reduce the risk of outages in its service area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to replace existing wood poles with light-duty, self-weathering steel poles (replacement of existing facilities) along approximately 2.8 miles of its existing Paradise-Butte 115kV power line (existing easement) in Butte County. The project is located between Paradise and Chico, to the south of the Skyway. This segment of power line is located in rural woodland habitat that has been historically plagued by wildfires and most recently was decimated by the 2008 Humboldt Fire that threatened the community of Paradise. Existing wires (conductor) will also be replaced with conductor meeting current standards and to eliminate splice weaknesses (resulting from past wildfire outages) in the existing conductor along this section. Approximately 34 wood poles will be replaced by light-duty steel poles; of these, 32 will be approximately 5-10 feet taller than existing and 2 will be up to 20 feet taller than existing to provide required line clearance over roadways, other power lines, and ground/vegetation along the pole line. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2009, or as soon as possible thereafter, with work expected
to be completed by December 2009, or as soon as possible after project initiation.

CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1.b and g 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):

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 **June 16, 2009**, at 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: jnj@cpuc.ca.gov and mas@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:
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 **June 26, 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 change requests 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/tariffs.

Vice President, Regulatory Relations

Attachments

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

Advice Letter (AL) #: **3462-E**  
Tier: **N/A**

Subject of AL: **Paradise-Butte 115kv Wildfire Reliability Project (County of Butte)**

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: ________________

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: **June 26, 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: **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**  
**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**  
**jnj@cpuc.ca.gov and mas@cpuc.ca.gov**
NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

PROJECT NAME: PARADISE-BUTTE 115kV WILDFIRE RELIABILITY PROJECT, COUNTY OF BUTTE
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 3462-E

Proposed Project: In order to provide reliable transmission service and to reduce the risk of outages in its service area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes to replace existing wood poles with light-duty, self-weathering steel poles (replacement of existing facilities) along approximately 2.8 miles of its existing Paradise-Butte 115kV power line (existing easement) in Butte County. The project is located between Paradise and Chico, to the south of the Skyway. This segment of power line is located in rural woodland habitat that has been historically plagued by wildfires and most recently was decimated by the 2008 Humboldt Fire that threatened the community of Paradise. Existing wires (conductor) will also be replaced with conductor meeting current standards and to eliminate splice weaknesses (resulting from past wildfire outages) in the existing conductor along this section. Approximately 34 wood poles will be replaced by light-duty steel poles; of these, 32 will be approximately 5-10 feet taller than existing and 2 will be up to 20 feet taller than existing to provide required line clearance over roadways, other power lines, and ground/vegetation along the pole line. Construction is scheduled to begin in July 2009, or as soon as possible thereafter, with work expected to be completed by December 2009, or as soon as possible after project initiation.

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 exemption(s):

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 June 16, 2009, at the following address:

CPUC Energy Division
Attn: Tariff Unit, 4th Floor
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue
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.

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

PARADISE-BUTTE 115kV WILDFIRE RELIABILITY PROJECT
COUNTY OF BUTTE
Advice 3462-E

Energy Commission

Ms. 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 Butte

Charles Thistlethwaite
Planning Division Manager
7 County Center Drive
Oroville, CA 95965
(530) 538-7601

Newspaper

Chico Enterprise-Record
400 E. Park Ave.
Chico, CA 95928
Phone: 530-891-1234
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<th>Company/Association</th>
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<td>Division of Business Advisory Services</td>
<td>OnGrid Solar</td>
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<td>PPL EnergyPlus, LLC</td>
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<td>CA Bldg Industry Association</td>
<td>Franciscan Mobilehome</td>
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<td>G. A. Krause &amp; Assoc.</td>
<td>Santa Fe Jet</td>
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<td>GLJ Publications</td>
<td>Seattle City Light</td>
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<td>CSC Energy Services</td>
<td>Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz &amp; Ritchie</td>
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<td>Green Power Institute</td>
<td>Sequoia Union HS Dist</td>
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<td>Hanna &amp; Morton</td>
<td>Sierra Pacific Power Company</td>
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<td>MRW &amp; Associates</td>
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<td>Manatt Phelps Phillips</td>
<td>U S Borax, Inc.</td>
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<td>Matthew V. Brady &amp; Associates</td>
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<td>Wellhead Electric Company</td>
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<td>Morrison &amp; Foerster</td>
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<td>Communities Association (WMA)</td>
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<td>Norris &amp; Wong Associates</td>
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