

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 25, 2014

**Advice Letters 4350-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: Notice of Construction, Pursuant to GO 131-D, for the Construction of Mendota Substation Expansion for the North Star Solar Project Interconnection in the County of Fresno**

Dear Mr. Cherry:

Advice Letter 4350-E is effective February 23<sup>rd</sup>, 2014.

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 24, 2014

**Advice 4350-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 Mendota Substation Expansion for the North Star Solar Project Interconnection in the County of Fresno**

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.

**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**

First Solar has requested Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to expand its existing Mendota Substation, in order to accommodate First Solar's planned North Star Solar Generation Facility. The Mendota Substation is located at the northeast corner of California Avenue and Washoe Avenue. PG&E's substation will be expanded by approximately 14½ acres to the north and east of the existing substation to accommodate a new 115 kV switching station. PG&E will install switching station equipment, two small buildings, and an approximately 120-foot-tall microwave tower. To interconnect the switching station with First Solar's facility, PG&E will remove four approximately 50- to 70-foot-tall tubular steel poles and one approximately 70-foot-tall lattice steel tower. Additionally PG&E will install up to 12 new tubular steel poles, ranging from 50 to 110 feet in height, to expand the substation. PG&E will reroute approximately 600 feet of the Dairyland-Mendota 115 kV Power Line (minor relocation), which currently extends along California Avenue. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in March 2014, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place.

Construction is tentatively scheduled to be completed in August 2015, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

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 exemption(s):

- c. the minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures.
- 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 Fresno adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the North Star Solar, LLC Project on November 14, 2013 (State Clearinghouse #2013101043), finding no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed 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 13, 2014, 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](mailto: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**

PG&E requests that this advice filing become effective on regular notice, February 23, 2014, which is 30 calendar 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. 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

# 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 and PGETariffs@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) #: **4350-E**

Tier: N/A

Subject of AL: **Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Mendota Substation Expansion for the North Star Solar Project Interconnection in the County of Fresno**

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 23, 2014**

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

E-mail: EDTariffUnit@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: MENDOTA SUBSTATION EXPANSION for the NORTH STAR SOLAR PROJECT INTERCONNECTION - (Fresno County, P. No. 04115)**  
**ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 4350-E**

**Proposed Project:** First Solar has requested Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to expand its existing Mendota Substation, in order to accommodate First Solar's planned North Star Solar Generation Facility. The Mendota Substation is located at the northeast corner of California Avenue and Washoe Avenue. PG&E's substation will be expanded by approximately 14½ acres to the north and east of the existing substation to accommodate a new 115 kV switching station. PG&E will install switching station equipment, two small buildings, and an approximately 120-foot-tall microwave tower. To interconnect the switching station with First Solar's facility, PG&E will remove four approximately 50- to 70-foot-tall tubular steel poles and one approximately 70-foot-tall lattice steel tower. Additionally PG&E will install up to 12 new tubular steel poles, ranging from 50 to 110 feet in height, to expand the substation. PG&E will reroute approximately 600 feet of the Dairyland-Mendota 115 kV Power Line (minor relocation), which currently extends along California Avenue. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in March 2014, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is tentatively scheduled to be completed in August 2015, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, B.1, exempts a utility from the CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct if a project meets specific conditions. This project qualifies for the following exemptions:

- c. the minor relocation of existing power line facilities up to 2,000 feet in length, or the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures.
- 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 Fresno adopted a Mitigated Negative Declaration for the North Star Solar, LLC Project on November 14, 2013 (State Clearinghouse #2013101043), finding no significant unavoidable environmental impacts resulting from PG&E's proposed facilities.

**Additional Project Information:** To obtain further information on the proposed project, please call PG&E's Project Information Line at (415) 973-5530.

**Public Review Process:** Individuals or groups may protest the proposed construction if they believe that PG&E 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 13, 2014 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

PG&E 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 PG&E has submitted its response, the CPUC Executive Director 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:** If you need assistance in filing a protest, contact the CPUC Public Advisor:  
email: [public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov)  
call: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free), or (415) 703-2074, or TTY (415) 703-5258

**Public Comment:** Even if you do not want to file an official protest to the request, you may still comment on it. To do so, you should send your comments to the Energy Division at the address noted above. Please reference Advice Letter 4350-E.

## **Notice Distribution List**

MENDOTA SUBSTATION EXPANSION for the NORTH STAR SOLAR PROJECT  
INTERCONNECTION - (Fresno County)

### **Advice 4350-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 Wildlife**

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

#### **County of Fresno**

William Kettler  
Development Services Division Manager  
2220 Tulare Street, 6th floor  
Fresno, CA 93721

#### **Newspaper**

The Fresno Bee

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

1st Light Energy	Douglass & Liddell	OnGrid Solar
AT&T	Downey & Brand	Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Alcantar & Kahl LLP	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	Praxair
Anderson & Poole	G. A. Krause & Assoc.	Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc.
BART	GenOn Energy Inc.	SCD Energy Solutions
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	GenOn Energy, Inc.	SCE
Bartle Wells Associates	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	SDG&E and SoCalGas
Braun Blasing McLaughlin, P.C.	Green Power Institute	SPURR
CENERGY POWER	Hanna & Morton	San Francisco Public Utilities Commission
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn	In House Energy	Seattle City Light
California Energy Commission	International Power Technology	Sempra Utilities
California Public Utilities Commission	Intestate Gas Services, Inc.	SoCalGas
California State Association of Counties	K&L Gates LLP	Southern California Edison Company
Calpine	Kelly Group	Spark Energy
Casner, Steve	Linde	Sun Light & Power
Center for Biological Diversity	Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power	Sunshine Design
City of Palo Alto	MRW & Associates	Tecogen, Inc.
City of San Jose	Manatt Phelps Phillips	Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
Clean Power	Marin Energy Authority	TransCanada
Coast Economic Consulting	McKenna Long & Aldridge LLP	Utility Cost Management
Commercial Energy	McKenzie & Associates	Utility Power Solutions
County of Tehama - Department of Public Works	Modesto Irrigation District	Utility Specialists
Crossborder Energy	Morgan Stanley	Verizon
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	NLine Energy, Inc.	Water and Energy Consulting
Day Carter Murphy	NRG Solar	Wellhead Electric Company
Defense Energy Support Center	Nexant, Inc.	Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA)
Dept of General Services	North America Power Partners	
Division of Ratepayer Advocates	Occidental Energy Marketing, Inc.	