March 25, 2014

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 23rd, 2014.

Sincerely,

Edward F. Randolph, Director
Energy Division
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 interseting 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, 4th 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:
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
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
PLC = Pipeline
GAS = Gas
HEAT = Heat
WATER = Water

Advice Letter (AL) #: 4350-E
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: MENDEOTA 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 interseting 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
  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
INTERconnexion - (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
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