STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Edmund G. Brown Jr., *Governor*

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

September 11, 2014

Advice Letter 4420-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 of the South Kern Solar Project Power Line Interconnection – Request exemption from a Permit to Construct (PTC) under General Order (GO) 131-D

Dear Mr. Cherry:

PG&E requested approval to construct facilities pursuant to an exemption from a Permit to Construct (PTC) as required in GO 131-D to connect the existing Copus-Old River 70 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line to the solar project's substation. The substation is located in a remote agricultural area approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the intersection of Copus Road and Basic School Road in Kern County.

The Commission's General Order (GO) 131-D governs the planning and construction of electric generation, transmission/power/distribution line facilities and substations.

PG&E will replace one existing 50-foot-tall wood pole with a new 75-foot-tall tubular steel pole in an existing easement, and add two new tubular-steel poles on the existing pole line (existing easement, intersetting additional structures), 80- and 85-foot-tall respectively. The tallest pole will also support switches. PG&E will shorten two existing 50-foot-tall wood poles to support existing distribution wires.

General Order (GO) 131-D, Section III, Subsection B.1, exempts projects meeting specific conditions from CPUC's requirement to file an application requesting authority to construct.

PG&E 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.
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 (Environmental Impact Report) finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts.

This project will not increase rates or charges, cause the withdrawal of service, or conflict with any other rate schedule or rule PG&E's Advice Letter AL 4420-E was timely protested by Randell Parker, Kern County Advocates for Agriculture on June 2, 2014.

PG&E responded to the protest of Randell Parker, on June 13, 2014.

The protestant claims that: 1) the public has not reviewed the cumulative impacts of the past solar projects; 2) the interconnection project doesn't have its own EIR; 3) Kern County has not updated its Land Use and Circulation Elements which constitutes "unusual circumstances" and prevents PG&E from claiming these exemptions; 4) selling this solar project in a future public offering without proper environmental disclosures would damage public investors; and, 5) the solar project would diminish agricultural employment, degrade air quality, and cause urban decay.

Commission staff has reviewed the Advice Letter, protests, and PG&E's responses to the protests. PG&E applied for an exemption from the PTC for an interconnection project, rather than for an approval of the solar project. The issues raised in the protest are mainly related to the impacts of the solar project, not the minor interconnection work requested by PG&E. Moreover, the validity of the Kern County EIR is not relevant to applicability of GO 131-D, Sec.III.B.1.c or Sec.III.B.1.g (when the facilities in question are located in an existing franchise or easement).

This project falls within and qualifies for the exemption cited by PG&E in their Advice Letter 4420-E. None of the concerns raised by the protestant fits within the specific exceptions to the exemptions of GO 131-D, nor do the protestant's claims support a claim of misapplication of an exemption by PG&E. Therefore, the protest is denied for failure to state a valid reason.

According to General Order 96-B, Section 7.6.1,
Notwithstanding a timely protest, the reviewing Industry Division may approve an advice letter that is subject to disposition under this rule and is otherwise proper, if the protest either (1) is not made on proper grounds as set forth in General Rule 7.4.2, (2) may be rejected on a technical basis as discussed in this rule, or (3) is clearly erroneous.

Hence, PG&E's request to construct facilities pursuant to an exemption from a Permit to Construct is approved, effective August 29, 2014.

Sincerely,

Edward Randolph

Edward Randolph
Director, Energy Division

cc:ed: Randell Parker and Richard Harriman, Kern County Advocates for Agriculture

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

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

May 20, 2014

Advice 4420-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 South Kern Solar Project Power Line Interconnection - (Kern County, P. No. 07185)**

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

The developer of the South Kern Solar Project in Kern County has requested that PG&E connect the existing Copus-Old River 70 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line to the solar project's substation. The substation is located in a remote agricultural area approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the intersection of Copus Road and Basic School Road. To tap the power line into the customer-owned substation, PG&E will replace one existing 50-foot-tall wood pole with a new 75-foot-tall tubular-steel pole (existing easement) to meet current design standards and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) General Order 95 ground-to-conductor clearance requirements. PG&E will also add two new tubular-steel poles on the existing line (existing easement, intersetting additional structures), 80- and 85-foot-tall respectively. The tallest pole will also support switches. PG&E will shorten two existing 50-foot-tall wood poles to support existing distribution wires. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2014, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is scheduled to be complete in December 2014, 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."

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 [Environmental Impact Report] 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 9, 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:

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.

Public Comment

Individuals or groups who do not file an official protest may still submit a comment on the request to the Energy Division at the address noted above, reference Advice Letter 4420-E.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on June 19, 2014, 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

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/.

Brian Cherry /KHC

Vice President – Regulatory Relations

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

Attachments

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: Kingsley Cheng

Phone #: (415) 973-5265

E-mail: k2c0@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) #: **4420-E** **Tier:** N/A

Subject of AL: **Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of South Kern Solar Project Power Line Interconnection - (Kern County, P. No. 07185)**

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 #: N/A

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: No

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: _____

Resolution Required? ☐Yes ☑No

Requested effective date: **June 19, 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

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:

California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
EDTariffUnit
505 Van Ness Ave., 4th Flr.
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

Attachment I

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

Para más detalles llame 1-800-660-6789

PROJECT NAME: SOUTH KERN SOLAR PROJECT POWER LINE INTERCONNECTION (Kern County, P. No. 07185)
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 4420-E

Proposed Project: The developer of the South Kern Solar Project in Kern County has requested that Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) connect the existing Copus-Old River 70 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line to the solar project's substation. The substation is located in a remote agricultural area approximately 4.5 miles northeast of the intersection of Copus Road and Basic School Road. To tap the power line into the customer-owned substation, PG&E will replace one existing 50-foot-tall wood pole with a new 75-foot-tall tubular-steel pole (existing easement) to meet current design standards and California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 ground-to-conductor clearance requirements. PG&E will also add two new tubular-steel poles on the existing line (existing easement, intersetting additional structures), 80- and 85-foot-tall respectively. The tallest pole will also support switches. PG&E will shorten two existing 50-foot-tall wood poles to support existing distribution wires. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2014, or as soon as project plans and approvals are in place. Construction is scheduled to be complete in December 2014, 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 exemption:

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."

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 [Environmental Impact Report] finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts."

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 June 9, 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 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 PG&E's 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 or 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, you may still comment on the request. To do so, send your comments to the Energy Division at the address noted above. Please reference Advice Letter 4420-E.

Notice Distribution List

SOUTH KERN SOLAR PROJECT POWER LINE INTERCONNECTION (Kern County, P. No. 07185)

Advice 4420-E

Energy Commission

Mr. Robert Oglesby, Executive Director
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39
Sacramento, California 95814

Mr. Drew Bohan, Deputy Director
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39
Sacramento, California 95814

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

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

County of Kern

Ms. Lorelei Oviatt
Planning Director
2700 M Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Newspaper

The Bakersfield Californian

PG&E Gas and Electric
Advice Filing List

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