September 11, 2014

Advice Letter 4421-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 Maricopa West 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 Maricopa-Copus 70 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line to the solar project’s substation. The substation is located in a remote agricultural area approximately 0.7 mile northeast of the intersection of Gardner Field Road and Cadet Road in Kern County.

PG&E will replace two existing 50-foot-tall wood poles with two new 70-foot-tall tubular-steel poles in an existing easement and add one new 85-foot-tall tubular steel pole on the existing pole line (existing easement, interseting additional structures), which will support switches. PG&E will shorten one existing 50-foot-tall wood pole to support existing distribution wires on existing easement. PG&E will also construct a temporary 900-foot-long power line on six 65-foot-tall temporary wood poles along the south side of the existing power line at this location to maintain electric service to the customers during construction. The temporary power line and poles will be removed after the wires are transferred to the new tubular-steel poles. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in September 2014, and is scheduled to be complete in December 2014.

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

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 interseting 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 finds no significant unavoidable environmental impacts.
This project will not increase rate or charge, cause the withdrawal of service, or conflict with any other rate schedule or rule.

PG&E’s Advice Letter AL 4421-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 protest 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 GO 131-D exemptions cited by PG&E in their Advice Letter 4421-E. None of the concerns raised by the protest fits within the specific exceptions to the exemptions, nor do the protest’s claims support a finding 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
Director, Energy Division

cc:ed: Randell Parker and Richard Harriman, Kern County Advocates for Agriculture
May 20, 2014

Advice 4421-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 Maricopa West Solar Project Power Line Interconnection in the County of Kern

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 Maricopa West Solar Project in Kern County has requested that PG&E connect the existing Maricopa-Copus 70 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line to the solar project’s substation. The substation is located in a remote agricultural area approximately 0.7 mile northeast of the intersection of Gardner Field Road and Cadet Road. To connect the power line into the customer-owned substation, PG&E will replace two existing approximately 50-foot-tall wood poles with two new approximately 70-foot-tall tubular-steel poles (existing easement). The taller poles are needed to meet California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC or Commission) General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements. PG&E will also add one new approximately 85-foot-tall tubular-steel pole on the existing line (existing easement, intersetting additional structures), which will support switches. PG&E will shorten one existing approximately 50-foot-tall wood pole to support existing distribution wires (existing easement). To maintain electric service to the customers during construction, PG&E will also construct a temporary approximately 900-foot-long power line on 6 approximately 65-foot-tall temporary wood poles along the south side of the existing power line at this location. The temporary power line and
poles will be removed after the wires are transferred to the new tubular-steel poles. 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 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.”

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:
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 4421-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
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

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**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

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**Advice Letter (AL) #:** 4421-E  
**Tier**: N/A  
**Subject of AL**: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Maricopa West Solar Project Power Line Interconnection in the County of Kern

**Keywords (choose from CPUC listing)**: Power Lines

**AL filing type**: ☑ One-Time  
**If AL filed in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:** N/A  
**Does AL replace a withdrawn or rejected AL?** No  
**Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL**: N/A  
**Is AL requesting confidential treatment?** 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**: N/A

**Resolution Required?** ☑ Yes  
**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)**: N/A  
**Tariff schedules affected**: N/A  
**Service affected and changes proposed**: N/A  
**Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets**: N/A

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**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
PROJECT NAME: MARICOPA WEST SOLAR PROJECT POWER LINE INTERCONNECTION - (Kern County, P. No. 07188)
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 4421-E

Proposed Project: The developer of Maricopa West Solar Project in Kern County has requested that Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) connect the existing Maricopa-Copus 70 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line to the solar project’s substation. The substation is located in a remote agricultural area approximately 0.7 mile northeast of the intersection of Gardner Field Road and Cadet Road. To connect the power line into the customer-owned substation, PG&E will replace two existing approximately 50-foot-tall wood poles with two new approximately 70-foot-tall tubular-steel poles (existing easement). The taller poles are needed to meet California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements. PG&E will also add one new approximately 85-foot-tall tubular-steel pole on the existing line (existing easement, intersetting additional structures), which will support switches. PG&E will shorten one existing approximately 50-foot-tall wood pole to support existing distribution wires (existing easement). To maintain electric service to the customers during construction, PG&E will also construct a temporary approximately 900-foot-long power line on 6 approximately 65-foot-tall temporary wood poles along the south side of the existing power line at this location. The temporary power line and poles will be removed after the wires are transferred to the new tubular-steel poles. 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 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.”

  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:

With a copy mailed to:

Director, Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, Fourth Floor
San Francisco, California 94102

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 4421-E.
Notice Distribution List

MARICOPA WEST SOLAR PROJECT POWER LINE INTERCONNECTION –
(Kern County)

Advice 4421-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 H. Oviatt, Planning Director
County of Kern
2700 M Street, Suite 100
Bakersfield, CA 93301

Newspaper

The Bakersfield Californian
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 Gainers & 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
International Power Technology
In House Energy
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.
SDC 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)