

July 19, 2001

Advice 2141-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Unmetered Electric Service

Purpose

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits, in accordance with Section III of General Order 96-A, a new standard form agreement, for the purpose of formalizing the granting of unmetered electric service¹. The Agreement conforms to provisions of PG&E's Electric Preliminary Statement A.6.a and with the PG&E's filed tariffs as referenced in the Agreement. PG&E has previously granted this type of service without the benefit of a formal agreement. The Agreement serves as an instrument to make more clear customer load information and to make more clear communication to applicants about conditions under which unmetered service is being granted.

Background

Electric Preliminary Statement A.6.a allows PG&E to bill for load without metering. It has been PG&E's practice to provide unmetered service to customers with constant load, and consistent hours of operation, where the load is so small that it is uneconomical to meter. A large number of the existing unmetered services also supply telecommunications devices, which have traditionally been mounted on public utility poles.

¹ PG&E reserves all legal rights to challenge the decisions or statutes under which it has been required to make this advice filing, and nothing in this advice filing constitutes a waiver of such rights. Also, PG&E reserves any additional legal rights to challenge the requirement to make this advice filing by reason of its status as a debtor under Chapter 11 of the Bankruptcy Code, and nothing in this advice filing constitutes a waiver of such rights.

Changes in Various Industries and Use Patterns

PG&E continues to grant unmetered service to small ground-mounted loads and to pole-mounted telecommunications devices regardless of the size of the load. However, PG&E is finding that the newer telecommunications devices use more energy and are significantly different in their operating characteristics than in prior years. Deregulation in the telecommunications industry and advances in wireless and internet technology have resulted in a proliferation of requests for service to telecommunications devices. The increased loads and increasingly-varied operating capability of these devices have highlighted the need for PG&E and the applicant to clarify load and operating information in writing, to ensure the accuracy of billing records. It has also become important for PG&E to clarify for the applicant when metering will be required; assuming that all telecommunications installations are uneconomical to meter is no longer correct. In addition, there is an increase in the use of mass transit shelters, which may be subject to frequent relocation, due to changing bus routes and exposure to vandalism. The standard form agreement for unmetered usage is intended to address these needs.

Estimated Usage

Previously PG&E was required under obligations to the former PX to minimize reported estimated usage. Unmetered load is considered to be estimated usage because it is not verified on a monthly basis. PG&E continues to believe that minimizing this estimated usage is still desirable. Although on a per unit basis this unmetered usage is small (excluding streetlights), there are at least 25,000 unmetered accounts representing 81.6 megaWatts of power. Inasmuch as the standard form agreement will clarify the conditions under which unmetered service will be granted, it will help minimize estimated usage by ensuring that accounts which can and should be metered are not inadvertently granted unmetered service.

Unaccounted-For Energy

The granting of unmetered service has purposely been limited in the past, because of the potential for unauthorized energy use. The agreement should mitigate the risk of unauthorized use by clarifying applicants' responsibilities for accurately reporting and updating electric load and operating information. Accurate reporting should also reduce the incidence of unaccounted-for-energy (UFE) arising from unmetered accounts.

Grandfathering Existing Conditions

Loads currently granted unmetered status are proposed to remain unmetered, even though some loads will be outside the limits of the approved agreement. Existing load will continue to be billed under the method established for those loads prior to approval of this advice letter unless services are subsequently relocated, rearranged or load is added. PG&E proposes to issue the approved standard form agreement to existing customers and, on a going-forward basis, provide service under the agreement's provisions to new, additional, rearranged, or relocated load.

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 sending a letter by **August 8, 2001**, which is within 20 days of the date of this filing. The protest must state the grounds upon which it is based, including such items as financial and service impact, and should be submitted expeditiously. Protests should be mailed to:

IMC Branch Chief
Energy Division
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 4002
San Francisco, California 94102
Facsimile: (415) 703-2200

Copies should also be mailed to the attention of the Director, Energy Division, Room 4005 and Jerry Royer, Energy Division, at the address shown above. It is also requested that a copy of the protest be sent via postal mail and facsimile to Pacific Gas and Electric Company on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission at the address shown below.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Attention: Les Guliasi
Director, Regulatory Relations
77 Beale Street, Mailcode B10C
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177
Facsimile: (415) 973-7226

Effective Date

The Company requests that this advice filing become effective on regular notice, **August 28, 2001**, which is 40 days after the date of filing.

Notice

In accordance with General Order 96-A, Section III, Paragraph G, a copy of this advice letter is being sent electronically and via U.S. mail to parties shown on the attached list. Address changes should be directed to Nelia Avendano at (415) 973-3529.

Vice President - Regulatory Relations

Attachments



Pacific Gas and Electric Company
San Francisco, California

Cancelling

Original
Revised

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

18459-E

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

AGREEMENT FOR UNMETERED ELECTRICAL SERVICE
FORM NO. 79-792 (REV 7/01)
(ATTACHED)

(N)
|
(N)

Advice Letter No. 2141-E

Decision No.

44895

Issued by
DeAnn Hapner
Vice President
Regulatory Relations

Date Filed July 19, 2001
Effective August 28, 2001
Resolution No. _____



Pacific Gas and Electric Company
San Francisco, California

Cancelling
Revised

Revised
Revised

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

18460-E
17251-E

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Advice Letter No. 2141-E
Decision No.

44896

Issued by
DeAnn Hapner
Vice President
Regulatory Relations

Date Filed July 19, 2001
Effective August 28, 2001
Resolution No.



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SHEET NO.

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