

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE



April 6, 2020

**Advice Letter 5766-E**

Erik Jacobson  
Director, Regulatory Relations  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

**SUBJECT: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Exchequer-Yosemite 70 kV Reliability in the County of Mariposa**

Dear Mr. Jacobson:

Advice Letter 5766-E is effective as of March 11, 2020

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward Randolph".

Edward Randolph  
Deputy Executive Director for Energy and Climate Policy/  
Director, Energy Division



**Erik Jacobson**  
Director  
Regulatory Relations

Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
77 Beale St., Mail Code B13U  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177

Fax: 415-973-3582

February 20, 2020

**Advice 5766-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 Exchequer-Yosemite 70 kV Reliability in the County of Mariposa**

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**

As previously noticed (Advice Letter Number (AL) 5486-E), Pacific Gas and Electric Company is proposing to upgrade the Exchequer-Yosemite 70 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line to continue to maintain safe and reliable electric service to customers in Mariposa County. The Exchequer-Yosemite 70 kV Power Line, supported by approximately 244 steel structures, spans approximately 35 miles across rural and sparsely populated areas of Mariposa County from Exchequer Substation at Lake McClure to the border of Yosemite National Park in the Community of El Portal. The project originally planned to replace approximately 13 miles of conductor and 12 lattice steel towers and poles, install approximately 2 new lattice steel poles, and raise approximately 7 lattice steel towers.

During the Fall and Winter of 2019, the work described in AL 5486-E began on approximately 7 miles of powerline from Bear Valley Substation, near the intersection of Highway 49 and Drunken Gulch Road, to near the intersection of Telegraph Road and Telegraph Hill Road. Approximately 4 miles of conductor and 5 lattice steel poles were replaced, 1 new lattice steel pole was installed, and 2 lattice steel towers were raised.

In the section of the project between Exchequer Substation and Bear Valley Substation, the plans described in AL 5486-E were to either raise or modify the approximately 14 lattice steel towers. After further review, PG&E now proposes to replace the approximately 14 lattice steel towers with new lattice steel poles (replacement) having smaller footprints and ranging from approximately 7 feet shorter to 34 feet taller. The existing towers vary in height from approximately 61 to 94 feet tall.

The structures that are taller are required to comply with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements. Helicopters will be used to facilitate construction in undeveloped areas. Limited by power clearances and seasonal constraints, power line construction will occur during limited annual construction periods. Construction is tentatively scheduled to resume in spring 2020 or as soon as practicable after project approval. Construction is schedule to be completed in winter 2021 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,

- b. "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures."
- c. "the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures."

This filing will not cause the withdrawal of service, or conflict with any other rate schedule or rule.

### **Protests**

Anyone wishing to protest this submittal may do so by filing a protest with the CPUC and the Company by March 11, 2020, which is 20 days after the date of this submittal. 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

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

Erik Jacobson  
Director, Regulatory Relations  
c/o Megan Lawson  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
P.O. Box 770000, Mail Code B13U  
San Francisco, California 94177

Facsimile: (415) 973-3582  
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, referencing Advice Letter 5766-E.

### **Effective Date**

The Company requests that this Tier 2 advice filing become effective on March 21, 2020, 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/>.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/S/

Erik Jacobson  
Director, Regulatory Relations

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



# ADVICE LETTER SUMMARY

## ENERGY UTILITY



MUST BE COMPLETED BY UTILITY (Attach additional pages as needed)

Company name/CPUC Utility No.: Pacific Gas and Electric Company (ID U39E)

Utility type:

- ELC       GAS       WATER  
 PLC       HEAT

Contact Person: Kimberly Loo

Phone #: (415)973-4587

E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

E-mail Disposition Notice to: KELM@pge.com

EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE

ELC = Electric      GAS = Gas      WATER = Water  
 PLC = Pipeline      HEAT = Heat

(Date Submitted / Received Stamp by CPUC)

Advice Letter (AL) #: 5766-E

Tier Designation: 2

Subject of AL: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of Exchequer-Yosemite 70 kV Reliability in the County of Mariposa

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): Compliance, G.O. 131-D

AL Type:  Monthly  Quarterly  Annual  One-Time  Other:

If AL submitted 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:

Confidential treatment requested?  Yes  No

If yes, specification of confidential information:

Confidential information will be made available to appropriate parties who execute a nondisclosure agreement. Name and contact information to request nondisclosure agreement/ access to confidential information:

Resolution required?  Yes  No

Requested effective date: 3/21/20

No. of tariff sheets: 0

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<sup>1</sup>: N/A

Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: N/A

<sup>1</sup>Discuss in AL if more space is needed.

**Protests and all other correspondence regarding this AL are due no later than 20 days after the date of this submittal, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, and shall be sent to:**

CPUC, Energy Division  
Attention: Tariff Unit  
505 Van Ness Avenue  
San Francisco, CA 94102  
Email: [EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov)

Name: Erik Jacobson, c/o Megan Lawson  
Title: Director, Regulatory Relations  
Utility Name: Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
Address: 77 Beale Street, Mail Code B13U  
City: San Francisco, CA 94177  
State: California Zip: 94177  
Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx: (415)973-2093  
Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx: (415)973-3582  
Email: [PGETariffs@pge.com](mailto:PGETariffs@pge.com)

Name:  
Title:  
Utility Name:  
Address:  
City:  
State: District of Columbia Zip:  
Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx:  
Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx:  
Email:

**NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION**

Para más detalles llame 1-800-660-6789

**PROJECT NAME: Exchequer-Yosemite 70 kV Power Line Reliability Project - (Mariposa County, T. No. 0000322)****ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 5766-E**

**Proposed Project:** As previously noticed (Advice Letter Number (AL) 5486-E), Pacific Gas and Electric Company is proposing to upgrade the Exchequer-Yosemite 70 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line to continue to maintain safe and reliable electric service to customers in Mariposa County. The Exchequer-Yosemite 70 kV Power Line, supported by approximately 244 steel structures, spans approximately 35 miles across rural and sparsely populated areas of Mariposa County from Exchequer Substation at Lake McClure to the border of Yosemite National Park in the Community of El Portal. The project originally planned to replace approximately 13 miles of conductor and 12 lattice steel towers and poles, install approximately 2 new lattice steel poles, and raise approximately 7 lattice steel towers.

During the Fall and Winter of 2019, the work described in AL 5486-E began on approximately 7 miles of powerline from Bear Valley Substation, near the intersection of Highway 49 and Drunken Gulch Road, to near the intersection of Telegraph Road and Telegraph Hill Road. Approximately 4 miles of conductor and 5 lattice steel poles were replaced, 1 new lattice steel pole was installed, and 2 lattice steel towers were raised.

In the section of the project between Exchequer Substation and Bear Valley Substation, the plans described in AL 5486-E were to either raise or modify the approximately 14 lattice steel towers. After further review, PG&E now proposes to replace the approximately 14 lattice steel towers with new lattice steel poles (replacement) having smaller footprints and ranging from approximately 7 feet shorter to 34 feet taller. The existing towers vary in height from approximately 61 to 94 feet tall.

The structures that are taller are required to comply with California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) General Order 95 minimum ground-to-conductor clearance requirements. Helicopters will be used to facilitate construction in undeveloped areas. Limited by power clearances and seasonal constraints, power line construction will occur during limited annual construction periods. Construction is tentatively scheduled to resume in spring 2020 or as soon as practicable after project approval. Construction is schedule to be completed in winter 2021 or as soon as possible after construction begins.

**Exemption from CPUC Permit Requirement:** CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III, Subsection 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:

- b. "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures."
- c. "the intersetting of additional support structures between existing support structures."

**Additional Project Information:** To obtain further information on the proposed project, please call PG&E's [Project Information Line at \(415\) 973-5530](tel:4159735530).

**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 March 11, 2020 at the following address:**

Director, Energy Division  
ED Tariff Unit  
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](mailto: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 5766-E.

## **Notice Distribution List**

Exchequer-Yosemite 70 kV Power Line Reliability Project

### **Advice 5766-E**

#### **Energy Commission**

Mr. Drew Bohan, Executive Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Drew.Bohan@energy.ca.gov

Ms. Courtney Smith, Chief Deputy Director  
California Energy Commission  
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39  
Sacramento, California 95814  
Courtney.Smith@energy.ca.gov

#### **California Department of Fish and Wildlife**

Mr. Craig Bailey  
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Central Region  
1234 E. Shaw Avenue  
Fresno, CA 93710  
Craig.Bailey@wildlife.ca.gov

#### **County of Mariposa**

Ms. Sarah Williams  
5100 Bullion Street  
PO Box 2039  
Mariposa, CA 95338  
swilliams@mariposacounty.org

#### **Newspaper**

Mariposa Gazette

## PG&E Gas and Electric Advice Submittal List

AT&T	Downey & Brand	Pioneer Community Energy
Albion Power Company	East Bay Community Energy	Praxair
Alcantar & Kahl LLP	Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP	
	Energy Management Service	
Alta Power Group, LLC	Engineers and Scientists of California	Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Anderson & Poole	Evaluation + Strategy for Social Innovation	Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc.
	GenOn Energy, Inc.	SCD Energy Solutions
Atlas ReFuel	Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	
BART	Green Charge Networks	SCE
	Green Power Institute	SDG&E and SoCalGas
Barkovich & Yap, Inc.	Hanna & Morton	
P.C. CalCom Solar	ICF	SPURR
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn	IGS Energy	San Francisco Water Power and Sewer
California Energy Commission	International Power Technology	Seattle City Light
California Public Utilities Commission	Intestate Gas Services, Inc.	Sempra Utilities
California State Association of Counties	Kelly Group	Southern California Edison Company
Calpine	Ken Bohn Consulting	Southern California Gas Company
	Keyes & Fox LLP	Spark Energy
Cameron-Daniel, P.C.	Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc. Linde	Sun Light & Power
Casner, Steve	Los Angeles County Integrated	Sunshine Design
Cenergy Power	Waste Management Task Force	Tecogen, Inc.
Center for Biological Diversity	Los Angeles Dept of Water & Power	TerraVerde Renewable Partners
	MRW & Associates	Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.
Chevron Pipeline and Power	Manatt Phelps Phillips	
City of Palo Alto	Marin Energy Authority	TransCanada
	McKenzie & Associates	Troutman Sanders LLP
City of San Jose	Modesto Irrigation District	Utility Cost Management
Clean Power Research	Morgan Stanley	Utility Power Solutions
Coast Economic Consulting	NLine Energy, Inc.	Utility Specialists
Commercial Energy	NRG Solar	
County of Tehama - Department of Public Works	Office of Ratepayer Advocates	Verizon
Crossborder Energy	OnGrid Solar	Water and Energy Consulting Wellhead Electric Company
Crown Road Energy, LLC	Pacific Gas and Electric Company	Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA)
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP	Peninsula Clean Energy	Yep Energy
Day Carter Murphy		
Dept of General Services		
Don Pickett & Associates, Inc.		
Douglass & Liddell		