

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE



December 14, 2020

Advice Letters 5990-E and 5990-E-A

Erik Jacobson
Director, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B13U
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177

SUBJECT:

Advice Letter 5990-E - Notice of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rate Filing for Annual Updates to the Transmission Revenue Balancing Account

Adjustment, the Reliability Services Rates, and the End-Use

Customer Refund Balancing Account Adjustment

Advice Letter 5990-E-A - Notice of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rate Filing Errata for Annual Updates to the Wholesale Transmission Revenue Balancing Account Adjustment

Dear Mr. Jacobson,

The CPUC is in receipt of Advice Letters 5990-E and 5990-E-A, which pertain to the three balancing accounts referenced above. Consistent with CPUC Resolution E-3930, which establishes a process whereby the CPUC passes through rate changes for transmission-related costs that have been filed with and become effective at FERC, subject to refund (in both FERC and CPUC jurisdictional rates), the CPUC approves the requested effective date of January 1, 2021 for the updated revenue requirements and rates associated with these three balancing accounts.¹

BACKGROUND

PG&E filed Advice Letter 5990-E on November 5, 2020 to notify the CPUC of PG&E's October 16, 2020 filing in FERC Docket No. ER21-131-000. Specifically, PG&E's FERC filing requests approval of annual updates to the transmission revenue requirements and associated rates in PG&E's Transmission Owner Tariff related to three of PG&E's FERC balancing accounts: the Transmission Revenue Balancing Account ("TRBA"); the Reliability Services Balancing Account ("RSBA"); and the End-Use Customer Refund Balancing Account ("ECRBA"). PG&E has requested an effective date of January 1, 2021 for the updated revenue requirements and rates associated with these three balancing accounts.

Subsequently, on November 18, 2020, PG&E filed Supplemental Advice Letter 5990-E-A to notify the CPUC of PG&E's November 12, 2020 errata filing in FERC Docket No. ER21-131-001.

¹ CPUC Resolution E-3930 at 5 (explaining that "[c]onsistent with the filed rate doctrine, it is just and reasonable under State law for the utilities to recover through retail rates the transmission rates that are filed with and become effective at the FERC, provided that those rate adjustments are subject to refund to the same extent as they are at the FERC.").

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The errata updated the Wholesale Transmission Revenue Balancing Account Adjustment. The filing corrected the wholesale Transmission Revenue Balancing Account balances and adjustments in AL 5990-E, and reiterated PG&E's request for an effective date of January 1, 2021 for the updated revenue requirements and rates.

No protests were filed with the CPUC in response to AL 5990-E or AL 5990-E-A.

SCOPE OF CPUC's APPROVAL

The CPUC approves the effective date of January 1, 2021 for the updated revenue requirements and rates that are the subject of Advice Letters 5990-E and 5990-E-A, subject to refund. The CPUC's authorization to pass through the updated transmission revenue requirement and FERC rates to retail customers neither constitutes the CPUC's approval that PG&E's FERC-jurisdictional expenditures were prudently incurred nor represents the CPUC's agreement that the resulting FERC rates are just and reasonable. As explained in CPUC Resolution E-3930, "[t]he CPUC routinely files as an intervener in the proceedings at FERC."² Consistent with the CPUC's statutory obligation to represent California ratepayers in FERC proceedings, the CPUC does not waive its right to participate in any proceedings at FERC related to these advice letter filings in the event that errors in the filings are subsequently identified and/or other issues arise.³

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Edward Randolph in cursive, followed by the text "(f01)" in parentheses.

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

² CPUC Resolution E-3930 at 4, 11.

³ Notably, PG&E has discovered errors resulting in the need to refile its balancing account filings at FERC in two of the last three years. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Motion to Withdraw Filing of Balancing Account Revisions, Transmission Owner Tariff, PG&E FERC Electric Tariff Volume No. 5, Docket No. ER19-111-000, November 20, 2018 and Amendment to Pacific Gas and Electric Company Transmission Owner Tariff Balancing Account Revisions, FERC Docket No. ER21-131, November 12, 2020.

November 5, 2020

Advice 5990-E

(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Notice of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rate Filing for Annual Updates to the Transmission Revenue Balancing Account Adjustment, the Reliability Services Rates, and the End-Use Customer Refund Balancing Account Adjustment

Purpose

In compliance with California Public Utilities Commission (“Commission” or “CPUC”) Resolution E-3930, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (“PG&E”) submits this advice letter to notify the Commission of PG&E’s October 16, 2020 filing with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (“FERC”), in FERC Docket No. ER21-131-000, requesting transmission rate changes for PG&E’s retail electric customers. That FERC filing requested the approval of annual updates to the transmission revenue requirements (“TRRs”) and associated rates in PG&E’s Transmission Owner (“TO”) Tariff related to three of PG&E’s FERC balancing accounts: the Transmission Revenue Balancing Account (“TRBA”), the Reliability Services Balancing Account (“RSBA”), and the End-Use Customer Refund Balancing Account (“ECRBA”) (the “2021 Balancing Account Filing”). The filing requested an effective date of January 1, 2021 for the updated revenue requirements and rates.

Background

PG&E’s TO Tariff specifies the rates and charges for transmission access to PG&E-owned facilities that are part of the California Independent System Operator Corporation (“CAISO”) controlled grid. The base transmission rates in the TO Tariff, along with the three transmission rate adjustments discussed in this advice letter filing make up the total transmission rates for PG&E’s retail customers.

TRBAA

The TRBA Adjustment (“TRBAA”) is the ratemaking mechanism through which Transmission Revenue Credits flow to TO Tariff retail and wholesale transmission customers.

In its 2021 Balancing Account Filing, PG&E proposed revisions to:

1. The retail TRBAA TRR and the resulting retail TRBAA rate; and
2. The wholesale High and Low Voltage TRRs used by the CAISO to calculate the CAISO Transmission Access Charge (“TAC”) rates under the CAISO Tariff.

The retail TRBAA rate revision is based on: (1) the TRBA balance, consisting of the principal balance and the interest expected as of December 31, 2020; (2) PG&E’s TRBAA forecast, which is a forecast of Transmission Revenue Credits for 2021; and (3) an adjustment for Revenue Fees and Uncollectible Accounts (“RF&U”).

As reflected in the 2021 Balancing Account filing, the TRBA balance is a credit to end-use customers of \$32,687,959.00, the forecasted TRBAA is a credit of \$216,569,134.00 and the RF&U adjustment is a credit of \$3,326,153.00. The resulting 2021 retail TRBAA TRR is a credit to end-use customers of \$252,583,245.00. To pass through this credit, PG&E proposed a 2021 TRBA retail rate of (\$0.00324) per kWh (compared to the current retail rate of (\$0.00304) per kWh).

The total 2020 TRBAA wholesale revenue requirement used for calculating the CAISO’s TAC is a credit to customers of \$251,308,428.00, which has been allocated to High and Low Voltage at \$192,828,555.00 and \$58,479,873.00, respectively.

RS Rates

FERC Opinion No. 459 approved a September 21, 2001, partial settlement allowing recovery of PG&E’s Reliability Services (“RS”) costs from retail TO Tariff customers.

The TRR for the RS rate consists of three components: (1) the RSBA balance, consisting of the principal balance and the interest expected as of December 31, 2020; (2) the forecast of RS costs for 2021; and (3) an adjustment for RF&U.

As reflected in the 2021 Balancing Account Filing, the total RS TRR used in the development of the retail 2021 RS rates is a charge to customers of \$10,469,138.00. This amount consists of the RSBA balance, which is a credit of \$7,192,841.00, plus the forecast of RS costs for 2021, which is a charge of \$17,524,116.00, plus the RF&U adjustment, which is a credit of \$137,863.00.

ECRBAA

The ECRBA Adjustment (“ECRBAA”) is a mechanism designed to refund over-collected transmission rate charges to PG&E’s end-use customers. ECRBAA is a credit or a charge equal to the refund or surcharge amount due to end-use customers, including interest.

The ECRBAA consists of two components: (1) the ECRBA balance, consisting of the principal balance and the interest expected as of December 31, 2020; and (2) the forecast of refunds from the resolution of PG&E’s applicable TO Tariff rate cases.

The 2021 ECRBAA is currently a credit of \$843,410.00; however, PG&E proposes to set the ECRBAA rates to zero beginning January 1, 2021. The ECRBAA is too small to calculate billable rates and no refunds are included because PG&E’s TO18 rate filing is currently unresolved and PG&E’s TO19 rate filing, while settled, is dependent on the outcome of the TO18 litigation.

Compliance with Resolution E-3930

PG&E submits this advice letter pursuant to Process Element 3 of Resolution E-3930. Consistent with past practice, PG&E also provided the Commission with a complete copy of the 2021 Balancing Account Filing on the same date that it was filed with FERC, by service to the Commission’s Legal Division.

In this advice letter, PG&E requests authority to revise each corresponding transmission rate component of its Commission-jurisdictional tariffs on the date FERC ultimately authorizes these changes to become effective, or as soon thereafter as possible, subject to refund, and to make corresponding adjustments to its total applicable Commission jurisdictional rates. Adjustments to total residential rates will be made pursuant to CPUC Decisions D.15-07-001 on residential rate reform and D.18-08-013 on transition to time-of-use rates.

As anticipated under Process Element 4 of Resolution E-3930, PG&E will supplement this advice letter, or indicate in a separate advice letter that coincides with other retail rate changes, when the requested TRBAA, RS, and ECRBAA rate changes are accepted, modified, rejected or otherwise acted upon by FERC.

These FERC rate changes will generally affect the rates of all bundled, Direct Access, and Community Choice Aggregation customers. Typically, the 2021 Balancing Account Filing rate change will be consolidated into other rate changes scheduled to be filed in late December for an effective date of January 1, 2021. At that time, PG&E will also provide complete updated tariff sheets.

Protests

*****Due to the COVID-19 pandemic and the shelter at home orders, PG&E is currently unable to receive protests or comments to this advice letter via U.S. mail or fax. Please submit protests or comments to this advice letter to EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov and PGETariffs@pge.com*****

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by letter sent via U.S. mail, facsimile, or E-mail, no later than **November 25, 2020**, which is 20 days after the date of this filing. Protests must be submitted to:

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 shown above.

The protest shall also be sent to PG&E either via E-mail or U.S. mail (and by facsimile, if possible) at the address shown below on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission:

Erik Jacobson
Director, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B13U
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177

Facsimile: (415) 973-3582
E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

Any person (including individuals, groups, or organizations) may protest or respond to an advice letter (General Order 96-B, Section 7.4). The protest shall contain the following information: specification of the advice letter protested; grounds for the protest; supporting factual information or legal argument; name, telephone number, postal address, and (where appropriate) e-mail address of the protestant; and statement that the protest was sent to the utility no later than the day on which the protest was submitted to the reviewing Industry Division (General Order 96-B, Section 3.11).

Effective Date

PG&E requests that this Tier 2 advice filing become effective as soon as practicable after FERC authorizes these changes to become effective, which PG&E expects to be on or after January 1, 2021. PG&E proposes to consolidate the electric rate changes resulting from the 2021 Balancing Account Filing, to the extent practicable, with the first planned rate change after FERC authorizes PG&E's requests.

Notice

In accordance with General Order 96-B, Section IV, a copy of this advice letter is being sent electronically and via U.S. mail to parties shown on the attached list. Address changes to the General Order 96-B service list should be directed to PG&E at email address PGETariffs@pge.com. For changes to any other service list, please contact the Commission's Process Office at (415) 703-2021 or at Process_Office@cpuc.ca.gov. Send all electronic approvals to PGETariffs@pge.com. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at: <http://www.pge.com/tariffs/>.

_____/S/

Erik Jacobson
Director, Regulatory Relations

Attachments



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 U 39 E)

Utility type:

- ELC GAS WATER
 PLC HEAT

Contact Person: Stuart Rubio

Phone #: (415)973-4587

E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

E-mail Disposition Notice to: SHR8@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) #: 5990-E

Tier Designation: 2

Subject of AL: Notice of Federal Energy Regulatory Commission Rate Filing for Annual Updates to the Transmission Revenue Balancing Account Adjustment, the Reliability Services Rates, and the End-Use Customer Refund Balancing Account Adjustment

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): Compliance

AL Type: Monthly Quarterly Annual One-Time Other:

If AL submitted in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #: E-3930

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: 1/1/21

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 proposed¹: N/A

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

¹Discuss 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

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

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

**PG&E Gas and Electric
Advice Submittal List
General Order 96-B, Section IV**

AT&T
Albion Power Company

Alta Power Group, LLC
Anderson & Poole

Atlas ReFuel
BART

Barkovich & Yap, Inc.
California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn
California Energy Commission

California Hub for Energy Efficiency
Financing

California Alternative Energy and
Advanced Transportation Financing
Authority
California Public Utilities Commission
Calpine

Cameron-Daniel, P.C.
Casner, Steve
Cenergy Power
Center for Biological Diversity

Chevron Pipeline and Power
City of Palo Alto

City of San Jose
Clean Power Research
Coast Economic Consulting
Commercial Energy
Crossborder Energy
Crown Road Energy, LLC
Davis Wright Tremaine LLP
Day Carter Murphy

Dept of General Services
Don Pickett & Associates, Inc.
Douglass & Liddell

Downey & Brand
East Bay Community Energy
Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP
Energy Management Service
Engineers and Scientists of California

GenOn Energy, Inc.
Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz &
Ritchie

Green Power Institute
Hanna & Morton
ICF

IGS Energy
International Power Technology
Intestate Gas Services, Inc.
Kelly Group
Ken Bohn Consulting
Keyes & Fox LLP
Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.

Los Angeles County Integrated
Waste Management Task Force
MRW & Associates
Manatt Phelps Phillips
Marin Energy Authority
McKenzie & Associates

Modesto Irrigation District
NLine Energy, Inc.
NRG Solar

Office of Ratepayer Advocates
OnGrid Solar
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Peninsula Clean Energy

Pioneer Community Energy

Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc.
SCD Energy Solutions
San Diego Gas & Electric Company

SPURR
San Francisco Water Power and Sewer
Sempra Utilities

Sierra Telephone Company, Inc.
Southern California Edison Company
Southern California Gas Company
Spark Energy
Sun Light & Power
Sunshine Design
Tecogen, Inc.
TerraVerde Renewable Partners
Tiger Natural Gas, Inc.

TransCanada
Utility Cost Management
Utility Power Solutions
Water and Energy Consulting Wellhead
Electric Company
Western Manufactured Housing
Communities Association (WMA)
Yep Energy