

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



February 23, 2022

Advice Letter 6429-E

Mr. Sidney Bob Dietz II
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 the Fulton-Calistoga 60 kV Power Line Reinforcement Project in the City of St. Helena, County of Napa

Dear Mr. Dietz:

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) submitted Advice Letter (AL) 6429-E to the Commission and is proposing to replace structures and conductor (wires) on approximately 12.3 miles of the existing, double-circuit Fulton Calistoga 60 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line in existing easements located in the Town of St. Helena and the County of Napa (Project).

PG&E states that the Project is required to enhance public safety, reduce impacts to customers during future Public Safety Power Shutoff events, and maintain safe and reliable electric service in Napa County. In addition, PG&E states that the taller structures are needed to comply with CPUC General Order 95 ground-to conductor clearance requirements while accommodating separation of the consolidated circuits and mountainous topography. This project is part of PG&E's system-wide effort to replace older 4/0 copper conductors with newer and more reliable wires. The new structures and conductors will also provide added safety from wildfires. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2022, or as soon as practicable after project approval. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2023, or as soon as possible after construction begins.

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. PG&E states that this project qualifies for exemption III.B.1(b): "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures."

Commission staff has reviewed the Advice Letter and agree that AL 6429-E qualifies for the appropriate exemption from GO 131-D requirements to file an application for a Permit to Construct. In addition, staff agree that no exceptions to the exemptions in General Order 131-D exist.

Mr. Sidney Bob Dietz II

February 23, 2022

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On December 28, 2021, concerns related to Pacific Gas and Electric's Advice Letter 6429-E for the Fulton-Calistoga 60kV Power Line Reinforcement Project were raised by a nearby homeowner. PG&E filed a Reply on January 7, 2022. The concerns regarded the potential use of portable generators at Calistoga Substation as a power source during the Project. In its Reply, PG&E indicated it was exploring another option for locating these generators on property owned by the City. PG&E has indicated to the Commission by a Supplemental filing on January 17, 2022, that PG&E engineers have now found a switching solution that will work for winter loading – as required by this project – and will not require mobile generators at either Calistoga Substation or an alternate location owned by the City.

Commission staff have reviewed PG&E's supplemental response to the Project concerns expressed by the homeowner and agree that the circumstances surrounding the use of portable generators during the Project and the facts-on-the-ground have made the concerns moot.

For this reason, the Commission staff find that the Advice Letter should be approved. Therefore, PG&E's Advice Letter 6429-E is approved.

Sincerely,



Simon Baker

Interim Deputy Executive Director for Energy & Climate Policy, CPUC

Director of Cost, Rates, and Planning | Energy Division, CPUC

Cc'ed: [Kimberly Loo -- KELM@pge.com](mailto:KELM@pge.com)

Jo Lynn Lambert>JLLm@pge.com

ED Tariff unit – edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov



Sidney Bob Dietz II
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

December 8, 2021

Advice 6429-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of the Fulton-Calistoga 60 kV Power Line Reinforcement Project in the City of St. Helena, County of Napa

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

To enhance public safety, reduce impacts to customers during future Public Safety Power Shutoff events, and maintain safe and reliable electric service in Napa County, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to replace structures and conductor (wires) on approximately 12.3 miles of the existing, double-circuit Fulton-Calistoga 60 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line in existing easements located in the Town of St. Helena and the County of Napa. The project will include the replacement of approximately 40 existing wood poles with light duty steel (LDS) poles, 11 existing wood poles with 11 new wood poles, 10 existing LDS poles with 10 new LDS poles, and 1 tubular steel pole with 1 new tubular steel pole. Existing structure heights range from approximately 43 to 74 feet tall. New structure heights will range from 43 to 92 feet tall. The taller structures are needed to comply with CPUC General Order 95 ground-to-conductor clearance requirements while accommodating separation of the consolidated circuits and mountainous topography. This project is part of PG&E's system-wide effort to replace older 4/0 copper conductors with newer and more reliable wires. The new structures and conductors will also provide added safety from wildfires.

The project begins in the City of St. Helena at a location behind 933 Main Street. From this location, the power line travels south/east for 4 spans to 633 Main Street, then turns and heads north/east, crossing Main Street and traveling along the southern side of Mills Lane for approximately 0.9 miles. From the end of Mills Lane, the line continues east through 621 Silverado Trail, crosses Silverado Trail and turns more southerly through 1296 Silverado Trail for 3 spans. The line then turns more northerly for 4 spans as it travels through 1296 Silverado Trail and 1860 Howell Mountain Road. At this point, the line turns in a northwesterly direction and travels thru Napa County in undeveloped hillside on a route generally ½-mile east of and parallel to the Silverado Trail. After traveling 2.5 miles, the line crosses Deer Park Road and continues parallel to Silverado Trail through a combination of undeveloped hillside and vineyards for 7.5 miles. It terminates at Calistoga Substation located at 2300 Lake County Highway in Calistoga.

Helicopters will be used to facilitate construction and minimize ground disturbance at structures with constrained access. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2022, or as soon as practicable after project approval. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2023, 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),

- b. "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures."

Additionally, G.O. 131-D requires utilities to employ "no cost" and specified "low cost" measures to reduce public exposure to electric and magnetic fields (EMFs) in accordance with CPUC Decision 06-01-042 and the "EMF Guidelines for Electrical Facilities" prepared in compliance with that decision. The following measures are proposed for this project:

- Raise the height of thirteen structures in the residential land use areas by ten feet taller than required for meeting clearance requirements.

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

Exemption Under G.O. 131-D

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(s):

- b. "the replacement of existing power line facilities or supporting structures with equivalent facilities or structures."

This project consists of the replacement of outdated 60 kV conductors and supporting structures with new 60 kV conductors and supporting structures that have the same form and function as the existing facilities. Approximately 62 existing poles are being replaced with approximately 62 similar style poles. The line replacement is within the same utility corridor, following the same route as the existing lines.

None of the exceptions to the exemptions in Section III B.2, as specified in CEQA Guidelines section 15300.2, exist to disqualify this project from the NOC process.

The exceptions, and why they do not apply, include the following:

- a. There is a reasonable possibility that the activity may impact an environmental resource of hazardous or critical concern where designated, precisely mapped and officially adopted pursuant to law by federal, state, or local agencies.

Discussion: There is no federally- or state-designated critical habitat for any special-status species within the project area. Jurisdictional waters and wetlands within the project area will be avoided. No other designated, mapped and officially-adopted resources of hazardous or critical concern are known to occur in the project area.

- b. The cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant.

Discussion: PG&E is not aware of any other projects of the same type in the same place, or over time, that would result in significant cumulative impacts. Moreover, the proposed project would minimize the frequency of repairs and reduce the need for similar work within the transmission corridor in the future.

- c. There is a reasonable possibility that the activity will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances.

Discussion: There is no reasonable possibility that the project will have a significant effect on the environment due to unusual circumstances. In *Berkeley Hillside Preservation v. City of Berkeley* (2015) 60 Cal.4th 1086 (Berkeley Hillside), the California Supreme Court found that, to apply this exception, the lead agency must find both (a) an unusual circumstance that makes this project different from others in the class, and (b) a reasonable possibility of a significant impact due to that unusual

circumstance. (Id. at 1104-1105.) Thus, the first question is whether there is an unusual circumstance that would make this project different from others in the class.

PG&E is continually undertaking reconductoring projects throughout its territory, most of which require replacement, removal and/or addition of structures as well as replacement of the conductors. This project is largely in low density areas, but PG&E's power lines pass through all different land-use types. Numerous reconductoring projects have established laydown yards, used helicopters for construction, required vegetation removal or surface recontouring, used overland access, and adjusted structure locations to avoid resources or other impacts. There is nothing about this project that is different from others in its class. In litigation over the meaning of "unusual circumstances," most courts have declined to find that circumstances were unusual; examples where unusual circumstances were identified were striking in their difference from the norm, including, e.g., a project in a leaking landfill (*Azusa Land Reclamation Company v. Main San Gabriel Basin Watermaster* (1997) 52 Cal.App. 4th 1665, 1207), involving a particular historic wall (*Committee to Save the Hollywoodland Specific Plan v. City of Los Angeles* (2008) 161 Cal.App 4th 1168, 1187), and stock car racing at a fairgrounds near residences (*Lewis v. Seventeenth Dist. Agricultural Ass'n* (1985) 165 Cal App. 3d 823). Each of these cases presented circumstances that were atypical for the type of project proposed and created potentially significant effects due to the unusual circumstances. There is no similar anomaly present in this project.

Even if unusual circumstances were present, which they are not, there is no reasonable possibility of a significant impact due to an unusual circumstance. As explained above, no significant impacts of any kind have been identified. This project consists of replacing existing power lines with similar facilities in a largely low-density area. It has been designed to avoid impacts to biological resources, and no other potential impacts have been identified.

Protests

*****Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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 submittal may do so by submitting a protest with the CPUC and the Company by December 28, 2021, 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
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

Sidney Bob Dietz II
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 submit an official protest may still submit a comment on the request to the Energy Division at the address noted above, referencing Advice Letter 6429-E.

Effective Date

The Company requests that this Tier 2 advice letter become effective on January 7, 2022, which is 30 days after the date of submittal. (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 submittals can also be accessed electronically at <http://www.pge.com/tariffs/>.

_____/S/

Sidney Bob Dietz II
Director, Regulatory Relations

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

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 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) #: 6429-E

Tier Designation: 2

Subject of AL: Submits Notice of Construction, Pursuant to General Order 131-D, for the Construction of the Fulton-Calistoga 60 kV Power Line Reinforcement Project in the City of St. Helena, County of Napa

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: 1/7/22

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: Sidney Bob Dietz II, 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:

NOTICE OF PROPOSED CONSTRUCTION

Para más detalles llame 1-800-660-6789

PROJECT NAME: FULTON-CALISTOGA 60kV POWER LINE REINFORCEMENT PROJECT - (City of St. Helena, County of Napa, P. No. 5790901)
ADVICE LETTER NUMBER: 6429-E

Proposed Project: To enhance public safety, reduce impacts to customers during future Public Safety Power Shutoff events, and maintain safe and reliable electric service in Napa County, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) is proposing to replace structures and conductor (wires) on approximately 12.3 miles of the existing, double-circuit Fulton-Calistoga 60 Kilovolt (kV) Power Line in existing easements located in the Town of St. Helena and the County of Napa. The project will include the replacement of approximately 40 existing wood poles with light duty steel (LDS) poles, 11 existing wood poles with 11 new wood poles, 10 existing LDS poles with 10 new LDS poles, and 1 tubular steel pole with 1 new tubular steel pole. Existing structure heights range from approximately 43 to 74 feet tall. New structure heights will range from 43 to 92 feet tall. The taller structures are needed to comply with CPUC General Order 95 ground-to-conductor clearance requirements while accommodating separation of the consolidated circuits and mountainous topography. This project is part of PG&E's system-wide effort to replace older 4/0 copper conductors with newer and more reliable wires. The new structures and conductors will also provide added safety from wildfires.

The project begins in the City of St. Helena at a location behind 933 Main Street. From this location, the power line travels south/east for 4 spans to 633 Main Street, then turns and heads north/east, crossing Main Street and traveling along the southern side of Mills Lane for approximately 0.9 miles. From the end of Mills Lane, the line continues east through 621 Silverado Trail, crosses Silverado Trail and turns more southerly through 1296 Silverado Trail for 3 spans. The line then turns more northerly for 4 spans as it travels through 1296 Silverado Trail and 1860 Howell Mountain Road. At this point, the line turns in a northwesterly direction and travels thru Napa County in undeveloped hillside on a route generally ½-mile east of and parallel to the Silverado Trail. After traveling 2.5 miles, the line crosses Deer Park Road and continues parallel to Silverado Trail through a combination of undeveloped hillside and vineyards for 7.5 miles. It terminates at Calistoga Substation located at 2300 Lake County Highway in Calistoga.

Helicopters will be used to facilitate construction and minimize ground disturbance at structures with constrained access. Construction is tentatively scheduled to begin in the first quarter of 2022, or as soon as practicable after project approval. Construction is scheduled to be completed in the first quarter of 2023, 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."

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;

- 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
- The cumulative impact of successive projects of the same type in the same place, over time, is significant; or
- 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:

- Your name, mailing address and daytime telephone number.
- Reference to the CPUC Advice Letter Number and Project Name.
- A clear description of the reason for the protest.
- Whether you believe that evidentiary hearings are necessary to resolve factual disputes.

*****Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, 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*****

Protests for this project must be filed by December 28, 2021 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 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 6429-E.

Notice Distribution List

Fulton-Calistoga 60kV Power Line – Reinforcement Project (City of St. Helena, County of Napa)

Advice 6429-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. Linda Spiegel, Chief Deputy Director
California Energy Commission
1516 Ninth Street, Mail Stop 39
Sacramento, California 95814
Linda.Spiegel@energy.ca.gov

California Department of Fish and Wildlife

Mr. Gregg Erickson
California Department of Fish and Wildlife, Bay Delta Region (03)
2825 Cordelia Road, Suite 100
Fairfield, CA 94534
Gregg.Erickson@wildlife.ca.gov

City of St. Helena

Ms. Maya DeRosa, Director
Planning and Building Department
1572 Railroad Avenue
St. Helena, CA 94574
mderosa@cityofsthelena.org

County of Napa

Mr. David Morrison, Director
Planning, Building & Environmental Services Department
1195 Third Street, 2nd Floor
Napa, CA 94559
David.Morrison@countyofnapa.org

Newspaper

Napa Valley Register
St. Helena Star

PG&E Gas and Electric Advice Submittal List

AT&T Albion Power Company	East Bay Community Energy Ellison Schneider & Harris LLP Energy Management Service	Pioneer Community Energy
Alta Power Group, LLC Anderson & Poole	Engineers and Scientists of California	Public Advocates Office
Atlas ReFuel BART	GenOn Energy, Inc. Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz & Ritchie	Redwood Coast Energy Authority Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc. SCD Energy Solutions San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Barkovich & Yap, Inc. California Cotton Ginners & Growers Assn California Energy Commission	Green Power Institute Hanna & Morton ICF International Power Technology	SPURR San Francisco Water Power and Sewer Sempra Utilities
California Hub for Energy Efficiency Financing	Intertie	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.
California Alternative Energy and Advanced Transportation Financing Authority California Public Utilities Commission Calpine	Intestate Gas Services, Inc. Kelly Group Ken Bohn Consulting Keyes & Fox LLP Leviton Manufacturing Co., Inc.	TransCanada Utility Cost Management Utility Power Solutions Water and Energy Consulting Wellhead Electric Company Western Manufactured Housing Communities Association (WMA) Yep Energy
Cameron-Daniel, P.C. Casner, Steve Cenergy Power Center for Biological Diversity	Los Angeles County Integrated Waste Management Task Force MRW & Associates Manatt Phelps Phillips Marin Energy Authority McKenzie & Associates	
Chevron Pipeline and Power City of Palo Alto	Modesto Irrigation District NLine Energy, Inc. NRG Solar	
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	OnGrid Solar Pacific Gas and Electric Company Peninsula Clean Energy	
Dept of General Services Don Pickett & Associates, Inc. Douglass & Liddell		