

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco CA 94102-3298



Pacific Gas & Electric Company
ELC (Corp ID 39)
Status of Advice Letter 4698G/6823E
As of February 14, 2023

Subject: WITHDRAWAL OF PIONEER COMMUNITY ENERGY FROM THE PERCENTAGE OF INCOME PAYMENT PLAN PILOT

Division Assigned: Energy

Date Filed: 01-11-2023

Date to Calendar: 01-20-2023

Authorizing Documents: None

Disposition:	Accepted
Effective Date:	02-10-2023

Resolution Required: No

Resolution Number: None

Commission Meeting Date: None

CPUC Contact Information:

edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov

AL Certificate Contact Information:

Kirstin Kolpitcke

(916) 818-2560

kirstink@pioneercommunityenergy.com

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco CA 94102-3298



To: Energy Company Filing Advice Letter

From: Energy Division PAL Coordinator

Subject: Your Advice Letter Filing

The Energy Division of the California Public Utilities Commission has processed your recent Advice Letter (AL) filing and is returning an AL status certificate for your records.

The AL status certificate indicates:

- Advice Letter Number
- Name of Filer
- CPUC Corporate ID number of Filer
- Subject of Filing
- Date Filed
- Disposition of Filing (Accepted, Rejected, Withdrawn, etc.)
- Effective Date of Filing
- Other Miscellaneous Information (e.g., Resolution, if applicable, etc.)

The Energy Division has made no changes to your copy of the Advice Letter Filing; please review your Advice Letter Filing with the information contained in the AL status certificate, and update your Advice Letter and tariff records accordingly.

All inquiries to the California Public Utilities Commission on the status of your Advice Letter Filing will be answered by Energy Division staff based on the information contained in the Energy Division's PAL database from which the AL status certificate is generated. If you have any questions on this matter please contact the:

Energy Division's Tariff Unit by e-mail to
edtariffunit@cpuc.ca.gov



ADVICE LETTER SUMMARY

ENERGY UTILITY



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

Company name/CPUC Utility No.: **Pioneer Community Energy**

Utility type:

☒ ELC ☐ GAS ☐ WATER
☐ PLC ☐ HEAT

Contact Person: **Kirstin Kolpitcke**

Phone #: **(916) 818-2560**

E-mail: **kirstink@pioneercommunityenergy.com**

E-mail Disposition Notice to: **kirstink@pioneercommunityenergy.com**

EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE

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

(Date Submitted / Received Stamp by CPUC)

January 11, 2023

Advice Letter (AL) #: **12-E**

Tier Designation: **2**

Subject of AL: **WITHDRAWAL OF PIONEER COMMUNITY ENERGY FROM THE
PERCENTAGE OF INCOME PAYMENT PLAN PILOT**

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing):

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: **n/a**

Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL: **n/a**

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: **2/10/23**

No. of tariff sheets:

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: Kirstin Kolpitcke
Title: Legislative and Regulatory Manager
Utility Name: Pioneer Community Energy
Address: 2510 Warren Drive, Suite B
City: Rocklin
State: California Zip: 95677
Telephone (xxx) xxx-xxxx: (916) 818-2560
Facsimile (xxx) xxx-xxxx: (916) 818-2560
Email: kirstink@pioneercommunityenergy.com

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

ENERGY Advice Letter Keywords

Affiliate	Direct Access	Preliminary Statement
Agreements	Disconnect Service	Procurement
Agriculture	ECAC / Energy Cost Adjustment	Qualifying Facility
Avoided Cost	EOR / Enhanced Oil Recovery	Rebates
Balancing Account	Energy Charge	Refunds
Baseline	Energy Efficiency	Reliability
Bilingual	Establish Service	Re-MAT/Bio-MAT
Billings	Expand Service Area	Revenue Allocation
Bioenergy	Forms	Rule 21
Brokerage Fees	Franchise Fee / User Tax	Rules
CARE	G.O. 131-D	Section 851
CPUC Reimbursement Fee	GRC / General Rate Case	Self Generation
Capacity	Hazardous Waste	Service Area Map
Cogeneration	Increase Rates	Service Outage
Compliance	Interruptible Service	Solar
Conditions of Service	Interutility Transportation	Standby Service
Connection	LIEE / Low-Income Energy Efficiency	Storage
Conservation	LIRA / Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance	Street Lights
Consolidate Tariffs	Late Payment Charge	Surcharges
Contracts	Line Extensions	Tariffs
Core	Memorandum Account	Taxes
Credit	Metered Energy Efficiency	Text Changes
Curtailable Service	Metering	Transformer
Customer Charge	Mobile Home Parks	Transition Cost
Customer Owned Generation	Name Change	Transmission Lines
Decrease Rates	Non-Core	Transportation Electrification
Demand Charge	Non-firm Service Contracts	Transportation Rates
Demand Side Fund	Nuclear	Undergrounding
Demand Side Management	Oil Pipelines	Voltage Discount
Demand Side Response	PBR / Performance Based Ratemaking	Wind Power
Deposits	Portfolio	Withdrawal of Service
Depreciation	Power Lines	



January 11, 2023

California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
Attention: Tariff Unit
505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

Advice Letter 12-E
(Pioneer Community Energy)

Advice Letter 4698-G/ 6823-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 M)

**RE: WITHDRAWAL OF PIONEER COMMUNITY ENERGY FROM THE
PERCENTAGE OF INCOME PAYMENT PLAN PILOT**

PURPOSE

Pioneer Community Energy (“Pioneer”) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (“PG&E”) (collectively, “Joint Participants”) hereby jointly submit this Advice Letter (“AL”) to request the withdrawal of Pioneer from the Percentage of Income Payment Plan (“PIPP”) pilot, as approved by the California Public Utilities Commission (“Commission”) in Resolution E-5200, issued on December 16, 2022 (“PIPP Pilot Resolution”). Based on input from Pioneer’s Community Programs Advisory Committee, Pioneer has reexamined its involvement in the PIPP pilot and determined that, for various reasons, Pioneer’s limited resources are better directed to other community programs at this time. Pioneer and PG&E further request that the PIPP allocation cap corresponding to Pioneer be reallocated to PG&E.

TIER DESIGNATION

Pursuant to General Order (“GO”) 96-B and Energy Industry Rule 5.2, this AL is submitted with a Tier 2 designation, as further discussed below.

EFFECTIVE DATE

The Joint Participants request that this AL become effective on February 10, 2023, which is 30 calendar days after the date of submittal.

BACKGROUND

Pioneer operates a community choice aggregation (“CCA”) program in the Sierra Nevada. Pioneer’s CCA program is the most easterly of the CCA programs. Pioneer began serving load to unincorporated Placer County, and the cities of Auburn, Colfax, Lincoln, Rocklin, and the Town of Loomis in February 2018. El Dorado County and Placerville joined Pioneer in 2021. Pioneer currently serves nearly 160,000 accounts. Beginning in 2024, Pioneer expects to serve additional

accounts. Pioneer's Board of Directors recently approved the membership requests of the cities of Grass Valley and Nevada City, and in furtherance of this approval, on December 16, 2022, Pioneer submitted to the Commission's Executive Director the "*Notice of Availability of Pioneer Community Energy Addendum No. 2 to the Community Choice Aggregation Implementation Plan and Statement of Intent*," requesting certification of Pioneer's revised CCA implementation plan.

In July 2018, the Commission opened Rulemaking ("R.")18-07-005 to implement Senate Bill 598 (2017), which addresses residential disconnections. The Commission subsequently adopted Decision ("D.")20-06-003, which established a ratesetting phase to consider a PIPP program. In October 2021, the Commission issued D.21-10-012 adopting a PIPP pilot. In addition to participation by the investor-owned utilities ("IOUs"), Ordering Paragraph 3 of D.21-10-022 authorized eligible CCAs to participate in the PIPP pilot by jointly submit a Tier 3 advice letter with the applicable IOU. Since Pioneer met the eligibility criteria the Commission established, Pioneer participated in working group meetings with the IOUs together and coordination meetings separately with PG&E to develop a joint Tier 3 advice letter.

Consistent with D.21-10-022, on February 4, 2022 PG&E jointly submitted PG&E Advice Letter 6493-E and corresponding advice letters from participating CCAs, including Pioneer Advice Letter 10-E ("Joint AL"). The Joint AL included extensive discussion about and proposed rules for the PIPP pilot, including CCA participation and pilot participation targets. Included as Table 2 of the Joint AL were participation targets of bundled and unbundled customers. Based on Pioneer's total number of California Alternate Rates for Electricity ("CARE") customers, Pioneer was allocated a PIPP participation cap of 76.

On November 9, 2022, the Commission's Energy Division issued Draft Resolution E-5200 for comment. Draft Resolution E-5200 incorporated Table 2 of the Joint AL, and the final PIPP Pilot Resolution subsequently adopted the PIPP participation targets included in Table 2.¹ The PIPP Pilot Resolution directed the IOUs to adjust bill caps based on updated CARE income guidelines. In compliance with this directive and to provide an updated pilot participation allocation, PG&E plans to submit a Tier 1 advice letter on January 17, 2023.

In the intervening period between submittal of the Joint AL and issuance of the PIPP Pilot Resolution, Pioneer reexamined its involvement in the PIPP pilot based on a variety of factors. As currently structured, the PIPP pilot has broad representation among PG&E and CCAs, and Pioneer believes that its withdrawal would not adversely impact PIPP pilot goals or objectives. Moreover, while the Commission clarified in the PIPP Pilot Resolution that CCAs may seek cost recovery for incremental administrative costs,² Pioneer has limited human resources as a smaller CCA and it is important to apply these resources in the most cost-effective way possible. Pioneer presented these factors to its Community Programs Advisory Committee and, after further review, Pioneer has determined that its limited resources are better directed to other community programs at this time. Pioneer considered withdrawing its advice letter earlier, but, with the issuance of Draft Resolution E-

¹ See PIPP Pilot Resolution at 11; Table 5.

² See PIPP Pilot Resolution at 46-48.

5200 and subsequently the final PIPP Pilot Resolution, Energy Division disposition in response to another advice letter is now necessary to address Pioneer's withdrawal.³

REQUESTED WITHDRAWAL AND REALLOCATION

The Joint Participants request that Pioneer be authorized to withdraw its participation in the PIPP Pilot, and that the PIPP allocation cap corresponding to Pioneer be reallocated to PG&E. As noted above, PG&E plans to submit a Tier 1 advice letter on January 17, 2023 to adjust the PIPP bill caps based on updated CARE income guidelines and to provide a final participation allocation of the pilot population. The Joint Participants are requesting that Pioneer's entire participation cap, as modified by the upcoming Tier 1 advice letter, be reallocated to PG&E.

GO 96-B, General Rule 5.1 states that, subsequent to the issuance of a resolution, a utility [and a CCA, in this case] "may...request relief by means of an advice letter where the utility...(2) requests modification of a Commission resolution addressing a prior advice letter of the utility." Pioneer's participation was addressed in the PIPP Pilot Resolution, and therefore the Joint Participants are submitting this AL to request a minor modification of the PIPP Pilot Resolution. GO 96-B, Energy Industry Rule 5.2(2) further states that a "tariff change that is consistent with authority the Commission previously has granted to the Utility [and a CCA, in this case] submitting the advice letter" should be submitted as a Tier 2 advice letter, and therefore be subject to disposition via an Energy Division disposition letter (as opposed to a Commissioner resolution). In adopting the PIPP Pilot Resolution, the Commission broadly granted the Joint Participants authority to implement the PIPP Pilot.⁴ In addressing the variability in actual participation levels and collaboration with CCAs, the Commission acknowledged that "PG&E also proposed a waitlist process and would fill any slots that may become available roughly every two months, but may do so sooner or later to match both customer need and operational feasibility. PG&E proposed to collaborate with CCAs to align with PG&E's waitlist approach or develop an alternative pilot process."⁵

Based on these statements, the Joint Participants believe that there is sufficient authority for the Energy Division to approve this AL via a disposition letter, and that another Commission resolution is not needed. The requested modification would not be modifying any of the material findings, conclusions, or directives in the PIPP Pilot Resolution. Rather, the requested modification would simply adjust participation levels without impacting the overall customer cap. Following the methodology described in the original Joint AL, the Joint Participants are making an adjustment by simply reversing the process described in the PIPP Pilot Resolution, namely, instead of "subtracting" CCA customers from PG&E's total participation cap, PG&E would "add" Pioneer's customers to

³ See GO 96-B, General Rule 5.3 (stating that "no later than the date of issuance, for public review and comment, of a draft resolution (if any) that would grant or reject the advice letter, a utility may withdraw its advice letter without prejudice....").

⁴ See, e.g., PIPP Pilot Resolution at 37 ("The CPUC has reviewed the IOUs' ALs and party protests and finds that anything not specifically addressed below is in compliance with the directives of D.21-10-012, Attachment A.").

⁵ PIPP Pilot Resolution at 22.

PG&E's participation cap, thereby maintaining the authorized 5,000-customer cap and not making any adjustments to terms approved in the PIPP Pilot Resolution.

For these reasons, the Joint Participants request that Pioneer be authorized to withdraw its participation in the PIPP pilot, and that the PIPP allocation cap corresponding to Pioneer be reallocated to PG&E.

NOTICE

A copy of this AL is being served on the official Commission service list for R.18-07-005, together with individuals separately included on the service list for the Draft PIPP Pilot Resolution.

For changes to this service list, please contact the Commission's Process Office at (415) 703-2021 or by electronic mail at Process_Office@cpuc.ca.gov.

PROTESTS

Anyone wishing to protest this AL may do so electronically no later than 20 days after the date of this AL. Protests should be mailed to:

CPUC Energy Division
Attention: ED Tariff Unit
Email: EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov

Copies of the protest should also be mailed to the attention of the Director, Energy Division, Room 4004 (same address above).

In addition, protests and all other correspondence regarding this AL should be sent by letter or transmitted electronically to the attention of:

For Pioneer:
Kirstin Kolpitke
Legislative and Regulatory Manager
Pioneer Community Energy
2510 Warren Drive, Suite B
Rocklin, CA 95677
Email: kirstink@pioneercommunityenergy.com

For PG&E:
Sidney Bob Dietz II
Director, Regulatory Relations
c/o Megan Lawson
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

There are no restrictions on who may submit a protest, but the protest shall set forth specifically the grounds upon which it is based and shall be submitted expeditiously.

CORRESPONDENCE

For questions regarding this AL, please contact Kirstin Kolpitcke or the PG&E Tariffs Team by electronic mail at kirstink@pioneercommunityenergy.com and PGETariffs@pge.com.

/s/ Kirstin Kolpitcke

Kirstin Kolpitcke
Legislative and Regulatory Manager
Pioneer Community Energy

/s/ Sidney Bob Dietz II

Sidney Bob Dietz II
Director, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company

**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.
Braun Blaising Smith Wynne, P.C.
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
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
Dish Wireless L.L.C.

East Bay Community Energy Ellison
Schneider & Harris LLP
Engineers and Scientists of California

GenOn Energy, Inc.
Goodin, MacBride, Squeri, Schlotz &
Ritchie
Green Power Institute
Hanna & Morton
ICF

iCommLaw
International Power Technology
Intertie

Intestate Gas Services, Inc.

Johnston, Kevin
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
McClintock IP
McKenzie & Associates

Modesto Irrigation District
NLine Energy, Inc.
NRG Solar

OnGrid Solar
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Peninsula Clean Energy

Pioneer Community Energy

Public Advocates Office

Redwood Coast Energy Authority
Regulatory & Cogeneration Service, Inc.

Resource Innovations

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
Stoel Rives LLP

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