

July 12, 2002

**Advice 2396-G/2254-E**

(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 M)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject:      Modifications to Medical Baseline Forms**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) hereby submits for filing revisions to its gas and electric rules. The affected tariff sheets are listed on the enclosed Attachment I.<sup>1</sup>

**Purpose**

The purpose of this filing is to submit gas and electric medical baseline forms in compliance with Decision (D.) 02-04-026. Decision 02-04-026 required the utilities, Disability Rights Advocates (DRA), and other interested organizations to develop standardized medical baseline application and re-certification forms common to all utilities.

The medical baseline forms agreed to by the joint utilities and DRA are the revised and newly titled Form No. 62-3481 - *Medical Baseline Allowance Application*, and the new Form No. 61-0502- *Medical Baseline Allowance Self-Certification*. The joint utilities and DRA agree that the existing Form No. 62-3481 - *Declaration of Eligibility for a Standard Medical Baseline Quantity*, should be modified so that it can serve as both the enrollment form for first time applicants, and the bi-annual re-certification by a doctor for medical baseline customers initially certified to have a non-permanent medical condition. The new Form No. 61-0502 - *Medical Baseline Allowance Self-Certification*, will serve as the standard form for customers to self-certify continued eligibility for Medical Baseline.

The gas and electric medical baseline forms will be available in Spanish and Chinese. In accordance with D. 02-04-026, an enlarged print version of each form

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<sup>1</sup> 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. PG&E reserves all rights to amend or revise its filings before the Commission and other agencies to implement the requirements of the order or orders of the Bankruptcy Court confirming PG&E's plan of reorganization as originally filed on September 20, 2001, and subsequently amended.

will be available, and the medical baseline forms will be posted on PG&E's website.

### **Tariff Revisions**

PG&E proposes to replace the current Form No. 62-3481 - *Declaration of Eligibility for a Standard Medical Baseline Quantity* with revised and newly titled Form No. 62-3481 - *Medical Baseline Allowance Application*. In addition, PG&E proposes to add new Form No. 61-0502- *Medical Baseline Allowance Self-Certification*.

Gas and electric Rule 3 – *Application for Service* has been modified to refer to the new title of Form No. 62-3481. Similarly gas and electric Rule 19 – *Medical Baseline Quantities* has been modified to refer to the new baseline medical form titles and self-certification procedures.

Form No. 79-708 – *Application for Additional Medical Baseline Quantities* will be obsolete upon approval of this filing and has been deleted.

In addition, PG&E is eliminating Form 62-3309, *Declaration of Eligibility for Baseline Quantities for Residential Rates*, because the baseline information requested on this obsolete form is collected verbally from the customer when the customer establishes service.

### **Protests**

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by sending a letter by **August 1, 2002**, which is 20 days from 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, Mail Code B10C  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, California 94177  
Facsimile: (415) 973-7226

**Effective Date**

PG&E requests that this advice filing become effective on regular notice, **August 21, 2002**, 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 and the parties on the service list for R. 01-05-047. Address changes should be directed to Rose Abao at (415) 973-2218. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at:

[http://www.pge.com/customer\\_services/business/tariffs/](http://www.pge.com/customer_services/business/tariffs/)

Vice President - Regulatory Relations

Attachments

cc: Service List – R. 01-05-047



RULE 3—APPLICATION FOR SERVICE  
(Continued)

B. REQUEST FOR MEDICAL BASELINE QUANTITIES BY RESIDENTIAL CUSTOMER (T)

PG&E may require a residential customer, or prospective residential customer, to complete and file Medical Baseline Allowance Application, Form No. 62-3481, before medical baseline quantities are determined. Medical baseline quantities will become effective the first meter reading date after PG&E receives the customer's properly completed and signed application. (D) (T)  
(D) |  
(T)

C. INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY FOR JOINT SERVICE

Where two or more persons join in one application or contract for service, they shall be jointly and severally liable thereunder and shall be billed by means of a single periodic bill mailed to the person designated on the application to receive the bill. Whether or not PG&E obtained a joint application, where two or more adults occupy the same premises, they shall be jointly and severally liable for bills for energy supplied.

D. CHANGE OF CUSTOMER'S APPARATUS OR EQUIPMENT

In the event that the customer shall make any material change either in the amount or character of the gas appliances or apparatus installed upon the premises to be supplied with gas by PG&E, the customer shall immediately give PG&E written notice of this fact.



RULE 19—MEDICAL BASELINE QUANTITIES

A. GENERAL

If you are a residential customer, you are assigned a Baseline quantity. This quantity is the number of therms of gas you may purchase at PG&E's lowest residential rate.

If you or a full-time resident in your home has a medical disability, you may qualify for a Standard Medical Baseline Quantity in addition to your regular Baseline quantity. The Standard Medical Baseline Quantity is 0.82192 therms per day year-round. In other words, you may be able to purchase an additional 0.82192 therms of gas per day (the equivalent of 25 therms per month) at a lower rate. The Standard Medical Baseline Quantity used for automated billing is calculated using the unrounded quotient of the following equation: 300 therms per year divided by 365 days. Any billing that requires hand calculations will use 0.82192 therms per day.

If the extra 25 therms does not meet your medical needs, you may apply for Additional Medical Baseline Quantities, as explained in Part F below.

(T)

B. ELIGIBILITY

To qualify for a Standard Medical Baseline Quantity, you must certify in writing that you or a full-time resident in your home is:

- dependent on a life-support device (as defined in Part C below) used in the home or
- a paraplegic, hemiplegic, or quadriplegic person, or a multiple sclerosis patient with special heating and/or cooling needs or
- a person being treated for a life-threatening illness, or a person with a compromised immune system with special heating and/or cooling needs to sustain the life of the person or prevent deterioration of the person's medical condition or
- a scleroderma patient with special heating needs.

(Medical conditions other than multiple sclerosis, scleroderma, paraplegia, hemiplegia, quadriplegia, a life-threatening illness, or having a compromised immune system may also qualify customers for medical quantities for heating or air conditioning. Any such situations will be reviewed on an individual basis.)

(Continued)



RULE 19—MEDICAL BASELINE QUANTITIES  
(Continued)

B. ELIGIBILITY (Cont'd.)

If you believe that you qualify, please contact your local PG&E office and request a copy of "Medical Baseline Allowance Application," Form No. 62-3481. (T)

PG&E may also require you to have a physician and surgeon licensed in the State of California, or a person licensed in the State of California in accordance with the Osteopathic Initiative Act fill out the last page of the form to certify that you qualify for a Medical Baseline Quantity.

C. RECERTIFICATION

Customers certified by their doctor as having a permanent disability will need to self-certify their eligibility every two years using the "Medical Baseline Allowance Self-Certification," Form No. 61-0502, to ensure their continued residence at the service address, but will not need a doctor's signature.

Customers not having a permanent disability will need to self-certify each year, and will need a doctor's certification every two years using the "Medical Baseline Allowance Application," Form No. 62-3481. (N)

D. LIFE-SUPPORT DEVICES

A life-support device is any medical device necessary to sustain life or relied upon for mobility. To qualify under this rule, the device must be used in the home and must run on gas supplied by PG&E. (For devices that run on electricity, see Rule 19 in the tariff schedule for electricity.) (T)

E. HEATING AND AIR CONDITIONING

Special heating and/or air-conditioning needs will qualify you for a Standard Medical Baseline Quantity under this rule only if your main source of energy for heating or air conditioning is gas supplied by PG&E. (If your main source of energy for heating or air conditioning is electricity, please see Rule 19 in the tariff schedule for electricity.) (T)

(Continued)



RULE 19—MEDICAL BASELINE QUANTITIES  
 (Continued)

F. ADDITIONAL MEDICAL BASELINE QUANTITIES (T)

If you believe that more than the Standard Medical Baseline Quantity of 0.82192 therms per day is needed to operate the life-support device(s) in your home or maintain the temperature required by the qualifying medical condition, you may apply for additional medical quantities. Please contact PG&E at 1-800-743-5000 for assistance. (T)  
 (T)

If PG&E finds that you need more than the standard 0.82192 therms per day, it will increase your daily Medical Baseline Quantity. In determining how many Additional Quantities you will be assigned, PG&E will round its calculation of your total daily therm medical needs up to the nearest increment of 0.82192 therms. (D)

G. MEDICAL BASELINE QUANTITIES FOR MASTER-METERED CUSTOMERS (T)

Residential tenants of master-metered customers can also qualify for Medical Baseline Quantities. If one or more of your tenants have a medical condition that qualifies under the conditions listed above, please contact your local PG&E office to find out how to apply.

If you submeter your tenants, any Medical Baseline Quantities must be passed on to the qualifying tenant(s) when you bill tenants for the gas they use.



**Pacific Gas and Electric Company**  
San Francisco, California

*Cancelling*

Revised  
Revised

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

21122-G  
17808-G

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
MEDICAL BASELINE ALLOWANCE APPLICATION  
FORM NO. 62-3481 (REV. 7/02)  
(ATTACHED)

(T)  
(T)

(D)

Advice Letter No. 2396-G  
Decision No. 02-04-026

Issued by  
**Karen A. Tomcala**  
Vice President  
Regulatory Relations

Date Filed July 12, 2002  
Effective \_\_\_\_\_  
Resolution No. \_\_\_\_\_





**Pacific Gas and Electric Company**  
San Francisco, California

*Cancelling*

Original

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

21123-G

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
MEDICAL BASELINE ALLOWANCE SELF-CERTIFICATION  
FORM NO. 61-0502 (7/02)  
(ATTACHED)

(N)  
|  
(N)

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**Karen A. Tomcala**  
Vice President  
Regulatory Relations

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