September 10, 2010

Advice 3149-G/3730-E
(Pacific Gas and Electric Company ID U 39 M)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Nonresidential Credit Card Payment Option

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

Purpose

The purpose of this filing is to request the California Public Utilities Commission’s (Commission) approval to expand the use of credit cards for gas and electric bill payment by nonresidential customers through an authorized third-party pay-by-phone service.

Background

PG&E’s current transaction convenience fee-based credit card payment option for residential customers has been in place since late 2008.¹ Under this option, residential customers continue to receive their energy bills either by mail or through paperless billing through their e-mail, but can also enjoy the convenience of paying their gas and electric bill using an authorized credit card. These customer transactions are managed by an independent third-party service provider authorized by PG&E to accept gas and electric bill payments by credit card and to charge a transaction convenience fee for payments under this option.

With the success of its current program, PG&E is proposing to expand the use of credit cards for gas and electric bill payment to nonresidential customers through an independent third-party pay-by-phone service provider. As with residential customers, many small to medium-sized nonresidential customers would also enjoy the convenience and cash management benefits of paying their gas and electric bill using an authorized credit card. Customers electing to use this payment option will be advised by the authorized third-party service provider that: 1) there is a transaction convenience fee of three and two-tenths of a percent (3.2%) of the bill payment amount charged issued by the service provider for credit card payments and 2) the exact dollar amount of the transaction convenience fee.

¹ PG&E’s Advice 2950-G/3320-E, Credit/Debit Card Payment Option, filed August 20, 2008.
Bill payments and transaction convenience fee payments are collected by the authorized third-party service provider. The third-party service provider is required through a written agreement with PG&E to employ stringent consumer protections. These protections ensure that the consumers are well informed about the service they are using, protected from various forms of fraud, and provided with adequate access to customer service support and a level of confidence that their information is being kept strictly confidential. PG&E will neither store nor have access to customers’ credit card information. As with all vendors who have access to customer information, PG&E requires the service provider to strictly maintain confidentiality of customer information, establish and maintain procedures to safeguard that information.

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

**Tariff Revisions**

PG&E is revising Electric and Gas Rules 9 – Rendering and Payment Of Bills, in order to expand the use of credit card payments by nonresidential customers through an authorized third-party pay-by-phone service and to clarify the payment options available to residential and nonresidential customers. Specific changes made to Section E -- *Bills Due On Presentation* of Gas and Electric Rules 9 are:

1. Section E.3 was revised to clarify the payment options available to nonresidential customers, which now includes the use of credit cards through a third-party pay-by-phone service. The revised language now reads:

   “Debit card, prepaid purchase card (PG&E Gift Card), or an electronic funds transfer where the nonresidential customer initiates the payment through a third party, and credit card payment(s) where the customer initiates the one-time payment through an authorized third party operated pay-by-phone service (A transfer or transaction fee over and above the PG&E bill amount may be charged to the customer by a third-party vendor for these services), or” [Emphasis added.]

2. Section E.4 was revised to clarify the payment options available to residential customers. The revised language now reads:
“Debit card, credit card, or PG&E Gift Card payment(s) where the residential customer initiates the payment through a third party (A transfer or transaction fee over and above the PG&E bill amount may be charged to the customer by a third-party vendor for these services). These services are available through a third party operated pay-by-phone service, authorized bill payment kiosk, authorized gift card merchant or PG&E online. PG&E Gift Cards may be used for a one-time payment through an authorized gift card merchant. The debit card and credit card options include a one-time payment option through authorized bill payment kiosks, and both a one-time payment and a recurring billing payment option through a pay-by-phone service or PG&E online. The recurring payment option is contingent upon the PG&E customer submitting and maintaining a valid email address and expressly agreeing via email to the suppression of all future paper bills in a manner consistent with the requirements of Rule 9 (L), or” [Emphasis added.]

This proposal complies with Public Utilities (PU) Code Sections 1748.1 and 755 and all other applicable California law.

Protests

Anyone wishing to protest this filing may do so by letter sent via U.S. mail, by facsimile or electronically, any of which must be received no later than September 30, 2010, which is 20 days after the date of this filing. Protests should be mailed to:

CPUC Energy Division
Tariff Files, Room 4005
DMS Branch
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, California 94102

Facsimile: (415) 703-2200
E-mail: jnj@cpuc.ca.gov and mas@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 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:

Jane K. Yura
Vice President, Regulations and Rates
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10B
P.O. Box 770000
Effective Date

PG&E requests that this advice filing become effective on regular notice, **October 11, 2010**. This advice letter is submitted with a Tier 2 designation.

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 and all electronic approvals should be directed to email PGETariffs@pge.com. Advice letter filings can also be accessed electronically at: [http://www.pge.com/tariffs](http://www.pge.com/tariffs).

Jane K. Yura  
Vice President - Regulation and Rates

Attachments
**Company name/CPUC Utility No.** Pacific Gas and Electric Company (ID U39 M)

<table>
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<th>Contact Person: Olivia Brown</th>
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<tr>
<td>✗ ELC ✗ GAS</td>
<td>Phone #: 415.973.9312</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>□ PLC □ HEAT □ WATER</td>
<td>E-mail: <a href="mailto:oxb4@pge.com">oxb4@pge.com</a></td>
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**EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE**

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

**Advice Letter (AL) #:** 3149-G/3730-E  
**Subject of AL:** Nonresidential Credit Card Payment Option  
**Keywords (choose from CPUC listing):** Billings

**AL filing type:** □ Monthly □ Quarterly □ Annual ✗ One-Time □ Other ____________________________

If AL filed in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #: N/A

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: N/A

Is AL requesting confidential treatment?  If so, what information is the utility seeking confidential treatment for: No

Confidential information will be made available to those who have executed a nondisclosure agreement: N/A

Name(s) and contact information of the person(s) who will provide the nondisclosure agreement and access to the confidential information: N/A

Resolution Required? □ Yes  ✗ No

Requested effective date: October 11, 2010  
No. of tariff sheets: 16

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). N/A

Tariff schedules affected: Gas and Electric Rules 9

Service affected and changes proposed: N/A

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

**CPUC, Energy Division**  
**Tariff Files, Room 4005**  
**DMS Branch**  
505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco, CA 94102  
jnj@cpuc.ca.gov and mas@cpuc.ca.gov

**Pacific Gas and Electric Company**  
**Attn: Jane K. Yura, Vice President, Regulation and Rates**  
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10B  
P.O. Box 770000  
San Francisco, CA 94177  
E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com
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E. BILLS DUE ON PRESENTATION

Bills for gas service are due and payable upon presentation. Payments shall be received at the address imprinted on the payment stub attached to PG&E’s bill, a business office of PG&E, or by an authorized agent of PG&E. Payments shall be made using the following options:

1. Cash, check, money order, or

2. Electronic data interchange (EDI) for commercial customers or recurring automatic bank debit (Wherein the customer requests the automatic monthly withdrawal of payment for utility services from a designated checking/banking account), or

3. Debit card, prepaid purchase card (PG&E Gift Card), or an electronic funds transfer where the nonresidential customer initiates the payment through a third party, and credit card payment(s) where the customer initiates the one-time payment through an authorized third party operated pay-by-phone service (A transfer or transaction fee over and above the PG&E bill amount may be charged to the customer by a third-party vendor for these services), or

4. Debit card, credit card, or PG&E Gift Card payment(s) where the residential customer initiates the payment through a third party (A transfer or transaction fee over and above the PG&E bill amount may be charged to the customer by a third-party vendor for these services). These services are available through a third party operated pay-by-phone service, authorized bill payment kiosk, authorized gift card merchant or PG&E online. PG&E Gift Cards may be used for a one-time payment through an authorized gift card merchant. The debit card and credit card options include a one-time payment option through authorized bill payment kiosks, and both a one-time payment and a recurring billing payment option through a pay-by-phone service or PG&E online. The recurring payment option is contingent upon the PG&E customer submitting and maintaining a valid email address and expressly agreeing via email to the suppression of all future paper bills in a manner consistent with the requirements of Rule 9 (L), or
E. BILLS DUE ON PRESENTATION (Cont’d)

5. By other means mutually agreeable to PG&E and the customer

If a Customer makes only partial payment on a bill, the partial payment received will be allocated among the following components of the bill in proportion to the amount owed on each (utility users taxes will be treated in accordance with current utility procedures and are not subject to this section). The bill components include PG&E charges, CTC charges, and other energy-related charges. Customer failure to pay any of the components set forth herein, excepting residential customer third-party products and services will be subject to service termination as set forth in Rule 11.
GAS RULE NO. 9
RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

F. CLOSING BILL PAYABLE ON PRESENTATION

Removal bills, special bills, bills rendered on vacation of premises or bills rendered to persons discontinuing the service, shall be paid on presentation. Bills for connection or reconnection of service and payments for deposits or to reinstate deposits as required under the rules of PG&E shall be paid before service will be connected or reconnected.

G. BALANCED PAYMENT PLAN

Residential and small commercial customers whose energy is supplied and billed by PG&E on Rate Schedules G-1, GL-1, GM, GML, GS, GSL, GT, GTL, and GNR1 and wish to minimize variations in monthly bills, may elect to participate in the Balanced Payment Plan (BPP). This plan is detailed as follows:

1. A Customer can join the plan in any month of the year. The plan will remain in effect until it is terminated by PG&E or the customer.

2. Participation is subject to approval by PG&E.

3. Meters will be read and billed at regular intervals.

4. Customers will be expected to pay the BPP amount shown due.

5. The BPP amount will be one-twelfth of the annual bill as estimated by PG&E, based on the customer’s historical billings for the most recent year at the time of the calculation, or, if that is not available, the usage pattern of either the premises or comparable customers similarly situated.

6. BPP amounts will be reviewed at least three times a year and adjusted no more than three times in a year if required to reduce the likelihood of a large imbalance between actual charges and BPP charges. Customers will be notified on their bill of any change in the BPP amount.

7. Participants are subject to removal from the plan and subject to termination of service if a bill containing a prior unpaid BPP amount becomes delinquent as defined in Rule 11.

8. In accordance with Ordering Paragraph 15, in Decision (D.) 05-10-044, pertaining to PG&E’s Winter Customer Care and Relief Program and Public Utility Code Section 739.5, master-metered customers with sub-metered tenants served on rate schedules GS, GSL, GT, and GTL must pledge to pass on the BPP benefits to their sub-metered tenants and agree to inform the sub-metered tenants of this service in order to qualify for the BPP.
GAS RULE NO. 9
RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

H. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

If a check, tendered in payment of amounts owing PG&E, is not honored by a bank and is returned to PG&E unpaid, PG&E will add to the customer’s bill a charge of $11.50 for processing each such returned check. Where service is subject to discontinuance under Rule 11, the returned check charge shall be included in the total amount due and payable.

I. FIELD COLLECTION CHARGE

PG&E may require payment of a Field Collection Charge of $10.00 when an authorized PG&E representative makes a field call to a customer’s premises to discontinue gas service in accordance with Rule 11 for nonpayment of a past due billing for service. PG&E may also require payment of the $10.00 Field Collection Charge when an authorized PG&E representative makes a field call to discontinue gas service for nonpayment of a credit deposit that was requested in accordance with Rule 6.

Where service is discontinued the Provisions of gas Rule 11, the field collection charge will be included in the total amount due and payable.

If, at the time the authorized PG&E representative makes the field call to the customer’s premises, the customer makes payment in full or makes acceptable payment arrangements in order to avoid discontinuance of service, PG&E may still require payment of the $10.00 Field Collection Charge.

(Continued)
GAS RULE NO. 9
RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

J. RESIDENTIAL CHANGE OF PARTY

When a residential customer commences or terminates service in accordance with Rule 3 or 11, respectively, the energy use assigned to the customer for the purpose of calculating the opening or closing bill shall be determined by: (1) using the recorded meter registration on the date requested by the customer that service commence or terminate, (2) multiplying the average daily use during the billing period (as computed by dividing the total metered use by the number of days in the billing period) times the number of days the customer received service, or (3) actual usage data beginning on the day the customer commences service or ending on the day the customer terminates service.

K. SUMMARY BILLING

Summary Billing is a special billing service PG&E provides whereby Customers with service at multiple premises can receive a single bill (Summary Bill) with summarized billing data for these services under one account (Summary Billing Account). A Summary Billing Account summarizing the multiple Service Agreements associated with those services may be established under the following conditions:

1. Participation in the Summary Billing Program is subject to approval by PG&E.
2. Residential and nonresidential Service Agreements may not be summarized under the same Summary Billing Account.
3. Up to one hundred (100) Service Agreements may be summarized under one Summary Billing Account.
4. If the correctness of a Summary Bill or any Service Agreement is questioned or disputed by the Customer, the Customer must request an explanation from PG&E within ten (10) days of receiving the Summary Bill and pay the undisputed amount. If PG&E determines that the billing was incorrect, an adjustment will be applied to the next month’s bill. If PG&E and the Customer fail to agree on the amount of a disputed bill, in lieu of paying the disputed amount to PG&E, the Customer may submit the dispute the California Public Utilities Commission in accordance with Rule 10.
GAS RULE NO. 9
RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

L.  ELECTRONIC BILL PRESENTATION AND PAYMENT

At the mutual option of the Customer and PG&E, the Customer may elect to receive, view, and pay regular bills for service electronically and to no longer receive paper bills and legal and mandated notices. Customers requesting this option may be required to complete additional forms and agreements. Legal and mandated notices shall be included with PG&E’s electronic transmittal; except, however, all notices of termination of service for nonpayment shall be delivered by U.S. Mail. Either party may discontinue Electronic Billing upon 30-days prescribed notice.

Customers choosing to use an alternative payment method, such as a bill aggregator or financial institution, may be charged a fee by the third party. All complaints regarding alternative payment methods shall be directed to PG&E.

M. PRIVACY OF CUSTOMER INFORMATION

PG&E may release confidential information to a third party without obtaining the customer’s electronic signature or written consent when required by regulatory, legislative or court order. In such instances, PG&E shall make a reasonable effort to inform the customer of the information to be released, the date the information will be released, and the duration of the release, except in circumstances in which notification to the customer by PG&E is prohibited by law or otherwise inconsistent with applicable laws and regulations.
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ELECTRIC RULE NO. 9
RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

E. BILLS DUE ON PRESENTATION

Bills for electric service are due and payable upon presentation. Payments shall be received at the address imprinted on the payment stub attached to PG&E’s bill, a business office of PG&E, or by an authorized agent of PG&E. Payments shall be made using the following options:

1. Cash, check, money order, or

2. Electronic data interchange (EDI) for commercial customers or recurring automatic bank debit (Wherein the customer requests the automatic monthly withdrawal of payment for utility services from a designated checking/banking account), or

3. Debit card, prepaid purchase card (PG&E Gift Card), or an electronic funds transfer where the nonresidential customer initiates the payment through a third party, and credit card payment(s) where the customer initiates the one-time payment through an authorized third party operated pay-by-phone service (A transfer or transaction fee over and above the PG&E bill amount may be charged to the customer by a third-party vendor for these services), or

4. Debit card, credit card, or PG&E Gift Card payment(s) where the residential customer initiates the payment through a third party (A transfer or transaction fee over and above the PG&E bill amount may be charged to the customer by a third-party vendor for these services). These services are available through a third party operated pay-by-phone service, authorized bill payment kiosk, authorized gift card merchant or PG&E online. PG&E Gift Cards may be used for a one-time payment through an authorized gift card merchant. The debit card and credit card options include a one-time payment option through authorized bill payment kiosks, and both a one-time payment and a recurring billing payment option through a pay-by-phone service or PG&E online. The recurring payment option is contingent upon the PG&E customer submitting and maintaining a valid email address and expressly agreeing via email to the suppression of all future paper bills in a manner consistent with the requirements of Rule 9 (L), or

(Continued)
E. BILLS DUE ON PRESENTATION (Cont'd.)

5. By other means mutually agreeable to PG&E and the customer.

If a Customer makes only partial payment on a bill, the partial payment received will be allocated among the following components of the bill in proportion to the amount owed on each (utility users taxes will be treated in accordance with current utility procedures and are not subject to this section). The bill components include PG&E charges, CTC charges, and other energy-related charges. Customer failure to pay any of the components set forth herein, excepting residential customer third-party products and services will be subject to service termination as set forth in Rule 11.
ELECTRIC RULE NO. 9
RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

F. CLOSING BILL PAYABLE ON PRESENTATION

Removal bills, special bills, bills rendered on vacation of premises, or bills rendered to persons discontinuing the service, shall be paid on presentation. Bills for connection or reconnection of service and payments for deposits or to reinstate deposits as required under the rules of PG&E shall be paid before service will be connected or reconnected.

G. BALANCED PAYMENT PLAN

Residential and small commercial customers whose energy is supplied and billed by PG&E on Rate Schedules: E-1, EL-1, E-6, EL-6, E-7, EL-7, EA-7, EL-A7, E-8, EL-8, EM, EML, ES, ESL, ESR, ESRL, ET, ETL, A1 and A-6 and wish to minimize variations in monthly bills, may elect to participate in the Balanced Payment Plan (BPP). This plan is detailed as follows:

1. A Customer can join the plan in any month of the year. The plan will remain in effect until it is terminated by PG&E or the customer.

2. Participation is subject to approval by PG&E.

3. Meters will be read and billed at regular intervals.

4. Customers will be expected to pay the BPP amount shown due.

5. The BPP amount will be one-twelfth of the annual bill as estimated by PG&E, based on the customer's historical billings for the most recent year at the time of the calculation, or, if that is not available, the usage pattern of either the premises comparable customers similarly situated.

6. BPP amounts will be reviewed at least three times a year and adjusted no more than three times in a year if required to reduce the likelihood of a large imbalance between actual charges and BPP charges. Customers will be notified on their bill of any change in the BPP amount.

7. Participants are subject to removal from the plan and subject to termination of service if a bill containing a prior unpaid BPP amount becomes delinquent as defined in Rule 11.

(Continued)
ELECTRIC RULE NO. 9
RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

H. RETURNED CHECK CHARGE

If a check, tendered in payment of amounts owing PG&E, is not honored by a bank and is returned to PG&E unpaid, PG&E will add to the customer’s bill a charge of $11.50 for processing each such returned check. Where service is subject to discontinuance under Rule 11, the returned check charge shall be included in the total amount due and payable.

I. FIELD COLLECTION CHARGE

PG&E may require payment of a Field Collection Charge of $10.00 when an authorized PG&E representative makes a field call to a customer’s premises to discontinue electric service in accordance with Rule 11 for nonpayment of a past due billing for service. PG&E may also require payment of the $10.00 Field Collection Charge when an authorized PG&E representative makes a field call to discontinue electric service for nonpayment of a credit deposit that was requested in accordance with Rule 6.

(Continued)
RENDERING AND PAYMENT OF BILLS

J. RESIDENTIAL CHANGE OF PARTY

When a residential customer commences or terminates service in accordance with Rule 3 or 11, respectively, the energy use assigned to the customer for the purpose of calculating the opening or closing bill shall be determined by: (1) using the recorded meter registration on the date requested by the customer that service commence or terminate, (2) multiplying the average daily use during the billing period (as computed by dividing the total metered use by the number of days in the billing period) times the number of days the customer received service, or (3) actual usage data beginning on the day the customer commences service or ending on the day the customer terminates service.

K. SUMMARY BILLING

Summary Billing is a special billing service PG&E provides whereby Customers with service at multiple premises can receive a single bill (Summary Bill) with summarized billing data for these services under one account (Summary Billing Account). A Summary Billing Account summarizing the multiple Service Agreements associated with those services may be established under the following conditions:

1. Participation in the Summary Billing Program is subject to approval by PG&E.
2. Residential and nonresidential Service Agreements may not be summarized under the same Summary Billing Account.
3. Up to one hundred (100) Service Agreements may be summarized under one Summary Billing Account.
4. If the correctness of a Summary Bill or any Service Agreement is questioned or disputed by the Customer, the Customer must request an explanation from PG&E within ten (10) days of receiving the Summary Bill and pay the undisputed amount. If PG&E determines that the billing was incorrect, an adjustment will be applied to the next month’s bill. If PG&E and the Customer fail to agree on the amount of a disputed bill, in lieu of paying the disputed amount to PG&E, the Customer may submit the dispute the California Public Utilities Commission in accordance with Rule 10.

(Continued)
L. ELECTRONIC BILL PRESENTATION AND PAYMENT

At the mutual option of the Customer and PG&E, the Customer may elect to receive, view, and pay regular bills for service electronically and to no longer receive paper bills and legal and mandated notices. Customers requesting this option may be required to complete additional forms and agreements. Legal and mandated notices shall be included with PG&E’s electronic transmittal; except, however, all notices of termination of service for nonpayment shall be delivered by U.S. Mail. Either party may discontinue Electronic Billing upon 30 days prescribed notice.

Customers choosing to use an alternative payment method, such as a bill aggregator or financial institution, may be charged a fee by the third party. All complaints regarding alternative payment methods shall be directed to PG&E.

M. PRIVACY OF CUSTOMER INFORMATION

To preserve customer privacy, PG&E will not release confidential information, including financial information, to a third party without the customer’s electronic signature or the written consent.
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