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03-30-10

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Authority, Among Other Things, to Increase Rates and Charges for Electric and Gas Service Effective on January 1, 2011. (U39M)

Application 09-12-020
(Filed December 21, 2009)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
ESTABLISHING JOINT PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) recently filed two applications with the Commission. The first involves PG&E's request to increase its revenue requirement to recover the costs for its natural gas transmission and storage services in Application (A.) 09-09-013. The second involves PG&E's General Rate Case (GRC) in A.09-12-020 to increase its revenue requirement for the costs of its electric generation and distribution services and for its gas distribution service.

At the December 2, 2009 prehearing conference (PHC) in A.09-09-013, Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) John S. Wong discussed whether public participation hearings (PPHs) should be held in that proceeding. The Utility Reform Network (TURN) suggested at the PHC that the PPHs in A.09-09-013 be held jointly with the PPHs for PG&E's GRC in A.09-12-020. TURN pointed out that due to the filing of both applications, the public may become confused if separate PPHs are held in each proceeding. The December 18, 2009 scoping memo and ruling (Scoping Memo) in A.09-09-013 stated that "we will attempt to coordinate the holding of one or more PPHs in this application with the PPHs that may be held in connection with PG&E's GRC application," and that another

ruling would issue “at a later date concerning the dates and locations of the PPHs and the bill insert to notify end users of the PPHs.” (Scoping Memo at 8.)

At the February 19, 2010 PHC in A.09-12-020, ALJ David Fukutome discussed whether the PPHs for the GRC should be held jointly with the PPHs in A.09-09-013. TURN and some of the other parties supported the idea of holding joint PPHs, and suggested various locations as to where the PPHs should be held.

The assigned Commissioners and ALJs in both proceedings have coordinated the holding of joint PPHs for A.09-09-013 and A.09-12-020. The holding of joint PPHs makes sense in order to minimize possible customer confusion over the two proceedings, to allow PG&E’s customers an opportunity to comment on PG&E’s proposals in both proceedings at a joint PPH, and to minimize the costs associated with the holding of PPHs.

Therefore, **IT IS RULED** that:

1. A series of joint public participation hearings (PPHs) in Application (A.) 09-09-013 and A.09-12-020 will be held, and are scheduled as follows in the service territory of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E):
 - a. Monday, May 24, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the Commission Auditorium, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.
 - b. Wednesday, May 26, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the Hugh M. Burns State Building – Auditorium, 2550 Mariposa Mall, 1st Floor – Room 1036, Fresno, CA 93721.
 - c. Thursday, May 27, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the Bakersfield City Hall Council Chambers, 1501 Truxtun Avenue, Bakersfield, CA 93301.

- d. Wednesday, June 2, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., at the Ukiah Valley Conference Center – Cabernet 1, 200 South School Street, Ukiah, CA 95482.
- e. Wednesday, June 2, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at the Santa Rosa City Hall Council Chamber, 100 Santa Rosa Avenue, Santa Rosa, CA 95404.
- f. Monday, June 7, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the Elihu Harris State Building – 1st Floor – Auditorium, 1515 Clay Street, Oakland, CA 94612.
- g. Wednesday, June 9, 2010, at 10:00 a.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the Hampton Inn & Suites Woodland – Meeting Room, 2060 Freeway Drive, Woodland, CA 95776.
- h. Thursday, June 10, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the Hampton Inn & Suites Red Bluff – Round Up Room, 520 Adobe Road, Red Bluff, CA 96080.
- i. Monday, June 14, 2010, at 2:00 p.m. and 7:00 p.m., at the San Jose Scottish Rite Center – Auditorium, 2455 Masonic Drive, San Jose, CA 95125.
- j. Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at 1:00 p.m., at the Salinas Community Center – Gabilan Room, 940 N. Main Street, Salinas, CA 93906.
- k. Tuesday, June 15, 2010, at 7:00 p.m., at the Meadow Park Building, 2333 Meadow Street, San Luis Obispo, CA 93401.

2. PG&E shall prepare a single bill insert notice informing its customers of the joint PPHs. PG&E shall prepare and provide a draft notice to the Commission’s Public Advisor’s office in San Francisco on or before April 6, 2010. The draft notice shall inform PG&E’s customers about the joint PPHs, the purpose of the PPHs, a summary of the relief that PG&E is requesting in both proceedings, and the date, time, and location of all the PPHs. The Public Advisor’s office may alter or require changes to the bill insert notice.

3. After the Public Advisor's office approves the language in the bill insert notice, PG&E shall, to the extent feasible, include the notice in the monthly bills of all of its customers in advance of the start of the PPHs.

4. PG&E shall also cause the approved notice to be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in PG&E's general service area where the PPH will be held for at least five days before the start of the scheduled PPH. PG&E shall also prominently post a notice of the PPHs in all of their offices in which PG&E's customers come into contact with PG&E's customer service representatives.

5. PG&E shall have a customer service representative at each PPH to answer any billing or service questions that individual customers may have.

6. If PG&E or other active parties to these proceedings want to present a brief summary of their position at the beginning of the PPHs, they should inform the assigned Administrative Law Judges before the start of the PPHs.

Dated March 30, 2010, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ DAVID FUKUTOME

David Fukutome
Administrative Law Judge

INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICE

I have provided notification of filing to the electronic mail addresses on the attached service list.

Upon confirmation of this document's acceptance for filing, I will cause a hard copy of the filed document to be served upon the service list to this proceeding by U.S. mail. The service list I will use to serve the hard copy of the filed document is current as of today's date.

Dated March 30, 2010, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ GLADYS M. DINGLASAN
Gladys M. Dinglasan

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to ensure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074 or TDD# (415) 703-2032 five working days in advance of the event.