

Decision 09-10-037 October 29, 2009

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company
for Authority to Increase Revenue Requirements
to Recover the Costs to Deploy an Advanced
Metering Infrastructure.

(U 39 E)

Application 05-06-028
(Filed June 16, 2005)

**DECISION GRANTING A MODIFICATION TO DECISION 06-07-027
TO ALIGN THE SUBMISSION DATE FOR REPORTING
CRITICAL PEAK PRICING DEMAND RESPONSE WITH THE DATE
FOR SUBMITTING EX POST LOAD IMPACT REPORTS UNDER
THE LOAD IMPACT PROTOCOLS ADOPTED IN DECISION 08-04-050**

Summary

Pacific Gas and Electric Company was previously authorized to deploy a new Advanced Metering Infrastructure¹ in Decision 06-07-027, which also adopted Critical Peak Pricing tariffs. This decision grants a petition to modify the decision to align the submission date for reporting Critical Peak Pricing demand response required by that decision with the date for submitting ex post load impact reports under the Load Impact Protocols that were subsequently adopted in Decision 08-04-050. There is no cost impact to ratepayers. This proceeding is closed.

¹ Advanced Metering Infrastructure, as defined in Decision 06-07-027, consists of metering and communications infrastructure as well as the related computerized systems and software.

1. Procedural History

Notice of the September 2, 2009 petition to modify appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on September 3, 2009. The Division of Ratepayer Advocates (DRA) notified the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) by electronic mail on September 19, 2009 that it was not opposed to Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) petition. No other party responded.

2. Critical Peak Pricing Reporting

PG&E's Critical Peak Pricing is a voluntary supplemental tariff offered to its residential and small commercial and industrial customers with electric demands below 200 kilowatts. It was authorized in Decision (D.) 06-07-027 (Ordering Paragraph 3). The tariff is available as new metering modules are deployed and activated. PG&E originally designed the Critical Peak Pricing rate as an "overlay" in addition to the default rate. PG&E intended it to be similar to the rate design used in the Statewide Pricing Pilot² research project, authorized in D.03-03-036. (D.06-07-027 at 31.)

The Commission directed PG&E to report annually to DRA and the Energy Division within 60 days of the end of each Critical Peak Pricing season the best estimate of demand response achieved during each Critical Peak Pricing event, if any, including the number of customers (by class) on the Critical Peak Pricing tariff and the participation rate of those customers during Critical Peak Pricing events. (D.06-07-027 at Ordering Paragraph 5.)

² The Statewide Pricing Pilot was a pricing research project designed to estimate the average impact of time-varying rates on energy use by rate period for residential and small commercial and industrial customers.

The petition does not request, nor does this decision make, any changes to the details contained in the current reporting requirements. PG&E only requests that it be allowed to report on Critical Peak Pricing concurrently with its other reporting requirements for other demand response programs.³

Having shown good cause, increased efficiency, we will allow PG&E to report on all demand response programs, including Critical Peak Pricing, at one time. Further, we can see no harm to interested parties caused by this change. Therefore, we will grant the petition to modify D.06-07-027 as filed.

3. Comments on Proposed Decision

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 311(g)(2) and Rule 14.6(c)(2) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is waived.

4. Assignment of Proceeding

Michael R. Peevey is the assigned Commissioner and Douglas M. Long is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

Finding of Fact

Changing the date for reporting on each Critical Peak Pricing season is more efficient for PG&E and does not harm any interested party.

³ [Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company] and PG&E shall perform annual studies of their [Demand Response] activities using the adopted protocols, and shall file reports consistent with Protocol 26 annually on April 1 of each year in this or a successor proceeding. If this and all successor proceedings are closed, the utilities shall file these reports with the Commission's Energy Division and serve them on the most recent service list for this, or a successor proceeding. The information contained in those reports may be used in other Commission proceedings, as appropriate. (D.08-04-050 at Ordering Paragraph 4.)

Conclusion of Law

A change to the reporting date on each Critical Peak Pricing season is reasonable.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company must report to the Division of Ratepayer Advocates and the Energy Division on each Critical Peak Pricing season the best estimate of demand response achieved during each Critical Peak Pricing event, if any, including the number of customers (by class) on the Critical Peak Pricing tariff and the participation rate of those customers during Critical Peak Pricing events. Pacific Gas and Electric Company must serve this report concurrent with ex post load impact reports ordered under the Load Impact Protocols adopted in Decision 08-04-050 at Ordering Paragraph 4.

2. Pacific Gas and Electric Company must continue to serve all other reports and data as ordered in Decision 06-07-027. Except as modified herein or directly superseded by other decisions of this Commission, Pacific Gas and Electric Company must continue to comply with all other provisions of Decision 06-07-027.

3. Application 05-06-028 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated October 29, 2009, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY
President
DIAN M. GRUENEICH
JOHN A. BOHN
RACHELLE B. CHONG
TIMOTHY ALAN SIMON
Commissioners

AGENDA Description

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Authority to Increase Revenue Requirements to Recover the Costs to Deploy an Advanced Metering Infrastructure.

(U 39 E)

Application 05-06-028
(Filed June 16, 2005)

**DECISION GRANTING A MODIFICATION TO DECISION 06-07-027
TO ALIGN THE SUBMISSION DATE FOR REPORTING
CRITICAL PEAK PRICING DEMAND RESPONSE WITH THE DATE
FOR SUBMITTING EX POST LOAD IMPACT REPORTS UNDER
THE LOAD IMPACT PROTOCOLS ADOPTED IN DECISION 08-04-050**

- Uncontested petition to modify a reporting date.
- Critical Peak Pricing seasonal reporting to coincide with reporting other Demand Response programs' electric load impacts.
- No Cost to ratepayers