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05/09/23

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

11:14 AM

R2106017

Order Instituting Rulemaking to
Modernize the Electric Grid for a High
Distributed Energy Resources Future.

Rulemaking 21-06-017

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES' RULING SETTING A WORKSHOP,
ADMITTING INTO THE RECORD PART 1 OF THE ELECTRIFICATION
IMPACTS STUDY AND RESEARCH PLAN, AND SEEKING COMMENTS**

Summary

This ruling sets a workshop on May 17, 2023, to present findings and recommendations of Part 1 of the Electrification Impacts Study (Part 1 Study).

The ruling enters the Part 1 Study and the Research Plan of the Electrification Impacts Study into the record of this proceeding. The ruling seeks comments from the parties on the analysis, methodology, findings, and recommendations of the Part 1 Study. The parties are also requested to respond to a set of questions included in this ruling.

Responses to the first set of questions for Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas and Electric Company on the Part 1 Study are due June 9, 2023. Responses from all parties and the three large electric investor-owned utilities (Utilities) to the second set of questions set forth in this ruling are due on June 19, 2023. Reply comments from all parties including the Utilities are due on June 26, 2023.

1. Background

The California Public Utilities Commission (Commission or CPUC) initiated this Rulemaking ((R.) 21-06-017) in July 2021 to prepare the electric grid

for a high number of distributed energy resources (DERs), including those specific to transportation electrification and as defined in Assembly Bill (AB) 327 (Perea, 2013) and Public Utilities Code Section 769.1.¹ The Commission launched R.21-06-017 to address the continuing actions from R.14-08-013 and R.14-10-003 and also to study the impacts of high penetrations of DERs on the grid and identify strategies for planning and forecasting distribution system investments necessary to support a large number of DERs on the grid in the future, which we now refer to as a High DER Grid future.

On November 15, 2021, an Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling (Scoping Memo) identified issues in this proceeding divided into three distinct Tracks. The three tracks are Track 1- Distribution Planning Process (DPP) and Data Improvements; Track 2- Distribution System Operator (DSO) Roles and Responsibilities; and Track- 3 Smart Inverter Operationalization and Grid Modernization Planning. The issues in Tracks 1 and 3 will be conducted in two phases.

As part of the initial tasks in the Scoping Memo, Energy Division held a workshop to discuss the scope and objectives of the Electrification Impacts Study that the Energy Division's consulting team would undertake.² On December 6, 2021, via an email to the Service List, Energy Division shared a draft of the Electrification Impacts Study Research Plan (Research Plan).

¹ All further references to "section" and "code" in this Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling are references to sections of the Public Utilities Code unless otherwise noted.

² The Energy Division hired Kevala, Inc. to complete the Electrification Impacts Study under State contract #20NS1109.

On December 7, 2021, Energy Division conducted a stakeholder workshop on the scope and objectives presented in the draft Research Plan. On December 21, 2021, the Parties filed informal comments on the draft Research Plan.

On March 29, 2022, via an email to the Service List, Kevala Inc. served a copy of the finalized Research Plan to develop reports on the Electrification Impacts Study, which set the scope for the Electrification Impacts Study Part 1 (Part 1 Study).

The Scoping Memo originally planned a second Electrification Impacts Study Workshop for the Second Quarter of 2022, but it is now scheduled for May 17, 2023.

2. Webex Information for May 17, 2023, Workshop

The workshop will provide an opportunity for stakeholders to learn about the findings and recommendations of the Part 1 Study. The workshop will be held virtually and is open to all stakeholders. The agenda for the workshop will be provided by the Energy Division closer to the workshop meeting date.

Public:

The Webex Link and Telephone Number (with Passcode) for **public participation** are as follows:

Date and time: May 17, 2023, at 9:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

WebEx Public Link:

<https://cpuc.webex.com/weblink/register/r2be119ae6e9264bd74cb248ac2091560>

Webinar number: 2489 892 2224

Webinar password: highder (4444337 from phones and video systems)

Toll-Free: 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free

Access Code: 2489 892 2224

3. Electrification Impacts Study Objectives

The Ruling admits the Part 1 Study (See Attachment 1) and the Research Plan (See Attachment 2) into the record of this proceeding.

The Electrification Impacts Study was designed to address the Scoping Memo questions and was guided by the Research Plan. Parties may refer to the background information in the Research Plan when submitting comments on the Part 1 Study.

The Energy Division completed the Scoping Memo's initial tasks for Track 1, Phase 1, of conducting a workshop on the Electrification Impacts Study Scope and Objectives presented in the draft Research Plan. After considering the inputs from the workshop and feedback from the parties, the Energy Division finalized the scope, goals, methodology, approach, and timeline of the Electrification Impacts Study.

Energy Division and their consultant, Kevala, Inc., will present their analysis, methodology, findings, and recommendations of the Part 1 Study at the May 17, 2023, workshop. This Part 1 Study is a *Bottom-Up Load Forecasting and System Level Electrification Impacts Cost Estimate* approach. This methodology estimates the scale of electrification impacts from the bottom up; enables premise- and circuit-specific grid integration analysis. This Part 1 Study is a granular customer electricity consumption data analysis across all customer classes related to electricity distribution grid planning processes to enable California to meet its state energy goals.

At the workshop, Energy Division will also lead discussions on the questions included in this ruling and seek input from the parties to help refine their Part 1 Study methodology, assumptions, and analysis.

Comments from the parties will help Energy Division and its consultant to leverage the additional data as they develop the Track 1 Phase 1 Staff Proposal and refine and update methodology and analysis for a potential Part 2 of the Electrification Impacts Study.³

The parties shall provide comments and responses as follows:

1. Due on June 9, 2023 - comments on Part 1 Study and responses from investor-Owned Utilities (Utilities)

1.1. All parties shall provide comments and feedback on the methodology, analysis, findings, and recommendations of the Part 1 Study.

1.2. Questions for Utilities only

1.2.1. How does the approach taken in the Part 1 Study, in terms of assumption, and analytical methods, differ from each utility's current distribution planning processes? What are the strengths and weaknesses of each approach?

1.2.2. Provide a critique of the Part 1 Study that includes specific details on the extent to which the analytical methods and recommendations in the report provide useful information and how they could be incorporated into the utility's distribution planning analyses. Also, discuss any concerns or barriers you see to the application of the analytical methods and recommendations in the report.

2. Due on June 19, 2023 - responses due from all parties

2.1. Responses to comments on Part 1 Study and Utilities' responses to questions, filed on June 9, 2023.

2.2. How can utilities incorporate Part 1 Study recommendations to improve their distribution planning processes? If the Part 1 Study recommendations are not helpful, explain why and

³ See Attachment 1: Electrification Impacts Study Part 1 provides a detailed explanation of potential Part 2 Study.

identify the barriers to integrating them into utilities' distribution planning processes.

- 2.3. Should the approach and information used in the Part 1 Study be updated for developing and improving the methodology, analysis, and scenarios for a Part 2 Study? If so, how? What additional information and analysis is needed?
 - 2.4. Part 1 Study proposes developing scenarios for building electrification and adopting electric vehicles for a Part 2 Study. Is this the best approach? What other scenarios, if any, should any future study consider? How should the study design these scenarios?
 - 2.5. What approach would best identify potential mitigations for specific locations to build a localized distribution planning framework? How should the distribution planning process incorporate this approach?
 - 2.6. What additional topics should be considered in developing the scope for any Part 2 Study?
3. **Due on June 26, 2023 – replies to responses filed on June 19, 2023**

IT IS RULED that:

1. On May 17, 2023, Energy Division shall conduct a workshop on the findings and recommendations of the Electrification Impacts Study Part 1.
2. Electrification Impacts Study Part 1 (Attachment 1 of the Ruling) and the Electrification Impacts Study Research Plan (Attachment 2 of the Ruling) are entered into the record of this proceeding.
3. Comments on the Electrification Impacts Study Part 1 and responses to the questions in this ruling by Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and San Diego Gas and Electric Company (investor-owned utilities) are due on June 9, 2023. Responses to the comments and responses of the investor-owned utilities by all parties and each investor-owned utility are

due June 19, 2023. Replies to the June 19, 2023, responses are due on June 26, 2023.

Dated May 9, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MANISHA LAKHANPAL

Manisha Lakhanpal
Administrative Law Judge

/s/ KELLY A. HYMES

Kelly A. Hymes
Administrative Law Judge

Attachments