



FILED

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

23

09:07 AM

R2106017

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

Rulemaking 21-06-017

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGES’S RULING SOLICITING
COMMENTS ON CAL ADVOCATES’ DISTRIBUTION GRID
ELECTRIFICATION MODEL STUDY AND REPORT**

This ruling grants the motion of the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates) requesting to admit its Distribution Grid Electrification Model (DGEM) Study and Report (DGEM Study and Report) into the record of Rulemaking 21-06-017; grants the request by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Edison Company (SCE) to allow parties to comment on the DGEM Study and Report; and establishes a schedule for such comments. As further described below, parties may file comments on the DGEM Study and Report no later than October 31, 2023. Reply comments may be filed no later than November 7, 2023.

On September 8, 2023, Cal Advocates filed a motion requesting to admit its DGEM Study and Report into the record of this rulemaking. Cal Advocates submits that it “undertook its DGEM study to assess costs to upgrade the grid and rate impacts, the key drivers of costs and cost uncertainties, and the potential of load management to reduce costs and rate impacts.” In its motion, Cal Advocates states the DGEM Study and Report makes the following findings:

- Costs to upgrade the distribution grids of PG&E, San Diego Gas & Electric Company and SCE (jointly, Utilities) to meet the state’s forecasted electric vehicle deployment

and other load growth through 2035 is forecasted to be \$26 million;

- There is a potential for electrification to lead to downward pressures on rates under certain conditions;
- Approximately \$35 billion in grid costs can be mitigated if electric vehicles are charged away from hours of peak demand; and
- The pace of primary distribution upgrades in the Utilities' current distribution grid planning process is approximately equal to what will be needed to meet the state's electrification goals.

Cal Advocates provides several justifications for including the DGEM Study and Report in the record. Cal Advocates asserts the DGEM Study and Report: 1) offers information to aid the discourse on electrification planning and the identification of costs and benefits for consideration in Track 1 of this proceeding; 2) provides a method for integrating distributed energy resources into distribution planning; and 3) provides insight into the potential additional value of distributed energy resources through load shifting. Thus, Cal Advocates requests the study and report be entered into the record.

On September 25, 2023, SCE and PG&E jointly filed a response of support to the motion but requested that the Commission allow stakeholders sufficient opportunity to review and comment on the study.

The DGEM Study and Report is in the record of this proceeding as it was attached to Cal Advocate's motion. Inclusion of the study and report will provide the Commission with additional and relevant data points to assist in addressing the issues of Track 1 of this proceeding. Further, providing parties with an opportunity to review and comment on the DGEM Study and Report will ensure parties' due process in this proceeding while also enhancing the record of this proceeding. As parties have had access to review the DGEM Study

and Report since September 8, 2023 (nearly six weeks), the schedule below should provide sufficient time to develop comments for the record of this proceeding.

IT IS RULED that parties shall file comment on the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission Distribution Grid Electrification Model (DGEM) Study and Report (DGEM Study and Report) no later than October 31, 2023; reply comments shall be filed no later than November 7, 2023. Comments should address how the DGEM Study and Report should be balanced against other studies in the record.

Dated October 17, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

 /s/ KELLY A. HYMES

Kelly A. Hymes
Administrative Law Judge

 /s/ MANISHA LAKHANPAL

Manisha Lakhanpal
Administrative Law Judge