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R2409012

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Establish Policies, Processes, and Rules to Ensure Safe and Reliable Gas Systems in California and Perform Long-Term Gas System Planning.

Rulemaking 24-09-012

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S RULING SCHEDULING PREHEARING CONFERENCE, NOTICING PRELIMINARY UPDATES TO SCOPE AND CATEGORIZATION, AND INVITING PARTY COMMENTS

This ruling sets a virtual prehearing conference (PHC) for this Order Instituting Rulemaking (R.) 24-09-012. Any parties and interested persons shall appear virtually on **Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.** using the information provided in Section 1 below.

The purposes of this PHC are to (1) take appearances and update the service list; (2) review the proposed scope, schedule, and categorization, including updates to the preliminary scope and categorization described in Sections 2 and 3 below; and (3) consider any related procedural matters necessary to resolve this proceeding efficiently. Before the PHC, parties may include comments on the updated preliminary scope and categorization as part of their comments on the OIR. Opening comments on the OIR are due on December 16, 2024, and reply comments on January 3, 2025.

1. Prehearing Conference Information

Parties and any interested persons who wish to speak during the PHC shall email Aswathy Vinod at Aswathy.Vinod@cpuc.ca.gov and Etchissa Genesis

at Etchissa.Genesis@cpuc.ca.gov by January 6, 2025, with the name, title, and phone number of the individual representing the party during the PHC.

The listen-only public Webex information for the PHC is:

- <https://cpuc.webex.com/cpuc/j.php?MTID=m0d4609fa2f8f76ed57bfdbb1d33649c3>
- 2497 147 0855
- Webinar password: 01092025 (01092026 when dialing from a phone or video system)

Join by phone (listen-only):

- 1-855-282-6330 United States Toll Free
- +1-415-655-0002 United States Toll
- 249 714 70855

To ensure a complete and accurate record, parties shall adhere to the following ground rules during the virtual PHC:

- Mute when not speaking;
- Speak only when addressed by the Administrative Law Judge;
- State your name every time before you speak;
- Speak slowly and clearly;
- Do not use a speakerphone when speaking; and
- Do not interrupt or speak over one another.

To further ensure an accurate and complete transcript, (1) the court reporter may interrupt speakers if the speakers make inaudible statements, and (2) the court reporter may insert the word “inaudible” in the transcript when there is dropped, garbled, or otherwise indecipherable audio.

Parties requiring changes or additions to the official service list shall complete the “Addition/Change of Official Service List” form and send it to process_office@cpuc.ca.gov and reporting@cpuc.ca.gov before the PHC.

Parties that would like an expedited transcript should email the Chief Hearing Reporter at reporting@cpuc.ca.gov no later than three days before the hearing.

2. Addition of Senate Bill 1221 Gas Distribution System Mapping to Preliminary Scope

On September 26, 2024, the Commission approved the OIR with a preliminary scope of issues in Section 3.¹ The Commission also notified parties that the assigned Commissioner may adjust the issues in response to potential new legislation.²

As such, I plan to adjust the issues in this proceeding to incorporate some of the statutory mandates in the new Senate Bill (SB) 1221.³ SB 1221 requires California’s gas utilities to map their distribution systems annually starting July 1, 2025,⁴ and the Commission to identify priority neighborhood decarbonization zones by January 1, 2026.⁵ By July 1, 2026, the Commission, in consultation with California’s gas utilities, must establish a voluntary program to facilitate the cost-effective decarbonization of no more than 30 pilot projects in priority neighborhood decarbonization zones.⁶ When considering SB 1221, the

¹ OIR at 12-14.

² *Id.* at 14.

³ Senate Bill 1221 (Min), Stats. 2024, ch. 602.

⁴ Pub. Util. Code § 661.

⁵ Pub. Util. Code § 662.

⁶ Pub. Util. Code § 663.

Legislature recognized that the Commission was already discussing aspects of these requirements in the precursor to this OIR, Rulemaking 20-01-007.⁷

Given the tight deadline for gas utilities to map their systems and the overlap between the purpose of this OIR and SB 1221, I am considering adding the following issue to the scope of the proceeding when I issue the scoping memo:

3. Senate Bill 1221

- a. How shall California’s gas corporations comply with the newly codified Public Utilities Code Section 661, which requires gas corporations to submit maps containing certain information to the Commission?
 - i. How should the Commission interpret the undefined terms in Section 661, including “submit,” “potential,” and “foreseeable”?
 - ii. What additional information, if any, should the Commission require in the maps beyond what is required by Section 661(a)(1)-(3)?
 - iii. How should the Commission ensure that the activities required by Section 661 best support and/or avoid duplication with other current and future Commission-directed activities?
 - iv. How should the Commission treat any information utilities may claim as confidential, including customer gas consumption data, customer counts, and infrastructure data?

I, or a future assigned Commissioner, may adjust the scope of this proceeding to include other aspects of SB 1221 later. Parties may comment on the potential inclusion of this issue as part of their comments on the OIR.

⁷ Senate Floor Analysis (Aug. 31, 2024) at 6, available at https://leginfo.legislature.ca.gov/faces/billAnalysisClient.xhtml?bill_id=202320240SB1221#.

4. Potential Quasi-Legislative Categorization

I may categorize the initial phase of this proceeding as quasi-legislative. Parties may comment on the potential categorization as part of their comments on the OIR. Parties shall also note that this proposal does not modify the OIR's preliminary ratesetting categorization. I will make a final category determination in my scoping memo, which is subject to appeal as specified in Rule 7.6.

5. Anticipated Schedule

I have updated the preliminary schedule for this proceeding as follows:

Track 1	
Event	Date
Workshop	November 14, 2024
Opening Comments on OIR and ACR proposals filed and served	December 16, 2024
Reply Comments on OIR and ACR proposals filed and served	January 3, 2025
Prehearing Conference	January 9, 2025
Scoping Memo and Ruling	January 2025

IT IS RULED that:

1. A virtual PHC for Rulemaking 24-09-012 is scheduled for Thursday, January 9, 2025, at 10:00 a.m.
2. Parties wishing to speak during the PHC shall e-mail Aswathy Vinod at Aswathy.Vinod@cpuc.ca.gov and Etchissa.Genesis@cpuc.ca.gov by January 6, 2025, with the name, title, and phone number of the individual representing the party during PHC.
3. During the prehearing conference, parties shall adhere to the ground rules described in Section 1 above.

4. Parties may include comments on the potential update to the proceeding scope and categorization as part of their opening comments on the OIR due December 16, 2024, and reply comments on the OIR due January 3, 2025.

Dated November 12, 2024, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ KAREN DOUGLAS

Karen Douglas
Assigned Commissioner