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09/10/26

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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON
COMPANY (U338E) for a Permit to
Construct Electrical Facilities With
Voltages Over 200 kV: Eldorado-
Pisgah-Lugo Transmission Line
Rating Remediation Project.

Application 23-04-009

ASSIGNED COMMISSIONER'S SCOPING MEMO AND RULING

This scoping memo and ruling sets forth the issues, need for hearing, schedule, category, and other matters necessary to scope this proceeding pursuant to Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code Section 1701.1 and Article 7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). Any person who intends to offer evidence or comment on issues that will be addressed in the anticipated environmental document should submit them by public comment pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA),¹ as explained below. A prehearing conference (PHC) will be scheduled as soon as practicable after the issuance of the environmental document to update the issues and the schedule for the remainder of the proceeding.

1. Procedural Background

On April 21, 2023, Southern California Edison Company (SCE) requested a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity (CPCN) to permit SCE to

¹ Public Resources Code Sections 21000, *et seq.*

construct the Eldorado-Pisgah-Lugo (EPL) Transmission Line Rating Remediation (TLRR) Project (collectively, Proposed Project). The stated purpose of the Proposed Project is to remediate physical clearance discrepancies identified on some of SCE's existing 220 kilovolt (kV) transmission lines while continuing to provide safe and reliable electric service. The Proposed Project represents remediation along existing transmission lines where new conductor and structures will continue to be part of the existing system, not an addition to the existing system.²

On May 24, 2023, the Public Advocates Office at the California Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates) filed a protest. On June 5, 2023, SCE replied to the protest.

On September 5, 2025, SCE amended its application (Amended Application) to request a Permit to Construct (PTC). SCE explained that the previous request for a CPCN was under General Order (GO) 131-D. GO 131-E updated GO 131-D to require a PTC for work on existing transmission facilities. As such, SCE amended its application to request a PTC pursuant to GO 131-E and the proceeding caption above is changed to reflect the revised request.³ The Proposed Project remains the same even though SCE seeks a different type of approval.⁴ In response to the Amended Application, no protests or responses were filed.

² Amended Application of Southern California Edison Company for a Permit to Construct for the Eldorado-Pisgah-Lugo Transmission Line Rating Remediation Project, September 5, 2025 (Amended Application), at 9.

³ Amended Application at 5 - 7.

⁴ *Id.* at 7.

The Proposed Project is subject to environmental review under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) and GO 131-E. CEQA requires that the Commission, as the lead agency responsible for approving the project, conduct a review to identify environmental impacts of the projects and ways to avoid or reduce environmental harm.⁵ That review begins with an initial study (IS). If the IS determines that there is a) no substantial evidence that the project may have a significant effect on the environment, or b) the project proponent agrees to revisions to the project plan that will reduce all project-related environmental impacts to less than significant levels, then the Commission may prepare either a Negative Declaration (ND) or Mitigated Negative Declaration (MND) to that effect. If neither condition is satisfied, then the Commission must prepare an Environmental Impact Report (EIR).

The EIR identifies and evaluates the environmental impacts of the Proposed Project and a reasonable range of project alternatives, designs a recommended mitigation program to reduce any potentially significant impacts, and identifies, from an environmental perspective, the environmentally superior project alternative.⁶ The Commission may not approve a project unless it reviews and certifies the Final EIR, requires the environmentally superior project alternative and all of the identified mitigation measures (unless they are found to be infeasible), and determines that there are overriding considerations that merit project approval despite the unavoidable significant impacts, if there are unavoidable significant impacts.⁷

⁵ See Cal. Code Regs., tit. 14, Section 15000, *et seq.* (CEQA Guidelines), Section 15060.

⁶ CEQA Guidelines, Section 15064.

⁷ *Id.*, Sections 15090-15091, Section 15093, Section 15126.2, Section 15126.4, and Section 15126.6.

In addition, pursuant to GO 131-E and Decision (D.) 06-01-042, the Commission will not approve a project unless its design complies with the Commission's policies governing the mitigation of electric and magnetic fields (EMF) effects using low-cost and no-cost measures.

After SCE filed the amended application, the CEQA section in Energy Division of the Commission (CEQA Team) deemed the application complete on June 18, 2026.

Information on the Proposed Project, including how to participate in the CEQA process and contact information for the assigned Commission Energy Staff is included below.

2. Issues

Based on the record of this proceeding and governing authorities discussed above, the issues to be determined in this proceeding are:

1. As to the environmental review process:
 - a. What are the significant environmental impacts of the Proposed Project, if any?
 - b. Are there potentially feasible mitigation measures that will avoid or lessen the identified significant environmental impacts?
 - c. As between the Proposed Project and project alternatives, which is environmentally superior?
 - d. Are the mitigation measures or environmentally superior project alternatives infeasible for economic, social, legal, technological, or other considerations?
 - e. To the extent that the Proposed Project and/or project alternatives result in significant and unavoidable impacts, are there overriding considerations that

nevertheless merit Commission approval of the Proposed Project or project alternative?⁸

- f. Did the Commission review and consider the environmental document (ND, MND, or EIR), was the environmental document completed in compliance with CEQA, and does it reflect the Commission's independent judgment?
2. What are the impacts on environmental and social justice communities, including the extent to which the construction of the Proposed Project impacts the achievement of any of the nine goals of the Commission's Environmental and Social Justice Action Plan?
3. Is the Proposed Project and/or environmentally superior project alternative designed in compliance with the Commission's policies governing the mitigation of EMF effects using low-cost and no-cost measures?

3. Need for Evidentiary Hearing

SCE anticipates that an evidentiary hearing will not be necessary.⁹

It is difficult to assess the need for evidentiary hearing or establish a proceeding schedule until the environmental review process is complete in the first phase. I will revisit this issue in the second phase of this proceeding.

4. Schedule

The proceeding will proceed in two phases. As the first phase, the CEQA Team has initiated the environmental review process, which will culminate in the issuance of an environmental report (ND, MND, or EIR). Any person or party who wishes to present evidence or comments for consideration on the issues in Section 2 above *must do so* through participation in the CEQA review process, *i.e.*, public review and comment on the draft environmental document.

⁸ CEQA Guidelines Section 15093.

⁹ Amended Application at 12.

As required by CEQA, any such comment will be addressed and included in the final environmental document. The Commission *will not take* evidence regarding these CEQA issues outside of the environmental review process.

After the environmental review is completed, the second phase will begin with a PHC as soon as practicable. The ruling setting the date of the PHC will provide a schedule for filing PHC statements and other necessary guidance. The PHC will discuss any additional issues to be determined, the need for evidentiary hearing, and the schedule for the remainder of the proceeding.

Based on the foregoing and to anticipate adequate time needed for the environmental review, formal proceeding activities, and Commission deliberation, I approve a resolution date of May 26, 2028 as permitted by Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5.

For information regarding the Proposed Project, please visit the project website at:

https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/environment/info/panoramaenv/EP_L_TLRR/index.html.

Alternatively, contact the Energy Division Project Manager:

Anthony Chan

Energy Division – Infrastructure Permitting & CEQA

505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor

San Francisco, CA 94102

Email: anothony.chan@cpuc.ca.gov

5. Category of Proceeding and Ex Parte Restrictions

This ruling confirms the Commission's preliminary determination that this is a ratesetting proceeding.¹⁰ Accordingly, ex parte communications are restricted and must be reported pursuant to Article 8 of the Rules.

6. Public Outreach

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 1711(a), where feasible and appropriate, before determining the scope of the proceeding, the Commission sought the participation of those likely to be affected, including those likely to derive benefit from, and those potentially subject to, a decision in this proceeding. This matter was noticed on the Commission's daily calendar. Where feasible and appropriate, this matter was incorporated into engagements conducted by the Commission's External Affairs Division with local governments and other interested parties.

SCE provided public notice as part of the original application by publishing a notice in local newspapers of general circulation, distributing the notice to owners of property located on or within 300 feet of the Proposed Project, relevant government agencies, and certain interested parties.¹¹

7. Intervenor Compensation

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 1804(a)(1), a customer who intends to seek an award of compensation must file and serve a notice of intent to claim compensation by 30 days after the PHC.

¹⁰ Resolution ALJ 176-3527.

¹¹ Application of Southern California Edison Company for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Construct Electric Facilities With Voltages Over 200 KV: Eldorado-Pisgah-Lugo Transmission Line Rating Remediation Project, April 21, 2023; at 21; Amended Application at 18.

8. Response to Public Comments

Parties may, but are not required to, respond to written comments received from the public. Parties may do so by posting such response using the “Add Public Comment” button on the “Public Comment” tab of the online docket card for the proceeding.

9. Public Advisor

Any person interested in participating in this proceeding who is unfamiliar with the Commission’s procedures or has questions about the electric filing procedures is encouraged to obtain more information at <http://consumers.cpuc.ca.gov/pao/> or contact the Commission’s Public Advisor at 1-866-849-8390 or 1-866-836-7825 (TTY), or send an e-mail to public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov.

10. Filing, Service, and Service List

The official service list has been created and is on the Commission’s website. Parties should confirm that their information on the service list is correct and serve notice of any errors on the Commission’s Process Office, the service list, and the ALJ. Persons may become a party pursuant to Rule 1.4.¹² When serving any document, each party must ensure that it is using the current official service list on the Commission’s website.

This proceeding will follow the electronic service protocol set forth in Rule 1.10, with one exception, such that all parties are excused from the Rule 1.10 requirement to serve on the ALJs both an electronic and a paper copy of filed or serviced documents. Therefore, when serving documents on Commissioners, their personal advisors, and the ALJ, parties must only provide electronic

¹² The form to request additions and changes to the Service list may be found at <https://www.cpuc.ca.gov/-/media/cpuc-website/divisions/administrative-law-judge-division/documents/additiontoservicelisttranscriptordercompliant.pdf>

service, unless otherwise instructed by the ALJs. All parties to this proceeding shall serve documents and pleadings using electronic mail, whenever possible, and transmit all documents no later than 5:00 p.m., on the date scheduled for service to occur.

Persons who are not parties but wish to receive electronic service of documents filed in the proceeding may contact the Process Office at process_office@cpuc.ca.gov to request addition to the “Information Only” category of the official service list pursuant to Rule 1.9(f).

The Commission encourages those who seek information-only status on the service list to consider the Commission’s subscription service as an alternative. The subscription service sends individual notifications to each subscriber of formal e-filings tendered and accepted by the Commission. Notices sent through the subscription service are less likely to be flagged by spam or other filters.

11. Receiving Electronic Service From the Commission

Parties and other persons on the service list are advised that it is the responsibility of each person or entity on the service list for Commission proceedings to ensure their ability to receive emails from the Commission. Please add “@cpuc.ca.gov” to your email safe sender list and update your email screening practices, settings, and filters to ensure receipt of emails from the Commission.

12. Assignment of Proceeding

Commissioner Karen Douglas is the assigned Commissioner and Zhen Zhang is the assigned ALJ and presiding officer for the proceeding.

IS SO RULED that:

1. The proceeding caption is revised to reflect SCE's Amended Application for a PTC.
2. The scope of this proceeding is described above and adopted.
3. The general schedule of this proceeding is set forth above and is adopted.
4. Parties who wish to present information to be considered on the identification of significant environmental impacts, project alternatives and mitigation measures, and the environmentally superior alternative must do so through participation in the California Environmental Quality Act review process as discussed in this ruling.
5. The resolution deadline for this proceeding is May 26, 2028.
6. The presiding officer is Administrative Law Judge Zhen Zhang.
7. The category of the proceeding is ratesetting.

Dated September 10, 2026, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ KAREN DOUGLAS

Karen Douglas
Assigned Commissioner