

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA
Agenda ID 16076
ENERGY DIVISION **RESOLUTION E-4899**
November 9, 2017

R E S O L U T I O N

Resolution E-4899. Pacific Gas and Electric Company Requests a Temporary Waiver of Electric Rule 13 for Applicants Affected by Northern California Wildfires.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Grants Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) request.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- There is no impact on safety

ESTIMATED COST:

- This Resolution may lead to increased ratepayer costs for which PG&E may apply to be recovered in a future application.

By Advice Letter 5168-E, Filed on October 25, 2017.

SUMMARY

This Resolution approves Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) request to temporarily waive Electric Rule 13 for applicants affected by the October 2017 Fire Siege in Northern California. Under Electric Rule 13.A.1, customers establishing temporary service would be required to pay the estimated cost for installation and removal of facilities needed to furnish temporary service. PG&E is ordered to instead record the actual costs of furnishing temporary service to customers affected by the wildfires in its Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA). PG&E may later seek recovery of these costs in a CEMA application.

This waiver will expire on December 31, 2018.

BACKGROUND

Beginning on October 8, 2017, wildfires started across Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Solano, Sonoma and Yuba counties. These wildfires damaged or destroyed several thousand structures in PG&E's service territory.

On October 9, 2017, the Governor issued an emergency proclamation for Napa, Sonoma and Yuba counties due to the effects of multiple fires, including the Tubbs and Atlas fires.

Electric Rule 13.A.1 provides that:

PG&E shall, if no undue hardship to its existing customers will result therefrom, furnish temporary service under the following conditions:

1. The applicant shall pay, in advance or otherwise as required by PG&E, the estimated cost installed plus the estimated cost of removal, less the estimated salvage of the facilities necessary for furnishing service.

NOTICE

Notice of AL 5168-E was made by publication in the Commission's Daily Calendar. Pacific Gas and Electric Company states that a copy of the Advice Letter was mailed and distributed in accordance with Section 4 of General Order 96-B.

PROTESTS

Advice Letter 5168-E was not protested. On October 27, 2017, the Energy Division shortened the protest period to two days for good cause under Rule 1.3 of General Order 96-B.

DISCUSSION

Energy Division has reviewed AL 5168-E and finds that it should be approved as filed.

The October 2017 Fire Siege impacted Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Solano, Sonoma and Yuba counties, and damaged or destroyed several thousand structures in PG&E's service territory. Under Electric Rule 13.A.1, customers establishing temporary service must pay the estimated cost for installation and removal of facilities needed to furnish temporary service.

Due to the extraordinary nature of the wildfires, and to assist customers who have lost their homes and businesses in the wildfire, PG&E requests to waive Electric Rule 13 for customers affected by the wildfires beginning construction in 2017 and 2018. PG&E would instead record the actual costs of furnishing temporary service to affected customers in its CEMA. PG&E could later seek recovery of those costs in a CEMA application.

We agree with PG&E that the October 2017 Fire Siege was an extraordinary event, and that every effort should be made to assist those customers whose homes and businesses were damaged or destroyed in the wildfires. Therefore, we approve PG&E's request to waive Electric Rule 13 for customers affected by the wildfires. This waiver will expire on December 31, 2018.

As requested, PG&E should record the actual costs of furnishing temporary service to affected customers in its CEMA. However, this Resolution makes no determination regarding the appropriateness or recovery of these expenses.

Should PG&E wish to extend this waiver beyond December 31, 2018 they must submit a new Tier 3 advice letter.

COMMENTS

Public Utilities Code section 311(g)(1) provides that this Resolution must be served on all parties and subject to at least 30 days public review and comment prior to a vote of the Commission. Section 311(g)(2) provides that this 30-day period may be reduced or waived "in an unforeseen emergency" The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure also provides that public review and comment may be waived or reduced in an "unforeseen emergency situation" specifically where there are "[a]ctivities that severely impair or threaten to severely impair public health or safety..." (Rule 14.6(a)(1) and/or where there are "[c]rippling disasters that severely impair public health or safety." (Rule 14.6(a)(2)).

The 30-day comment period was reduced pursuant to these authorities and notification of the shortened comment period was included with the cover letter that was circulated with the Draft Resolution.

FINDINGS

1. Beginning on October 8, 2017, wildfires started across Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Solano, Sonoma and Yuba counties (October 2017 Fire Siege).
2. On October 9, 2017, the Governor issued an emergency proclamation for Napa, Sonoma and Yuba counties due to the effects of multiple fires, including the Tubbs and Atlas fires.
3. Rule 1.3 of General Order 96-B provides that the Industry Division may shorten the protest period for good cause. The Energy Division shortened the protest period to two days because of the extraordinary circumstances of the October 2017 Fire Siege.
4. The October 2017 Fire Siege damaged or destroyed several thousand structures in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) service territory.
5. Electric Rule 13 requires PG&E to collect from applicants the cost of installation and removal of service extensions for temporary power.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The request of PG&E to waive Electric Rule 13 for applicants affected by the October 2017 Fire Siege as requested in Advice Letter 5168-E is approved.
2. PG&E must record the actual costs of furnishing temporary service to customers affected by the wildfires in its Catastrophic Events Memorandum Account (CEMA).
3. PG&E must submit a new Tier 3 advice letter should PG&E wish to extend this waiver beyond December 31, 2018.

This Resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on November 9, 2017; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

TIMOTHY J. SULLIVAN
Executive Director