

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ENERGY DIVISION

AGENDA ID: 16996
RESOLUTION E-4968
November 29, 2018

R E S O L U T I O N

Resolution E-4968. Addresses Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Request to Extend the Temporary Waiver of Electric Rule 13 for Applicants Affected by Northern California Wildfires, as approved in Resolution E-4899.

PROPOSED OUTCOME:

- Approves Pacific Gas and Electric Company's request.

SAFETY CONSIDERATIONS:

- This Resolution may improve safety for customers who need temporary electric service.

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 5319-E, Filed on June 27, 2018.

SUMMARY

This Resolution approves Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) request for an extension of the temporary waiver of Electric Rule 13 for applicants affected by the October 2017 wildfires in Northern California, as approved in Resolution E-4899. Under Electric Rule 13.A.1, customers establishing temporary service would be required to pay the estimated installation and removal costs of facilities needed to furnish the service sought. PG&E is also ordered to continue to record the actual costs of providing the temporary service to customers

affected by the wildfires in its Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA).

The extension of the temporary waiver is approved effective on December 1, 2018, and will expire on December 31, 2019.

BACKGROUND

Beginning on October 8, 2017, wildfires ravaged the counties of Butte, Lake, Mendocino, Napa, Nevada, Solano, Sonoma, and Yuba. These fires 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 5319-E was made by publication in the Commission's Daily Calendar. Pacific Gas and Electric Company state that a copy of the Advice Letter (AL) was mailed and distributed in accordance with Section 4 of General Order 96-B.

PROTESTS

AL 5319-E was not protested.

DISCUSSION

Energy Division has reviewed AL 5319-E and finds that it should be approved as filed.

The October 2017 wildfires 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, applicants of temporary service must pay, in advance the estimated installation and removal costs of the facilities necessary for furnishing service.

On October 25, 2017, due to the extraordinary nature of the wildfires, and to assist customers who have lost their homes and businesses, PG&E filed AL 5168-E seeking authorization to waive the Rule 13 tariff requirement of collecting the cost for the estimated installation and removal cost of the facilities needed for temporary construction of power in 2017 and 2018 for customers beginning construction after the wildfires. PG&E also requested to record the actual installation and removal costs in its CEMA – Electric Preliminary Statement Part G – for recovery in a future CEMA application. The Commission approved AL 5168-E through Resolution E-4899 on November 9, 2017. Resolution E-4899 also determined that the waiver will expire on December 31, 2018.

On June 27, 2018, PG&E filed AL 5319-E seeking an extension to the waiver requested in AL 5168-E to help expedite recovery and assist those who have lost their homes and businesses in the October 2017 wildfires. PG&E indicates that its customer outreach data and field observations demonstrated that the majority of impacted customers have not yet started the rebuilding process, and it expects that significant rebuilding efforts will take place during the remainder of 2018 and through 2019.

The Commission concurs with PG&E that the October 2017 wildfires were 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. The Commission also recognizes that the rebuilding and recovery process may be protracted, and that customers affected by this hardship have a need to restore essential utility service as expeditiously as possible.

We approve PG&E's request to extend the waiver of Electric Rule 13 for customers affected by the wildfires. This waiver will now expire on December 31, 2019. PG&E should continue to record the actual costs of furnishing temporary service to affected customers in its CEMA for inclusion in a future application. This Resolution makes no determination regarding the appropriateness or recovery of these expenses.

Should PG&E wish to extend this waiver beyond December 31, 2019, it must submit a new Tier 3 advice letter.

COMMENTS

This is an uncontested matter in which the resolution grants the relief requested. Accordingly, and pursuant to PU Code 311(g)(2) and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

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. The October 2017 wildfires damaged or destroyed several thousand structures in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E's) service territories.
4. Electric Rule 13 requires PG&E to collect from applicants the cost of installation and removal of service extensions for temporary power.
5. Resolution E-4899 grants the temporary waiver of Electric Rule 13 until December 31, 2018.
6. PG&E customer outreach data and field observations show that significant rebuilding efforts will take place during the remainder of 2018 and through 2019.

7. The extension of the temporary waiver will expedite recovery for customers who have lost homes and businesses in the October 2017 Wildfires.

THEREFORE IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The request of PG&E to extend the waiver of Electric Rule 13 for applicants affected by the October 2017 wildfires until December 31, 2019, as requested in AL 5319-E, is approved.
2. PG&E shall continue to 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, 2019.

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 29, 2018; the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:

ALICE STEBBINS
Executive Director