

Decision 21-01-021 January 14, 2021

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric
Company for Approval of its Mobile
Application and Supporting Systems
Pilot.

Application 19-07-019

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to January 27, 2024.

1. Background

Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) § 1701.5(a) ¹ provides that the Commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo of a ratesetting proceeding within 18 months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the Commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met, and issues an order extending the deadline. In this proceeding, the currently applicable statutory deadline expires on January 27, 2021. Today's decision extends this statutory deadline for an additional 3 years (36 months), until January 27, 2024.

¹ Section 1701.5(a) provides: "(a) Except as specified in subdivision (b), in a ratesetting or quasi-legislative case, the commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo within 18 months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met, including findings as to the reason, and issues an order extending the deadline."

On July 29, 2019, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed its *Application for Approval of its Mobile Application and Supporting Systems Pilot* (Application).² This Application was filed in conformity with a Commission directive in the *Order Instituting Investigation and Order to Show Cause* (I.) 19-06-015, which concerned the maintenance and operation of PG&E's electric facilities that "were involved in igniting fires in its service territory in 2017."³

The filing date of the Application, July 29, 2019, is the date this proceeding was initiated for purposes of determining the statutory deadline under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a).

A prehearing conference was held on October 15, 2019, to discuss the issues of law and fact and to determine the schedule for resolving the matter.

On November 14, 2019, the assigned Commissioner issued the Scoping Memo and Ruling (Scoping Memo). As set forth in Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the assigned Commissioner adopted an 18-month statutory deadline in the Scoping Memo, January 27, 2021,

On October 8, 2020, the Commission issued Decision (D.) 20-10-003, which approved, with modifications, PG&E's proposal for a mobile app pilot. This decision was issued within the initial 18-month statutory deadline.

As part of the Commission approval of this pilot in D.20-10-003, the Commission adopted a review process for PG&E's pilot that will require a significant amount of time. The review process adopted by the Commission includes an Independent Consultant tasked with preparing a written evaluation of the pilot with recommended next steps. The Independent Consultant will observe the pilot and prepare a report with recommendation, a process that may

² PG&E's Application can be found at the proceeding's *Docket Card* on the Commission's website.

³ A.19-07-019 at 2 and 9.

require a few years. Subsequently, and as required by D.20-10-003, parties will be provided with time to comment on the Independent Consultant's report and the Commission will vote on whether to permanently adopt the pilot.

The below timetable sets forth an approximate timeline for completing some of the major milestones adopted in D.20-10-003 for the next few years. This timeline does not account for the possible need for a proposed decision by the Administrative Law Judge on the pilot and a decision by the Commission, which would require additional time to complete. The need for additional steps would be assessed as the tasks in the timeline are completed. It is anticipated that another scoping memo will be issued in August 2023 to further extend the statutory deadline of the proceeding and set forth the issues for phase 2. An extension until January 27, 2024 will provide the time needed to prepare this scoping memo and account for any delays in the timeline below.

Milestones Estimated Timetable - PG&E Mobile App Pilot (Infrastructure Safety)
A.19-07-019

Milestone	Due Date	Decision Directive
<i>D.20-10-003</i>	<i>October 8, 2020</i> <i>Effective Date</i>	
PG&E Report to Safety Policy Division on public education/outreach specifics (including but not limited to the format, location, and frequency) it expects to offer	January 7, 2021	Within three months of Decision effective date
PG&E Quarterly Report on pilot activities and progress to Service List	January 7, 2021	Within three months of Decision effective date, quarterly thereafter
Mobile App Pilot Launches	August 7, 2021	Ten months from Decision effective date
Evaluation proposed <i>scope of work</i> submitted to Safety Policy Division by Independent Consultant	July 6, 2022	Prior to Month 12 of Pilot implementation
Safety Policy Division review, comment, and approval of evaluation <i>scope of work</i>	August 6, 2022	Prior to Month 13

Independent Consultant Evaluation process commences	August 6, 2022	Prior to Month 13
Independent Consultant submits Internal draft version of <i>evaluation report</i> to Safety Policy Division	June 6, 2023	Prior to Month 23
Public draft version of <i>evaluation report</i> published by Administrative Law Judge Ruling	July 6, 2023	Prior to Month 24
Stakeholder opening and reply comments on <i>evaluation report</i> ; public workshop/webinar as deemed appropriate by Safety Policy Division	August 6, 2023	Month 24
Final <i>evaluation report</i> published by Administrative Law Judge Ruling	September 6, 2023	Month 25
Safety Policy Division finalizes Staff Memo with opinion and appraisal of final <i>evaluation report</i>	October 6, 2023	Month 26
Administrative Law Judge issues ruling seeking stakeholder comments on Safety Policy Division Staff Memo	November 6, 2023	Month 27

Therefore, an extension of the statutory deadline for an additional 3 years (36 months), until January 27, 2024, is needed so that PG&E, the Independent Consultant, stakeholders, and the Commission may complete a comprehensive review of PG&E's mobile app in this proceeding. This extension will allow time for the Commission's Safety Policy Division, together with the Independent Consultant, to complete an evaluation of PG&E's pilot and recommend next steps, for the assigned Administrative Law Judge to issue a proposed decision for public review and comment, and for the Commission to deliberate and issue a final decision on whether to permanently adopt this mobile app.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving

ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Clifford Rechtschaffen is the assigned Commissioner and Regina DeAngelis is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. This Application was filed by PG&E on July 29, 2019.
2. A prehearing conference was held on October 15, 2019.
3. On November 14, 2019, the assigned Commissioner issued the Scoping Memo, which adopted the statutory deadline of January 27, 2021.
4. On October 8, 2020, the Commission issued D.20-10-003 providing for an approximately two-year pilot for PG&E's mobile app with an evaluation of the pilot by an Independent Consultant.
5. An extension of time is needed for PG&E to complete its mobile app pilot, for the Independent consultant to complete its review of the pilot and prepare a report with recommendations for next steps, and for the Administrative Law Judge to prepare a proposed decision on the mobile app pilot for consideration and vote by the Commission at an Agenda Meeting.
6. An extension of the statutory deadline for an additional 36 months, to January 27, 2024, is necessary so that that the Commission may complete its comprehensive review of PG&E's pilot for a mobile app.

Conclusion of Law

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended to January 27, 2024.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until January 27, 2024.

This order is effective today.

Dated January 14, 2021 at San Francisco, California.

MARYBEL BATJER

President

MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES

CLIFFORD RECHTSCHAFFEN

GENEVIEVE SHIROMA

Commissioners