ALJ/ATR/mph **Date of Issuance 4/20/2021**

Decision 21-04-018 April 15, 2021

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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| Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Approval of Energy Savings Assistance and California Alternate Rates for Energy Programs and Budgets for 2021-2026 Program Years. (U39M) | Application 19-11-003 |
| And Related Matters. | Application 19-11-004  Application 19-11-005  Application 19-11-006  Application 19-11-007 |

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to December 31, 2021.

1. Background

On November 4, 2019, the four major California Investor Owned Utilities (IOUs): Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), and Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), and Marin Clean Energy (MCE) filed applications for the approval of the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE), the Family Electric Rate Assistance (FERA) and the Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) programs and budgets for program years 2021‑2026. These applications reflected proposals for new program budgets, delivery models, targets and goals, measures offerings, and marketing, outreach, and enrollment practices, among other program and policy changes. The IOUs filed these applications in compliance with Decision (D.) 19‑06‑022 which directed the IOUs to submit applications and budgets for the ESA, CARE, and FERA programs covering the 2021‑2026 program period by November 4, 2019.[[1]](#footnote-2) MCE filed its application in compliance with D.16-11-022 which approved MCE’s multifamily (LIFT) pilot and directed MCE to “use the application process if it elects to extend the LIFT pilot on a more permanent basis."[[2]](#footnote-3)

On January 17, 2020, a prehearing conference (PHC) was held to discuss the issues of law and fact and to determine the need for hearings and schedule for the proceeding, and on February 18, 2020, a scoping memo and ruling was issued formally categorizing this proceeding as ratesetting and setting forth the proceeding scope and schedule.[[3]](#footnote-4)

Between March and August of 2020, Staff of the Commission’s Energy Division held a series of webinars and workshops relating to specific elements of the IOUs and MCE applications. In addition, the Assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a series of rulings with questions for parties to address. On October 15, 2020, the assigned ALJ determined that evidentiary hearings were not necessary in this proceeding.[[4]](#footnote-5)

1. Need for Extension of Time

Public Utilities Code[[5]](#footnote-6) Section 1701.5(a) provides that ratesetting cases shall be resolved within 18 months of the date that they are initiated unless the California Public Utilities Commission makes findings as to why that deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline. This matter has been categorized as ratesetting, and the deadline for resolving this proceeding is   
May 4, 2021.

The IOU and MCE applications introduce new concepts and significant changes to the programs that require further development and review. These include a proposal for a six year cycle (previous program cycles were three years), the inclusion of the FERA program within the proceeding, a complete redesign of the ESA program, a new multifamily whole building program, an incorporation of environmental and social justice goals, a workforce training program focusing on disadvantaged communities, as well as significant changes to the program budgets, goals and metrics. The current environmental, financial and policy landscape as implicated by the COVID-19 pandemic has also affected the Commission’s workload. While we do not anticipate requiring until December 31, 2021 for final disposition of this consolidated proceeding, the additional time ensures the proposed decision gets placement on an upcoming agenda for final disposition by the Commission. Moreover, the   
December 31, 2021 deadline should avoid need for any further potential extensions of time.

1. 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 on proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, pursuant to this rule, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is waived.

1. Assignment of Proceeding

Genevieve Shiroma is the assigned Commissioner, and Ava Tran is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The current deadline for resolving this application is May 4, 2021.
2. This matter is ratesetting.
3. The Commission’s workload is currently being impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. The additional time ensures the proposed decision gets placement on an upcoming agenda for final disposition by the Commission.
4. The December 31, 2021 deadline should avoid the need for any further extensions of time.

Conclusions of Law

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline for resolving this proceeding should be extended until December 31, 2021.
2. This decision should be effective immediately.

**IT IS ORDERED** that:

1. The time for completion of this proceeding is extended until   
   December 31, 2021.
2. Application 19-11-003 et al. remains open.

This order is effective today.

Dated April 15, 2021, at San Francisco, California.

MARYBEL BATJER

President

MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES

CLIFFORD RECHTSCHAFFEN

GENEVIEVE SHIROMA

DARCIE HOUCK

Commissioners

1. D.19‑06‑022, Ordering Paragraph 1. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)
2. D.16-11-022, 390-391. [↑](#footnote-ref-3)
3. A.19-11-003 et al. Assigned Commissioner’s Scoping Memo and Ruling, February 18, 2020. [↑](#footnote-ref-4)
4. https://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=ALL&DocID=349245342. [↑](#footnote-ref-5)
5. Unless otherwise stated, all code section references are to the Public Utilities Code. [↑](#footnote-ref-6)