

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Margaret Abele,

Complainant,

vs.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
(U39E),

Defendant.

Case 21-03-003

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to December 4, 2023.

1. Background and Justification

On March 4, 2021, Margaret Abele (Complainant) filed a complaint against Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) alleging that: (1) voltage distortions or irregularities on PG&E’s transmission lines are interfering with the operation of Complainant’s photovoltaic solar system; and (2) PG&E has failed to take appropriate action to prevent the interference. As a result, Complainant requests PG&E to: (1) take action to prevent the adverse voltage effects; (2) waive

Complainant's charges for electricity until Complainant's solar system works properly; and (3) refund Complainant's bills from April through December 2020.

Following a series of prehearing conferences, the October 14, 2021 assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling set forth the category, issues, hearing schedule, 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). Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.2(i), "adjudication cases shall be resolved within 12 months of initiation unless the [C]ommission makes findings why that deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline." As an adjudicatory matter the statutory deadline for this proceeding was March 4, 2022.

On February 28, 2022, the Commission extended the statutory deadline until December 4, 2022 to give the parties time to test equipment and methods being employed to protect Complainant's system.

In the parties' October 26, 2022 progress report, PG&E and complainant's representative Brita Hodgins reported that the parties entered into a confidential settlement agreement on July 7, 2022. The parties continued to work through the terms and conditions of the settlement, and PG&E continued to monitor the solar system. To allow additional time to confirm that the issues with the solar system have been resolved and to satisfy other terms within the confidential settlement agreement, the Commission granted an additional extension of the statutory deadline to June 4, 2023.

On March 1, 2023, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) notified the parties of the Commission's intent to dismiss this complaint unless the parties file a motion to dismiss or provide good cause within 30 days why this complaint should not be dismissed. In response, the Complainant stated in its

March 29, 2023 update that the Complainant did not oppose dismissing the case and requested that the Commission not dismiss it earlier than June 4, 2023. As a result, a presiding officer decision dismissing this case has been submitted for publication prior to the June 4, 2023 statutory deadline. This order extending the statutory deadline is needed to keep the case open in the event a party appeals the decision dismissing the complaint.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4), the Commission may waive the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment on a decision that extends the 12-month deadline set forth in Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.2(i). Under the circumstances of this proceeding, it is appropriate to waive the 30-day period for public review and comment.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Darcie L. Houck is the assigned Commissioner, and John Larsen is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding

Findings of Fact

1. Complainant filed Case 21-03-003 with the Commission on March 4, 2021.
2. The current statutory deadline for resolving this adjudicatory proceeding is June 4, 2023.
3. A presiding officer decision dismissing the complaint has been submitted for publication.
4. An extension of the statutory deadline until December 4, 2023, will keep the case open in the event a party appeals the decision dismissing the complaint.

Conclusion of Law

1. Pursuant to the authority granted under Pub. Util. Code Section 1701.2(i), the Commission should extend the statutory deadline for this proceeding to December 4, 2023.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is extended until December 4, 2023.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____ 2023, at San Francisco, California.