

Decision 24-09-040 September 26, 2024

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company
for Recovery of Recorded Expenditures Related to
Wildfire Mitigation, Catastrophic Events, and
Other Recorded Costs. (U39M)

Application 21-09-008

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadlines in this proceeding pursuant to Public Utilities (Pub. Util.) Code § 8386.4(b)(2) and Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a) until December 30, 2024.

1. Background and Justification

Pub. Util. Code §8386.4(b)(2) provides that the Commission shall issue a proposed decision within 12-months of the filing date of an application for cost recovery of implementing a wildfire mitigation plan by an electrical corporation, unless the Commission issues an order extending the deadline upon a finding of good cause. The statutory deadline for issuing the proposed decision in this proceeding on that basis was September 23, 2022.

Pub. Util. Code §1701.5(a) 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 that deadline. The statutory deadline for resolving this application as a ratesetting proceeding is March 23, 2023.

On September 16, 2021, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E or Applicant) filed Application (A.) 21-09-008 for the recovery of recorded expenditures related to wildfire mitigation, catastrophic events, and other recorded costs.

On October 11, 2021, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a ruling setting a telephonic Prehearing Conference (PHC) and directing the filing of a joint proposed scope and schedule.

On October 21, 2021, Direct Access Customer Coalition filed a response to the Application, and the Public Advocates Office, The Utility Reform Network (TURN), and Thomas Del Monte filed protests to the Application.

On October 28, 2021, PG&E, the Public Advocates Office, TURN, Direct Access Customer Coalition, and Thomas Del Monte filed a Joint Prehearing Statement.

On October 29, 2021, the Commission held a telephonic PHC to discuss the issues of law and fact and to determine the need for hearing and schedule for resolving the matter.

On November 1, 2021, PG&E filed its Reply to Protests.

On November 18, 2021, the assigned Commissioner issued the Scoping Memo and Ruling (Scoping Ruling). Also on November 18, 2021, the ALJ issued a ruling granting the motion for party status of William B. Abrams.

On May 10, 2022, the proceeding was reassigned to Commissioner Alice Reynolds. On July 25 and 26, 2022, the Commission held evidentiary hearings.

On September 16, 2022, parties filed opening briefs.

On January 18, 2023, PG&E, the Public Advocates Office, and TURN filed a Joint Motion for Approval of Settlement Agreement related to eight of the nine accounts that are the subject of this application.

On April 7, 2023, the Commission issued D 23-07-011 extending the statutory deadline for the issuance of a proposed decision pursuant to Pub. Util. Code §8386.4(b)(2) and Pub. Util. Code §1701.5(a) to December 23, 2023.

On May 3, 2023, this proceeding was reassigned to ALJ Camille Watts-Zagha. On August 18, 2023, the Commission issued D 23-08-027 approving the partial settlement agreement. On October 17, 2023, the assigned ALJ issued a Ruling Seeking Responses, with a due date of October 27, 2023, for the responses.

On December 6, 2023, the Commission issued D 23-11-002 extending the statutory deadline for the issuance of a proposed decision pursuant to Pub. Util. Code §8386.4(b)(2) and Pub. Util. Code §1701.5(a) to March 31, 2024. On March 14, 2024, the Commission issued D 24-03-020 extending the statutory deadline for the issuance of a proposed decision pursuant to Pub. Util. Code §8386.4(b)(2) and Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a) until June 30, 2024. On June 24, 2024, the Commission issued D 24-06-010 extending the statutory deadline for the issued of the proposed decision pursuant to Pub. Util. Code §8386.4(b)(2) and Pub. Util. Code §1701.5(a) until September 30, 2024.

In order to allow the Commission to conduct the remaining procedural activities and issue a decision resolving the costs in the ninth and final account in this proceeding, an extension of the statutory deadline pursuant to Pub. Util. Code §8386.4(b)(2) and Pub. Util. Code §1701.5(a) until December 30, 2024, is appropriate.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may waive the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment on a decision that extends the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings pursuant to Pub. Util. Code §1701.5. Under the circumstances of this proceeding, it is appropriate to waive the 30-day period for public review and comment.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Alice Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner and Camille Watts-Zagha is the assigned Administrative Law Judge and the presiding officer in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The current statutory deadline for resolving A 21-09-008 is September 30, 2024.
2. A 21 09-008 cannot be completed by September 30, 2024.
3. An extension of the statutory deadline until December 30, 2024, is necessary to allow adequate time to complete this proceeding.

Conclusion of Law

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 8386.4(b)(2) and Pub. Util. Code §1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended until December 30, 2024.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is extended until December 30, 2024.

This order is effective today.

Dated September 26, 2024, at San Francisco, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS

President

DARCIE L. HOUCK

JOHN REYNOLDS

KAREN DOUGLAS

Commissioners

Commissioner Matthew Baker recused himself from this agenda item and was not part of the quorum in its consideration.