

Decision 25-04-038 April 24, 2025

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

County of Nevada

Complainant,

vs.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
(U39E)

Defendant.

Case 23-12-020

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline for completion of Case 23-12-020 until August 14, 2025.

1. Background

Complainant County of Nevada (Complainant or Nevada County) filed a Complaint on December 12, 2023, against Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) alleging violations of General Order 177¹ in connection with PG&E's

¹ Section VII.B of General Order 177, requires utilities to consult with local agencies regarding land use matters when locating gas facilities.

natural gas infrastructure project located at 11613 Rough and Ready Highway, near Grass Valley, California.

PG&E timely filed an Answer to the Complaint on February 29, 2024. PG&E contends that the facts alleged in the Complaint fail to establish any violation of law, order, rule, or tariff, because as the Complaint sets forth, PG&E did in fact consult with Nevada County concerning land use matters beginning in December 2021 and continuing throughout the beginning of 2023, prior to commencing construction activities at the Site.

A prehearing conference (PHC) was held on March 26, 2024, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary. At the PHC, representatives for Nevada County and PG&E informed the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) that they had begun settlement discussions.

On August 23, 2024, the parties filed a joint settlement status report stating that the parties were still engaged in ongoing and productive settlement negotiations that are likely to result in a complete resolution of the dispute without the need for extended litigation.

At a status conference held February 25, 2025, the parties indicated that they were still engaged in ongoing productive settlement negotiations that are likely to result in a complete resolution of the dispute without the need for extended litigation.

The statutory deadline for resolution of C.23-12-020 is May 1, 2025. The parties completed filed a joint settlement motion for adoption of a settlement agreement on March 17, 2025 and subsequently filed a joint motion for

amendment of the settlement agreement on April 3, 2025. An extension of the statutory deadline to August 14, 2025, is necessary to permit the assigned ALJ, Commission staff and Commissioners adequate time to review the parties' settlement and motion for adoption of that settlement and to prepare and adopt a final decision to close this proceeding.

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 extending the deadline for resolving adjudicatory proceedings set forth in Public Utilities 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

Karen Douglas is the assigned Commissioner and Patricia Miles is the assigned Administrative Law Judge and the presiding officer in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. Nevada County filed a Complaint on December 12, 2023, against PG&E.
2. The statutory deadline for resolution of C.23-12-020 is May 1, 2025.
3. During the February 2025 status conference, the parties informed the assigned ALJ that they hope to complete their negotiation and file a joint settlement motion on or before March 31, 2025.
4. An extension of the statutory deadline until August 14, 2025, is necessary to allow adequate time for the Commission to review the parties' settlement and motion for adoption of that settlement and to prepare and adopt a final decision to close this proceeding.

Conclusion of Law

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Public Utilities Code § 1701.2(i), the statutory deadline should be extended to August 14, 2025.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for completion of Case 23-12-020 is extended until August 14, 2025.

This order is effective today.

Dated April 24, 2025, at Sacramento, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS
President
DARCIE L. HOUCK
JOHN REYNOLDS
KAREN DOUGLAS
MATTHEW BAKER
Commissioners