

Decision 25-05-012 May 15, 2025

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric  
Company to Recover Helms Uprate  
Costs

Application 23-12-014

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to March 20, 2026.

**1. Background**

Public Utilities (Pub. Util) Code Section 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 current statutory deadline for this proceeding is June 20, 2025.

On December 20, 2023, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Pacific Generation filed Application (A.) 23-12-014, requesting authority to recover costs associated with increasing the capacity at Helms Pumped Storage Project.

On September 6, 2024, PG&E filed the First Amended Application, removing Pacific Generation as an applicant.

The Assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memo and Ruling, issued on September 27, 2024, bifurcated the proceeding into two phases. The first phase addresses the overall reasonableness of the project, cost considerations, and general issues. The second phase is dependent on the outcome of the first phase and will assess cost allocation proposals.

On March 28, 2025, a joint motion for adoption of settlement agreement on phase 1 issues was filed. Extension of statutory deadline is needed to resolve the two phases scoped in this proceeding. Consequently, the statutory deadline for A.23-12-014 should be extended to March 20, 2026.

## **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 the issues raised in the scoping memo in a ratesetting proceeding set forth in Public Utilities Code Section 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**

John Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner and Justin Regnier is the assigned Administrative Law Judge and the presiding officer in this proceeding.

## **Findings of Fact**

1. A.23-12-014 was filed on December 20, 2023.

2. The current statutory deadline for completion of A. 23-12-014 is June 20, 2025.
3. A.23-12-014 cannot be completed by June 20, 2025.
4. An extension of the statutory deadline to March 20, 2026, is necessary to allow adequate time to complete this proceeding.

**Conclusions of Law**

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.50(a), the statutory deadline should be extended to March 20, 2026.
2. The 30-day period for review and comment on this Order is waived.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the statutory deadline for completion of this consolidated proceeding is extended to March 20, 2026.

This order is effective today.

Dated May 15, 2025, at Kings Beach, 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.