

Decision 25-09-020 September 18, 2025

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902), Pacific Gas and Electric Company (U39G) and Southwest Gas Corporation (U905G) to Establish Hydrogen Blending Demonstration Projects.

Application 22-09-006

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding until June 26, 2026.

1. Background and Justification

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 the deadline. The current statutory deadline for resolving this proceeding is September 26, 2025.

On September 8, 2022, Southern California Gas Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southwest Gas Corporation filed a joint application to establish hydrogen blending demonstration projects (Application). On March 3, 2023, the assigned Commissioner's Scoping Memorandum and Ruling (Scoping Memo) stayed the schedule until the filing of an amended application. The amended application would include requirements set forth in Decision 22-12-057.

On December 6, 2023, the Joint Applicants and Pacific Gas and Electric Company notified the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) that they intended to file the amended application by March 1, 2024.

On March 1, 2024, the four joint applicants filed an amended application, and a week thereafter, on March 7, 2024, the assigned Commissioner extended the statutory deadline of March 8, 2024 to September 26, 2025.

On April 3, 2024, Application (A.) 22-09-006 was reassigned to ALJ Charles Ferguson.

On June 12, 2025, the assigned Commissioner issued a second Scoping Memo listing many issues associated with the proceeding in general and many more detailed issues related to each of the five proposed projects individually.

On July 8, 2025, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling granting the parties' unopposed request for additional time to file written testimony addressing the issues listed in the assigned Commissioner's second Scoping Memo that had not been anticipated when the applicants filed their amended joint application.

The need to provide the public in each of the five locations where pilot projects are proposed sufficient opportunity to be heard in a Public Participation Hearing and an extension of the time for further written testimony to be

provided by the parties to the proceeding will lead to a lengthy evidentiary hearing beginning in late October and early November. Post-hearing briefing is expected to be voluminous. Therefore, an extension of statutory deadline is needed to complete the necessary 10 Public Participation Hearings this summer; allow the parties to prepare additional written testimony addressing the many issues in the Assigned Commissioner's most recent scoping memo; and allow the assigned ALJ to conduct a thorough evidentiary hearing covering each of the five proposed pilot projects and prepare an adequate proposed decision.

Accordingly, it is necessary to extend the statutory deadline for this proceeding to June 26, 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 that extends the 18-month deadline set forth in 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

Darcie L. Houck is the assigned Commissioner and Charles Ferguson is the assigned Administrative Law Judge and the presiding officer in this proceeding

Findings of Fact

1. The current statutory deadline for resolving A.22-09-006 is September 26, 2025.
2. A.22-09-006 cannot be completed by September 26, 2025.
3. An extension of the statutory deadline until June 26, 2026 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 § 1701.5, the statutory deadline should be extended to June 26, 2026.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for completion of this proceeding is extended until June 26, 2026.

This order is effective today.

Dated September 18, 2025, 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.