

SECTION 2

Environmental Checklist and Discussion

- 1. Project Title:** PG&E's Lakeville-Sonoma 115 kV
Transmission Line Project
(Application No. 04-11-011)

- 2. Lead Agency Name and Address:** California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor
San Francisco, CA 94102-3298

- 3. Contact Person and Phone Number:** Dorris Lam
(415) 703-5284

- 4. Project Location:** Southern Sonoma County to the east of the City
of Petaluma to the City of Sonoma, California.

- 5. Project Sponsor's Name and Address:** Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, P.O. Box 77000
San Francisco, CA 94177-0001

- 6. General Plan Designation:** Public/Quasi Public (County), Land Extensive
Agriculture (County), Land Intensive
Agriculture (County), Rural Residential
(County), Limited Commercial (County),
Gateway Commercial (City)

- 7. Zoning:** Public Facilities (County), Land Extensive
Agriculture (County), Land Intensive
Agriculture (County), Agriculture and
Residential (County), Rural Residential
(County), Neighborhood Commercial (County),
and Gateway Commercial (City)

- 8. Description of Project:**

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E), in its California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) application (A.04-11-011), seeks a Permit to Construct (PTC) approximately 7.23 miles

of 115 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit transmission line between the Lakeville and Sonoma Substations pursuant to General Order (GO) 131-D. PG&E currently owns a single-circuit 115 kV electric transmission system in the Petaluma–Napa–Sonoma area of the San Francisco Bay Area Region. To address low voltage and overloading problems in the area, PG&E proposes to install a second 115 kV transmission circuit onto its existing single-circuit 115 kV transmission line route between Lakeville Substation (at the eastern edge of the City of Petaluma) and Sonoma Substation (at the southern edge of the City of Sonoma). The second 115kV transmission line would be installed on a rebuilt version of PG&E’s existing single-circuit 115 kV transmission line, thus co-locating the two circuits on a single set of poles. The final 3,060-foot length of the new circuit between approximately Fifth Street West and the Sonoma Substation would be installed underground. The proposed project would also include modifications to both the Lakeville and Sonoma Substations.

9. Surrounding Land Uses and Setting:

The approximately 7.23-mile transmission line is located aboveground in southern Sonoma County, California, and primarily follows established roads and open space between the cities of Petaluma and Sonoma. The land uses traversed by the transmission line are primarily characterized as open space; however, portions of the transmission line traverse rural and urban thoroughfares.

10. Other public agencies whose approval is required:

As a result of the Proposed Project, construction of an approximately 7.23 miles of 115 kilovolt (kV) single-circuit transmission line between the Lakeville and Sonoma Substations and future operations of the transmission line by PG&E, the following permits and approvals would be required:

- U.S. Army Corps of Engineers: Section 404 Permit
- U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service: Section 7 Consultation
- Federal Aviation Administration: Lift Plan Permit
- California Regional Water Quality Control Board, San Francisco Bay Region: National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System—General Construction Storm Water Permit and Section 401 Water Quality Certification (or waiver thereof)
- Caltrans/Sonoma County: Road Closures
- California Department of Fish and Game: Section 1600 Streambed Alteration Agreement and Endangered Species Act Consultation
- California Department of Transportation, Temporary Heliport Permits
- State Historic Preservation Officer: Section 106 Review

- Bay Area Air Quality Management District: Authority to Construct/Permit to Operate
- Sonoma County and/or Sonoma City: Road Encroachment Permit, Grading Permit, Building Permit
- Sonoma County Transportation and Public Works Department: Traffic Control Plan
- ~~Sonoma County Permit and Resource Management Department: Cultural Resources Consultation~~

Environmental Factors Potentially Affected

The environmental factors checked below would be potentially affected by this project, involving at least one impact that would be potentially significant without mitigation incorporated.

- | | | |
|---|--|--|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Aesthetics | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Agriculture Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Air Quality |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Biological Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Cultural Resources | <input type="checkbox"/> Geology / Soils |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Hazards & Hazardous Materials | <input type="checkbox"/> Hydrology / Water Quality | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Land Use / Planning |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Mineral Resources | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Noise | <input type="checkbox"/> Population / Housing |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Public Services | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Recreation | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Transportation / Traffic |
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Utilities / Service Systems | <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Mandatory Findings of Significance | |

Evaluation of Environmental Impacts

- 1) A brief explanation is required for all answers except “No Impact” answers that are adequately supported by the information sources a lead agency cites in the parentheses following each question. A “No Impact” answer is adequately supported if the referenced information sources show that the impact simply does not apply to projects like the one involved (e.g., the project falls outside a fault rupture zone). A “No Impact” answer should be explained where it is based on project-specific factors as well as general standards (e.g., the project will not expose sensitive receptors to pollutants, based on a project-specific screening analysis).
- 2) All answers must take account of the whole action involved, including off-site as well as on-site, cumulative as well as project-level, indirect as well as direct, and construction as well as operational impacts.
- 3) Once the lead agency has determined that a particular physical impact may occur, then the checklist answers must indicate whether the impact is potentially significant, less than significant with mitigation, or less than significant. “Potentially Significant Impact” is appropriate if there is substantial evidence that an effect may be significant. If there are one

or more “Potentially Significant Impact” entries when the determination is made, an EIR is required.

- 4) “Negative Declaration: Less Than Significant With Mitigation Incorporated” applies where the incorporation of mitigation measures has reduced an effect from “Potentially Significant Impact” to a “Less Than Significant Impact.” The lead agency must describe the mitigation measures, and briefly explain how they reduce the effect to a less-than-significant level (mitigation measures from Section XVII, “Earlier Analyses,” may be cross-referenced).
- 5) Earlier analyses may be used where, pursuant to the tiering, program EIR, or other CEQA process, an effect has been adequately analyzed in an earlier EIR or negative declaration. Section 15063(c)(3)(D). In this case, a brief discussion should identify the following:
 - a) Earlier Analysis Used. Identify and state where they are available for review.
 - b) Impacts Adequately Addressed. Identify which effects from the above checklist were within the scope of and adequately analyzed in an earlier document pursuant to applicable legal standards, and state whether such effects were addressed by mitigation measures based on the earlier analysis.
 - c) Mitigation Measures. For effects that are “Less than Significant with Mitigation Measures Incorporated,” describe the mitigation measures, which were incorporated or refined from the earlier document and the extent to which they address site-specific conditions for the project.
- 6) Lead agencies are encouraged to incorporate into the checklist references to information sources for potential impacts (e.g., general plans, zoning ordinances). Reference to a previously prepared or outside document should, where appropriate, include a reference to the page or pages where the statement is substantiated.
- 7) Supporting Information Sources: A source list should be attached, and other sources used or individuals contacted should be cited in the discussion.
- 8) This is only a suggested form, and lead agencies are free to use different formats; however, lead agencies should normally address the questions from this checklist that are relevant to a project’s environmental effects in whatever format is selected.
- 9) The explanation of each issue should identify:
 - a) the significance criteria or threshold, if any, used to evaluate each question; and
 - b) the mitigation measure identified, if any, to reduce the impact to less than significant.