

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



To: Interested Parties

From: Dorris Lam, Environmental Project Manager

Subject: NOTICE OF AVAILABILITY OF A FINAL MITIGATED NEGATIVE DECLARATION – Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s Lakeville-Sonoma 115 kV Transmission Line Project (A.04-11-011) SCH# 2005122042

Date: March 23, 2006

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) has prepared a Final Mitigated Negative Declaration (Final MND) under the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA) for consideration of Pacific Gas and Electric Company’s (PG&E) Application to Construct the Lakeville-Sonoma 115 kV Transmission Line Project (A.04-11-011). The Final MND details the proposed project, evaluates and describes its potential environmental impacts, identifies those impacts that could be significant, and presents mitigation measures to avoid or minimize these impacts.

Description of the Proposed Project. To address low voltage and overloading problems in the Sonoma/Napa area, PG&E seeks authority, pursuant to CPUC General Order 131-D, Section III(B), to upgrade the electric transmission system by installing a second 115 kV transmission circuit (new) within its existing single-circuit 115 kV transmission line route between its Lakeville (at the eastern edge of the City of Petaluma) and Sonoma Substations (at the southern edge of the City of Sonoma). The second 115 kV 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 for a total distance of approximately 7.23 miles.

A 3,060-foot length of the new second circuit transmission line along Leveroni Road from approximately Fifth Street West to the Sonoma Substation would be undergrounded (See attached map). Modifications to PG&E’s Lakeville and Sonoma Substations are needed to accommodate the new circuit, but there would be no expansion beyond the existing utility-owned properties.

Contents of the Final MND. The Final MND consists of five chapters plus Appendices. Chapter 1 contains a description of the proposed project. Chapter 2 contains the text of the Final Draft MND as modified from the published Draft MND, with revised text shown in underline (for insertions) and deleted text shown in ~~strikeout~~ (for deletions). Chapter 3 contains the environmental determination of the proposed project. Chapter 4 provides a list of report authors and public agency outreach meetings and consultations. Chapter 5 presents comment letters received on the Draft MND and responses to those comments.

CPUC Actions After Final MND Publication. There is no comment period following issuance of the Final MND. The CPUC will determine the adequacy of the Final MND, and, if adequate, would adopt the document as compliant with CEQA. The CPUC would issue a Decision on the Application, which would be announced and published concurrent with a scheduled CPUC Meeting. After the Commission makes the decision on the Application, a Notice of Determination would be mailed to the State Clearinghouse within 5 days of the Decision. Within 30 days after the Decision is issued by the CPUC, parties can apply for rehearing. For further information on the CPUC’s decision-making process, call the CPUC Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074.

PG&E'S APPLICATION TO CONSTRUCT LAKEVILLE-SONOMA 115 kV TRANSMISSION LINE PROJECT INFORMATION REPOSITORIES

Availability of Final MND. Copies of the Final MND will be available for review at the Sonoma Valley Regional Library, Petaluma Regional Library, and on the project website: <http://www.pgelaqueville-sonoma.info>. Hard copies or CDs copies of the Final MND may be requested by telephone at (415) 962-8420 or by e-mail at Lakeville-Sonoma@esassoc.com.

Sonoma Valley Regional Library
755 West Napa Street
Sonoma, CA 95476
(707) 996-5217

Petaluma Regional Library
100 Fairgrounds Drive
Petaluma, CA 94952
(707) 763-9801

Map of the Proposed Project:

