

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298

**NOTICE OF PUBLICATION OF A DRAFT NEGATIVE DECLARATION****To All Interested Parties:****Re: Application A.98-10-026****Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a California Corporation, for a Permit to Construct the Monta Vista/Wolfe/Stelling Looping Project Pursuant to General Order 131-D**

Pacific Gas & Electric Company (PG&E) has applied to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for a permit to construct the Monta Vista/Wolfe/Stelling Looping Project (application number A.98-10-026). The proposed project would create a new loop circuit between the Monta Vista and Wolfe substations in the City of Cupertino and reconfigure two existing 115 kV circuits between the Ames substation in Mountain View and the Monta Vista substation in Cupertino. The project would be constructed on PG&E and Santa Clara Valley Water District (SCVWD) property and within existing street and utility corridor rights-of-way in the City of Cupertino and Santa Clara County.

This notice is intended to provide information about the application, including: (1) a general description of the project, (2) locations where you may view additional project information and impact analysis, and (3) an address and telephone number where you may direct comments.

PG&E proposes to construct a combined overhead and underground double-circuit 115 kV line approximately 1.5 miles long between the Monta Vista substation and property owned by the SCVWD north of Interstate 280, and to reconductor the existing 115 kV line between the SCVWD property and the Wolfe and Stelling substations in Cupertino. The new line would connect with the existing Wolfe substation at a point northeast of the I-280/Foothill Expressway interchange. The reconfiguration of the two existing circuits entails disconnecting the Mountain View substation from Circuit #1 and connecting it to Circuit #2; and disconnecting the Stelling and Wolfe substations from Circuit #2 and connecting them to the new loop circuit.

Four new tubular steel poles, ranging in height from 40 to 65 feet, and one new 75-foot tubular steel riser pole would be installed between the upper and lower portions of the Monta Vista substation. A new 50-foot steel lattice take-off structure would be installed at the upper portion of the substation property. These structures would be connected by new 115 kV conductors with span lengths ranging from 110 feet to 260 feet. The new 75-foot riser pole would be constructed at the Monta Vista substation to transition the new line from overhead to underground. A platform and termination equipment would be added to two existing "dead-end" lattice structures at the SCVWD property, providing transition between underground and aerial wire facilities.

Approximately one mile of new underground line would be constructed from the PG&E property to the end of Groveland Drive. Open trenching and horizontal drilling (under Heney Creek and under the Union Pacific Railroad tracks and I-280) would be used for underground construction. Approximately 180 feet of underground line would be constructed from the point where the dry bore emerges from under I-280 to the two existing dead-end structures on the SCVWD property.

Based on the findings of the Initial Study, the proposed PG&E Monta Vista/Wolfe/Stelling Looping Project would have potentially significant environmental effects on water quality and biological resources. Mitigation measures identified in the Mitigated Negative Declaration would reduce these impacts to less than significant levels.

Document Available for Review:

The CPUC has prepared a Mitigated Negative Declaration and Initial Study describing the project and its potential environmental effects. Based on these assessments, it has been determined that with mitigation the proposed project will not have a significant effect on the environment. The environmental documents may be reviewed at www.cpuc.ca.gov/divisions/energy/environmental/info/montavista.htm and at the following locations:

Santa Clara Co. Planning Dept.

70 W. Hedding St.
7th Floor East Wing
San Jose, CA 95110
(408) 299-2454

Cupertino Planning Dept.

10300 Torre Avenue
Cupertino, CA
95014
(408) 777-3308

**California Public Utilities
Commission**

505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
(415) 703-2126

Reviewers should call ahead of time to determine when these establishments are open.

Time for Review:

The period for public review of this Negative Declaration and Initial Study is February 3, 1999 through March 5, 1999. Comments must be received in writing and postmarked no later than 5:00 p.m., March 5, 1999. Send comments to the following address:

Stephen Rutledge, CPUC Project Manager
California Public Utilities Commission, Energy Division
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102
email: enviro_team@cpuc.ca.gov

For further information, please call the Environmental Review Team at (415) 703-2126.