



Filings at the CPUC

January 2018 edition

Produced by the CPUC's News and Outreach Office

Utilities' proposals would default energy rates to "time of use"

Applications from IOUs also include plan options, bill protection, CARE adjustments, fixed charges

California's main three investor-owned utilities last month unveiled rate plan proposals last month that could significantly change the way consumers pay for power in the state.

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E), Southern California Edison (SCE) and San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E) filed applications on Dec. 20 as part of a residential rate design window process.

The three applications all ask the CPUC to approve new time-of-use (TOU) rates, designed to incentivize residential customers to shift energy use to less-demanding times of day, as the default for most eligible customers, as well as a menu of optional rate plans to be offered to all customers at the same time default TOU is being rolled out.

The applications also ask for increases in the minimum fixed charges low-energy users must pay for access to the grid and adjustments to the way discounts for low-income discount programs are presented on their bills.

The rate design window applications were ordered as part of a 2015 CPUC decision to implement default TOU rates. As opposed to General Rate Case (GRC) proceed-

ings, which occur on a three-year cycle for each of the big three utilities, Rate Design Windows are optional filings that utilities can use to revisit rate design issues from a utility's previous GRC and any other rate design issues that may have arisen since the previous GRC.

Rate Design Windows are meant to be short and typically take roughly five months from beginning to decision. Utilities can also be directed to file Rate Design Window applications by the CPUC when it anticipates issues that need to be addressed during that period.

Under the proposals, most customers would transition from a tiered rate plan to one where electricity costs more at certain times of day (for example, from 4 p.m. to 9 p.m. in the main PG&E plan), unless they opt out. While more electricity is consumed statewide at midday, those hours also coincide with the hours of greatest solar generation, delaying the peak rate hours until the late afternoon/early evening.

SCE estimates about 3.3 million customers would be enrolled into the default TOU rate, while PG&E figures about 2 million customers would be the switch. About 750,000 SDG&E customers would transition.

Under all three proposals, CARE customers in designated hot climate zones would be exempt for the TOU rate. Additionally, most customers would have at least one year of "bill protection," where at the end of 12 months, if a customer's total annual bill on the TOU rate is higher than it would have been on the tiered rate, the customer will be credited the difference.

All three IOUs propose to change the discount for low-income households on the California Alternative



New proposals from California's utilities, if approved by the CPUC, would transition most customers to "time of use" rates, where electricity rates would be less at times of low demand and higher when energy needs peak.

Rates for Energy (CARE) program from its current multi-tiered structure (where the discount rate is higher on greater usage tiers) into a flat-rate percentage discount. The utilities contend that the typical CARE customer will not see an increase in their bill.

TOU default on March 1, 2019, SCE on Oct. 1, 2020, and PG&E says it could start on Nov. 1, 2019, but would prefer to begin on Oct. 1 2020 because of the need to coordinate with a large number of community choice aggregation energy providers.

Featured Proceedings: A.17-12-011 et al

SDG&E wrote that a line-item discount "is simple for SDG&E to explain, easy for customers to understand, and an equitable method for proving a discount."

The three IOUs all also proposed a minimum fixed charge for connecting to the grid, with PG&E asking for an eventual \$7.40 minimum monthly connection, SCE proposing a \$7.48 (\$5.05 for low-income customers), and SDG&E asking permission to have a fixed charge of \$10 (\$5 for customers enrolled in a low-income rate program). Totals would be adjusted each year with the consumer price index.

SDG&E proposes to begin the

Hearings and motions will be heard through the spring for all three applications, with proposed decisions from a CPUC administrative law judge likely coming in late summer or fall 2018.

The three utilities' applications are available online at:

PG&E (A.17-12-011): <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201923924>

SCE (A.17-12-012): <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201962673>

SDG&E (A.17-12-013): <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201922174>

What am I reading?

This monthly newsletter is to keep you informed of proposed decisions by the CPUC's Commissioners and Administrative Law Judges, as well as applications of note.

Each month, we will feature one or more proposed decisions or applications that were filed since the prior newsletter, along with a list summarizing the other filings at the CPUC that month.

For more information on the CPUC's outreach efforts, visit www.cpuc.ca.gov/Outreach/, e-mail outreach@cpuc.ca.gov, or call (855) 421-0400.



CPUC approves grant program for solar on affordable housing

CPUC commissioners voted last month to approve a utility-funded incentive program, with up to a \$100 million annual budget, designed to encourage the deployment of solar generation on existing multifamily affordable housing units.

The Dec. 14 vote created the framework for the Solar on Multifamily Affordable Housing (SOMAH) Program, as directed by Assembly Bill 693 (Eggman).

SOMAH is targeted at existing multifamily affordable housing financed with low-income housing tax credits, tax-exempt mortgage revenue bonds, general obligation bonds, or local, state or federal loans or grants.

“This program ensures that residents of affordable multifamily housing are provided the opportunity to participate and benefit from distributed solar,” said Commissioner Martha Guzman Aceves, who is assigned to the proceeding.

To be qualified for SOMAH, properties must also be occupied by households with incomes at or below 60 percent of the area median income or be located in a disadvantaged community as identified by the California Environmental Protection Agency.

The application process is still being developed, and implementation is expected to begin sometime in Fall 2018, per the written decision approving the program.

According to the decision, the



Multifamily, affordable housing at the South San Francisco Housing Authority. Photo by John Baker.

Featured Rulemaking: R.14-07-002

program will ensure that the benefits of supported solar generation systems, especially the bill credits customers can receive with net metered on-site solar generation, accrue primarily to tenants of participating affordable housing.

“We need to be intentional in transitioning our economy to ensure that every part of our society benefits from the cleaning of our energy supplies,” said Guzman Aceves.

In implementing Assembly Bill 693, the CPUC provided program

funding and guidance for the selection and ultimate responsibilities of a statewide Program Administrator for the SOMAH Program. The statewide Program Administrator will be competitively selected from entities responding to a Request for Proposal.

The SOMAH Program will be funded up to \$100 million annually through the greenhouse gas allowance auction proceeds of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric, Southern California Edison, Liberty

Utilities Company, and PacifiCorp.

“This policy was designed to ensure that families in low-income and disadvantaged communities can also reap the benefits of the booming solar energy industry in California, and this decision moves those benefits that much closer to the families that need them,” said Assemblymember Susan Talamantes Eggman of Stockton.

The decision is available online at: <http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/PublishedDocs/Published/G000/M201/K125/201125355.pdf>

The Docket: Filings of note from Dec. 1 to Dec. 31, 2017

PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

A1711017 • 29-Nov.-2017 (*not included in December edition*) • Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority

In the Matter of the Application of the Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority for an Order authorizing the construction of a four-track at-grade pedestrian crossing from Willowbrook Avenue East to the Metro Blue Line Platform to Willowbrook Avenue West at the Willowbrook/Rosa Parks Station, in the County of Los Angeles.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199979947>

A1712003 • 01-Dec.-2017 • Pacific Gas and Electric Company Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Approval of Agreements Resulting from Its 2016-2017 Energy Storage Solicitation and Related Cost Recovery (U39E).

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199517759>

PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

A1712004 • 01-Dec.-2017 • Pinnacles Telephone Co.

In the Matter of Application of Pinnacles Telephone Co. (U1013C) to Review Intrastate Rates and Charges, Establish a New Intrastate Revenue Requirement and Rate Design, and Modify Selected Rates.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199517767>

A1712006 • 01-Dec.-2017 • California-American Water Company Application of California-American Water Company (U210W), Rio Plaza Water Company, Inc. (U319W), and John Chris Nickel, Sr., Trustee for the John C. Nickel Trust for an Order Authorizing the Sale of all Shares of Rio Plaza Water Company, Inc. to California-American Water Company and Approval of Related Matters.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199995504>

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Docket: December Filings, *continued from previous page*

PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

A1712002 • 01-Dec.-2017 • Southern California Edison Company
Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for Approval of the Results of Its 2016 Energy Storage and Distribution Deferral Request for Offers.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199995891>

A1705006 • 4-Dec.-2017 • ALJ/MILES/CPUC

Proposed Decision adopting Southern California Edison Company's 2018 Energy Resource Recovery Account (ERRA) Proceeding Revenue Requirement Forecast.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199508508>

A1712007 • 05-Dec.-2017 • GalaxeNet LLC

Application of GALAXENET LLC for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity in Order to Provide Resold and Limited Facilities Based Competitive Local Exchange and Interexchange Service in the State of California.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=200306049>

A1712008 • 06-Dec.-2017 • Southern California Edison Company
Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY (U338E) to issue, sell, and deliver one or more series of Debt Securities and guarantee the obligations of others in respect of the issuance of Debt Securities, the total aggregate principal amount of such indebtedness and guarantees not to exceed \$2,955,000,000; to execute and deliver one or more indentures; to sell, lease, assign, mortgage, or otherwise dispose of or encumber utility property; to issue, sell and deliver in one or more series, an aggregate amount not to exceed \$365,000,000 par or stated value of Cumulative Preferred Stock \$25 Par Value, \$100 Cumulative Preferred Stock \$100 Par Value, Preference Stock or any combination thereof, and guarantee the obligations of others in respect of the issuance of that Preferred or Preference Stock.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199995942>

A1706016 • 7-Dec.-2017 • ALJ/KENNEY/CPUC

Proposed Decision approving Southern California Gas Company's shareholder reward for Year 23 (2016-2017) of the Gas Cost Incentive Mechanism.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199995945>

R1408013; A1507002; A1507003; A1507005; A1507006; A1507007; A1507008 • 8-Dec.-2017 • CMMR/PICKER/CPUC

Proposed Decision on Track 3 policy issues, Sub-Track 1 (Growth Scenarios) and Sub-Track 3 (Distribution and Deferral Process).

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199995533>

R1301010 • 8-Dec.-17 • CMMR/PETERMAN/CPUC

Proposed Phase 3 Decision adopting rules and requirements for community-based organization participants in the California Teleconnect Fund.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=200269718>

PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

A1704028; A1705003; A1705005; A1705009 • 8-Dec.-17 • ALJ/ROSCOW/CPUC

Proposed Decision addressing Applications of the California Energy Commission, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company for approval of their triennial investment plans for the Electric Program Investment Charge Program for the Years 2018 through 2020, and modifying Decision 12-05-037.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199995953>

R1103012 • 08-Dec.-2017 • CPUC

Petition For Modification filed by Airgas USA, LLC on 12/01/2017 (Conf #115415) on Order Instituting Rulemaking to Address Utility Cost and Revenue Issues Associated with Greenhouse Gas Emissions.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=200113800>

A1002009 • 11-Dec.-17 • ALJ/MACDONALD/CPUC

Proposed Decision granting intervenor compensation to Wishtoyo Foundation for substantial contribution to Decision 14-02-026.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=199995542>

A1712016 • 13-Dec.-2017 • B. Riley Financial, Inc.

In the Matter of the Joint Application of magicJack VocalTec Ltd., Transferor and B. Riley Financial, Inc., Transferee to Authorize the Transfer of Control of YMax Communications Corp. (U6989C). NO LINK AVAILABLE

A1712017 • 15-Dec.-2017 • HIDALGO TRANSPORTATION, LLC

In the matter of the Application of HIDALGO TRANSPORTATION, LLC, for passenger stage authority under Section 1031, et. seq., of the California Public Utilities Code, to transport passengers and baggage express, on an on-call, county-to-county fare basis, between the counties of San Diego, Orange, Los Angeles, San Bernardino, Riverside, Kern, Monterey, Tulare, Fresno, Santa Clara, San Mateo, San Francisco, Alameda and Sacramento, on the other hand; and to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom (ZORF) under Section 454.2, et. seq., of the PU Code.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201922201>

A1712018 • 15-Dec.-2017 • CATALINA CLIPPER, LLC - ANDREW J. LAWLER

Application of Catalina Clipper, LLC for authority to operate as a scheduled Vessel Common Carrier between Newport Beach and Avalon and to establish a Zone of Rate Freedom.

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A1712010 • 15-Dec.-2017 • Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Application of PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (U39E) for a Permit to Construct the Ravenswood-Coolley Landing 115 kV Re-conductoring Project.

NO LINK AVAILABLE

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PG&E asks permission to track wildfire costs

Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) has filed an application seeking CPUC approval to record in a special account PG&E's ongoing costs related to wildfires in its service area beginning with the Butte Fire in 2015.

Per page 17 of the application, PG&E wants to track costs not reimbursed by insurance in a memorandum account in order "to preserve its right to seek recovery of those costs through a future application."

According to the application, "While utilities generally carry insurance coverage for wildfire claims, it is possible that the amount of insurance will be insufficient." If PG&E seeks CPUC approval to recover costs at a later date, this account would be used to determine how much PG&E spent related to wildfires.

The application (A. 17-07-011) can be viewed on the Northern California fire webpage at <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/general.aspx?id=6442454971>.

Anyone who would like to comment on this application or become a party to the proceeding can contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at:

E-mail: public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov
Address: California Public Utilities Commission
Public Advisor's Office
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102



Fire en banc to take place on Jan. 31

When: January 31, 2018, 9:15 a.m. to 4 p.m.
Where: 505 Van Ness Ave., San Francisco
(also available via webcast)
More info: www.cpuc.ca.gov/2018FireEnBanc

This Fire Safety and Utility Infrastructure En Banc will examine the fire threat in California in an effort for the CPUC to fully understand the intersect of fire safety and utility infrastructure

This En Banc is independent of any CPUC proceeding, and panelists are forbidden from making *ex parte* comments related to open proceedings during their presentations or discussions. No CPUC Decision will issue as a result of information shared in this En Banc.

Featured Application: A.17-07-011

Docket: December Filings, *continued from previous page*

PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

A1706005 • 18-Dec.-17 • ALJ/TSEN/CPUC

Proposed Decision adopting Pacific Gas and Electric Company's 2018 Energy Resource Recovery Account Forecast and Generation Non-Bypassable Charges and Greenhouse Gas Forecast Revenue and Reconciliation.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=200728073>

A1712011 • 20-Dec.-2017 • Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for Approval of its Residential Rate Design Window Proposals, including to Implement a Residential Default Time-Of-Use Rate along with a Menu of Residential Rate Options, followed by addition of a Fixed Charge Component to Residential Rates (U39E).

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201923924>

A1712013 • 20-Dec.-2017 • San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902E) for Authority to Update Electric Rate Design Regarding Residential Default Time-Of-Use Rates and Fixed Charges.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201922174>

A1712012 • 21-Dec.-2017 • Southern California Edison Company
Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) Requesting Authorization to Implement Residential Default Time-Of-Use Rates and Increase Fixed Charges.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201962673>

PROCEEDING NUMBER • FILED DATE • FILER

A1610004 • 22-Dec.-17 • ALJ/HOUCK/CPUC

Decision Adopting All-Party Settlement Agreement approving intrastate rates and charges et al. for Cal-Ore Telephone Co. for Test Year 2018. Opening comments are due January 11, 2018. Reply comments are due 5 days after the last day for filing comments.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=202235538>

R1602007 • 28-Dec.-17 • CMMR/RANDOLPH/CPUC

Proposed Decision setting requirements for load serving entities filing integrated resource plans. Opening comments are due no later than January 17, 2018. Reply comments are due 5 days after the last day for filing opening comments.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201974336>

A1312012; I1406016 • 27-Dec.-17 • ALJ/ALLEN/CPUC

Proposed Decision denying the Petition for Modification of the Northern California Generation Coalition. Opening comments are due no later than January 16, 2018. Reply comments are due 5 days after the last day for filing opening comments.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=201922197>

A1712019 • 28-Dec.-2017 • PacifiCorp

In the Matter of the Application of PacifiCorp (U901E) for Approval of a Tax Reform Memorandum Account effective January 1, 2018.

<http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&DocID=202235573>