

General Order 131-E Pilot Program

CPUC Decision 25-01-055

Workshop Presentation

California Public Utilities Commission
Energy Division

This meeting is being recorded

August 21, 2025



California Public
Utilities Commission

Workshop Overview

Purpose

- Present an overview of the General Order 131-E pilot program required by CPUC Decision 25-01-055 and CPUC Energy Division staff's proposed pilot project metrics
- Receive comments from parties in the R.23-05-018 proceeding and the general public on the proposed pilot project metrics

Facilitators

- Tommy Alexander, CPUC Energy Division
- Michelle Wilson, CPUC Energy Division

Participation

- Verbal comments will be received during this workshop after the staff presentation
- Written comments should be emailed to the R.23-05-018 service list by September 5

Workshop Agenda

Time	Activity
3:00 pm	Welcome and Workshop Overview (10 min)
3:10 pm	Overview of Decision 25-01-055, GO 131-E Pilot Program Requirements, and Pilot Program Objectives (15 min) • Summary of Decision 25-01-055 Requirements for Pilot Program Administration and Pilot Project Selection • Summary of Pilot Program Objectives
3:25 pm	Review Proposed Pilot Program Metrics (20 min)
3:45 pm	Next Steps and How to Comment (10 min)
3:55 pm	Comments (60 min)
4:55 pm	Closing (5 min)

Overview of General Order (GO) 131-E

CPUC General Order (GO) 131-E includes:

- Rules for permitting electrical transmission and power lines, substations, and generation facilities
 - Certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) criteria and process
 - Permit to construct (PTC) criteria and process
 - CPCN and PTC application requirements
- Noticing and reporting requirements
- Protest and complaint procedures
- Guidance on CEQA compliance and local preemption

Overview of R.23-05-018 Proceeding

- **Phase 1**

- Update GO 131-D by January 1, 2024 to implement Senate Bill (SB) 529 (Hertzberg, 2022) and additional minor changes
 - Joint motion for adoption of settlement agreement filed September 29, 2023
 - **D.23-12-035 modified GO 131-D on December 14, 2023**

- **Phase 2**

- Consider more extensive changes to provide a clearer, more efficient, and more consistent permitting process, resulting in a new GO 131-E
 - Initial party comments filed in February 2024
 - Staff proposal issued on May 17, 2024
 - 3.5-hr public workshop hosted on June 3, 2024
 - Party comments on staff proposal filed in July 2024
 - **D.25-01-055 adopted new GO 131-E on January 30, 2025**

Overview of Decision 25-01-055

- Decision Adopting General Order 131-E (D.25-01-055) adopted January 30, 2025
- Closed the R.23-05-018 GO 131-D update proceeding and adopted the new GO 131-E, superseding GO 131-D
- Directed CPUC Energy Division staff to administer a pilot program to:
 - Track and report metrics for a set of pilot projects
 - Evaluate the CPUC's existing CEQA review process for electric transmission projects, including potential process improvements



Overview of Pilot Program

- Pursuant to D.25-01-055, the list of pilot projects must include:
 - At least four projects:
 - Two mitigated negative declarations (MNDs)
 - Two environmental impact reports (EIRs)
 - At least one project each from PG&E, SCE, and SDG&E
 - A mix of competitively bid and non-competitively bid projects
- CPUC Energy Division staff must:
 - Track metrics for at least four pilot projects based on the selection criteria
 - Report on the results of the pilot program in the R.23-05-018 proceeding docket every other year starting December 1, 2026

Pilot Program Objectives

- Evaluate the CPUC CEQA process for electric transmission projects, seeking to identify opportunities to accelerate permitting timelines
- Define and track factors that affect transmission permitting timelines, including delays and “schedule change events”
- Track and report on the implementation of the new GO 131-E
- Report on the results of the pilot program:
 - In the R.23-05-018 proceeding docket (biennially starting Dec. 1, 2026)
 - In a public dashboard on the CPUC website (updated regularly)
- Benefits of participation include:
 - Greater transparency through tracking and reporting
 - Heightened focus on identifying process improvements

Proposed Pilot Project Metrics

- Attributes
- Dates
- Detailed performance metrics
- High-level performance metrics

Proposed Pilot Project Metrics

Category	ID	Data Field	Description
Attributes	1.1	Project Name	Primary name of the project as used by the applicant in the filed application
	1.2	Applicant(s)	Name of the utility or utilities proposing to construct the project
	1.3	Application No.	CPCN or PTC application number
	1.4	Permit Type	Type of permit requested in the application (i.e., CPCN or PTC)
	1.5	Federal Involvement	Whether the project requires federal agency permitting (Federal) or not (Non-Federal)
	1.6	CEQA Document Type	Type of CEQA document prepared by the CPUC (e.g., IS/MND, EIR)
	1.7	NEPA Document Type	Type of NEPA document prepared by the lead NEPA agency (e.g., EA, EIS), if applicable
	1.8	Voltage(s)	Kilovolt (kV) rating of proposed transmission facilities
	1.9	Miles or Acreage	Length (miles) of proposed linear infrastructure and/or area (acres) of proposed substation(s)
	1.10	Competively Bid or Non-Competitively Bid	Whether the project was competitively or non-competitively awarded to the project sponsor
	1.11	CAISO Approval Year	Date(s) the project was approved in a CAISO transmission plan, if applicable
	1.12	Expected In-Service Date	Expected project in-service date specified by CAISO in the transmission plan

Category	ID	Data Field	Description
Dates	2.1	CAISO Award Date	Date CAISO selected the approved project sponsor
	2.2	12-Month Notice Date	Date the applicant first notified the CPUC of the forthcoming application
	2.3	Pre-Filing Date	Date the applicant initiated pre-filing consultation
	2.4	File Date	Date the CPCN or PTC application was filed
	2.5	Date(s) Deficiency Letter(s) Issued	Date the CPUC issued each deficiency letter to the applicant(s)
	2.6	Date(s) of Deficiency Letter Response(s)	Date the applicant(s) responded to each deficiency letter
	2.7	Date Deemed Complete	Date the CPCN or PTC application was deemed complete
	2.8	Amendment File Date(s)	Date(s) of any application amendments filed
	2.9	Date(s) Data Request(s) Issued	Date the CPUC issued each data request to the applicant(s)
	2.10	Date(s) of Data Request Response(s)	Date the applicant(s) responded to each CPUC data request
	2.11	Schedule Change Event Start Date	Start date of each schedule change event that substantively altered the project schedule
	2.12	Schedule Change Event End Date	End date of each schedule change event that substantively altered the project schedule
	2.13	Public Draft CEQA Document Date	Date the draft CEQA document was released for public review
	2.14	Final CEQA Document Date	Date the final CEQA document was adopted or certified
	2.15	Prehearing Conference Date	Date the prehearing conference was held in the PTC or CPCN proceeding
	2.16	Proposed Decision Date	Date the CPUC issued a proposed decision on the project
	2.17	Final Decision Date	Date the CPUC adopted a final decision to approve or deny the project
	2.18	NEPA - Lead Agency File Date	Date the applicant filed an application with the lead NEPA agency (if applicable)
	2.19	NEPA - NOI Date (if EIS)	Date the NEPA lead agency issued a notice of intent to prepare an EIS (if applicable)
	2.20	NEPA - Public Draft NEPA Document Date	Date the NEPA lead agency released a draft NEPA document for public review (if applicable)
	2.21	NEPA - NHPA Section 106 Completion Date	Date the SHPO concurred with the NEPA lead agency's cultural resources finding of effect, concluding cultural resources consultation under Section 106 of the National Historic Preservation Act (NHPA) (if applicable)
	2.22	NEPA - ESA Consultation Completion Date	Date USFWS and/or NMFS consultation concluded (i.e., date USFWS/NMFS concurred w/ agency determination, if informal consultation, or date USFWS/NMFS completed a biological opinion, if formal consultation) under Section 4 or 7 of the Endangered Species Act (ESA) (if applicable)
	2.23	NEPA - FONSI Date (if EA)	Date the NEPA lead agency issued a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for the project (if applicable)
	2.24	NEPA - Record of Decision Date (if EIS)	Date the NEPA lead agency published a Record of Decision (ROD) and adopted the final EIR (if applicable)

Proposed Pilot Project Metrics

Category	ID	Data Field	Description
Performance Metrics (Detailed)	3.1.A	Time from CAISO Award to 12-Month Notice	Total number of days from the CAISO Award Date to the 12-Month Notice date
	3.1.B	Time from CAISO Award to Prefile Date	Total number of days from the CAISO Award date to the Pre-Filing date
	3.1.C	Time from Prefiling to File Date	Total number of days from the Pre-Filing Date to the File Date
	3.2.A	Number of Deficiency Letters	Total number of deficiency letters issued by the CPUC to the applicant
	3.2.B	Deficiency Letter Response Time (Average)	Average (mean) number of days for the applicant to respond to application deficiency letters
	3.2.C	Deficiency Letter Response Time (Total)	Total number of days in which deficiency letters were outstanding
	3.3.A	Number of Data Requests	Total number of data requests issued by the CPUC to the applicant
	3.3.B	Data Request Response Time (Average)	Average (mean) number of days for the applicant to respond to data requests
	3.3.C	Data Request Response Time (Total)	Total number of days in which data requests were outstanding
	3.3.D	Time to Release Public Draft	Total number of days from File Date to Public Draft CEQA Document
	3.4.A	Number of Public Comments	Total number of comments received on the public draft CEQA document
	3.4.B	Time from Draft CEQA to PHC	Total number of days from Draft CEQA Document to Prehearing Conference
	3.4.C	Time from Final CEQA to Final Decision	Total number of days from Final CEQA Document to Final Decision
	3.4.D	Time from PHC to Final Decision	Total number of days from Prehearing Conference to Final Decision
	3.5.A	Time from NEPA Filing to NHPA Completion	Total number of days from NEPA - Lead Agency File Date to NHPA Section 106 Completion Date
	3.5.B	Time from NEPA Filing to ESA Completion	Total number of days from NEPA - Lead Agency File Date to ESA Consultation Completion Date
	3.5.C	Time from NEPA Filing to FONSI or Record of Decision	Total number of days from NEPA - Lead Agency File Date to NEPA - FONSI Date (if EA) or NEPA - Final EIS Date (if EIS)
	3.7.A	Schedule Change Event Type(s)	Event(s) that substantively changed the project schedule, recorded by date, type, and delay duration. Types include: Project Description Change, New Information Received, New Alternatives Needed, New Significant Impact, Additional Surveys Needed
	3.7.B	Schedule Change Event Duration(s)	Duration in calendar days of each event that substantively changed the project schedule.

Proposed Pilot Project Metrics

Category	ID	Data Field	Description
Performance Metrics (High-Level)	3.1	Clock: Total Pre-Filing Time	Total number of days from CAISO Award to File Date
	3.2	Clock: Total Time to Deem Application Complete	Total number of days from File Date to Deemed Complete
	3.3	Clock: Total CEQA Time	Total number of days from Deemed Complete to Final CEQA Document
	3.4	Clock: Total CPUC Permit Time	Total number of days from Deemed Complete to Final Decision
	3.5	Clock: Total NEPA Time	Total number of days from NEPA lead agency permit application to final decision (if applicable)
	3.6	Number of Deficiency Letters	Number of deficiency letters issued (if applicable)
	3.7	Number of Data Requests	Number of data requests issued (if applicable)
	3.8	Number of Amendments	Number of application amendments filed (if applicable)
	3.9	Number of Schedule Change Events	Number of schedule change events (if applicable)
	3.10	Clock: Total Delay Duration	Total number of days of delay due to schedule change events
	3.11	Status	Current project status

Next Steps

- **September 5, 2025** – Written comments requested on proposed metrics
- **Q3/Q4 2025** – Selecting pilot projects, refining list of proposed metrics, developing dashboard, and initiating program implementation
- **Q1 to Q4 2026** – Implementing pilot program, maintaining dashboard
- **December 1, 2026** – CPUC staff to report on the results of the pilot in the R.23-05-018 proceeding docket

How to Comment

- To provide written comments:
 - Email comments to the R.23-05-018 service list **by September 5, 2025**
 - The R.23-05-018 service list can be found in the proceeding docket:
https://ia.cpuc.ca.gov/servicelists/R2305018_92597.htm
- To provide verbal comments:
 - Instructions will be provided shortly
- Comments will be summarized and sent to the R.23-05-018 service list



Comment Guidelines

- **Focus comments on the proposed metrics.**
 - Comments should focus on the list of project attributes, dates, and metrics that staff propose to track and report as part of the pilot program.
 - Suggestions for revisions to the proposed metrics are welcome.
- **Keep verbal comments brief.**
 - Please be mindful of time and keep verbal comments brief (up to two minutes per commenter) to support participation from a range of stakeholders.



Verbal Comments

In-Person Participants:

- Raise hand

Online (Webex) Participants:

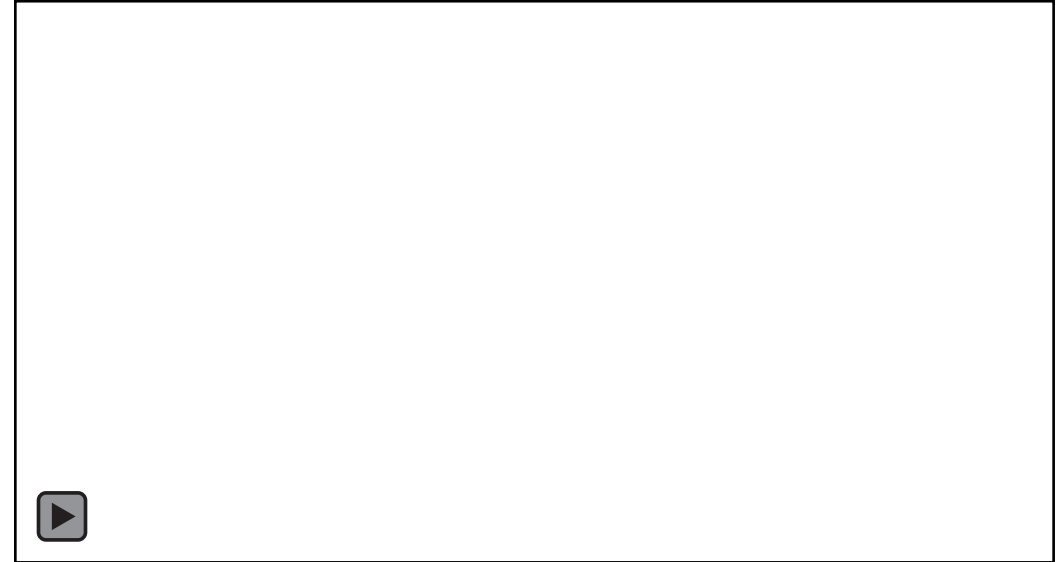
- Select “raise hand”

Telephone Participants:

- Press *3 to raise hand

When Called Upon:

- Select “Unmute” (if participating online) or press *6 (if participating via phone)
- State name and affiliation (if any)
- Comment, mute self, return to end of queue



Thank you!

Please email any questions to:

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