Filings at the CPUC

May 2018 edition

Produced by the CPUC’s News and Outreach Office
outreach@cpuc.ca.gov

CPUC opens rulemaking to consider utility climate adaptation

Regulators will address how to integrate changing climate conditions into relevant proceedings

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) last month began a process that would require utility proceedings before it to consider the risks posed by climate change and to present strategies on how to deal with it.

Rulemaking R.18-04-019, initiated by the CPUC on April 26, requires the state’s investor-owned electric and natural gas utilities to submit answers on questions such as: What climate-related data sources and tools should be used to inform CPUC activities?; How should climate scenarios be used in utility planning and CPUC proceedings?; and, How can utilities identify and address climate impacts on disadvantaged communities?

Telecommunications and water utilities will be considered in future phases.

“Robust climate adaptation planning in a time of worsening climate impacts is a prudent next step to ensure the safety and reliability of all investor-owned public utilities,” said the opening paragraphs of the order instituting the proceeding.

In the first phase of the proceeding, the CPUC expects to consider:

• How to define climate change adaptation for the electricity and natural gas utilities.
• Ways to address climate change adaptation issues in Commission proceedings and activities to ensure safety and reliability of utility operations.
• Data, tools, and resources necessary for utility planning and operations related to climate adaptation.
• Risks facing the electric and natural gas utilities with respect to climate change adaptation and the magnitudes of these risks.
• Guidance to electric and gas utilities on how to incorporate adaptation into their planning and operations.

Reports indicate that climate change poses risks to utilities. For example, a Lawrence Berkeley National Laboratory study found a 40-percent increased probability of wildfire exposure for some major electric transmission lines.

“Clearly, future changes in the climate will have a significant impact on the electric system,” the rulemaking order states. “However, future analysis is required to better understand the vulnerabilities each utility faces.”

As the next steps in the process, the CPUC will hold a pre-hearing conference, produce a scoping memo outlining the proceeding and its timeline, hold a workshop on the issues, and then an administrative law judge will issue a proposed decision for commissioners to consider about nine months after the workshop date.

Featured Rulemaking: R.18-04-019

The rulemaking order (R.18-04-019) is available online at http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?docformat=ALL&docid=213503721

Any person interested in participating in the rulemaking may contact the CPUC’s Public Advisor’s Office at public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov or (866) 849-8390. Refer to proceeding R.18-04-019.

CPUC issues draft “Green Book” to address electric reliability

The California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), is calling on legislators and stakeholders to join forces with the CPUC in tackling new challenges confronting the state’s energy future and reliability.

On May 3, CPUC staff members issued a paper titled “California Customer Choice: An Evaluation of Regulatory Framework Options for an Evolving Electricity Market,” (also known as the “Green Book”) as part of the Commission’s effort to raise awareness of the challenges and opportunities in California’s rapidly changing electricity market and to advance a public dialogue.

“The state’s electric system has worked well the past 15 or so years, since the Legislature took steps to correct the problems that rose out of the energy crisis, but customers are now getting their electricity increasingly from rooftop solar, Community Choice Aggregators, and other non-utility sources,” said CPUC President Michael Picker.

“In the last electricity deregulation we had a plan, however flawed. Now, we are deregulating electric markets through dozens of different decisions and legislative actions, but we do not have a plan. If California policy makers are not careful, we could drift slowly back into another predicament like the energy crisis of 2001,” Picker added.

A copy of the paper and a list of frequently asked questions are available on the CPUC’s Customer Choice Project webpage at www.cpuc.ca.gov/customerchoice.

The paper does not advocate specific policy actions, but seeks instead to jump-start a conversation by raising questions about how to ensure reliability of the electric grid and a fair, affordable, and durable transition while still advancing California’s ambitious clean energy goals.

The CPUC’s staff looked at the United Kingdom, Texas, New York, and Illinois for guidance on how other jurisdictions have managed the disaggregation of energy procurement for lessons learned that may be

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The California Public Utilities Commission approved start dates for a plan that would see most residential California electricity customers pay different rates at different times of day at its May 10 voting meeting in Fontana.

Under the approved decision, new time-of-use (TOU) rates would go into effect in March 2019 for customers of San Diego Gas & Electric (SDG&E), and October 2020 for customers of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Edison (SCE). The CPUC will approve the actual default TOU rates and implementation plans in a later decision.

TOU rates are designed to incentivize customers to shift energy use to less-demanding times of day. Under the approved decision, TOU rates will be the default rate plans for most eligible residential customers, and a menu of optional rate plans will be offered to all residential customers at the same time default TOU is being rolled out.

Most customers will 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.

“This is necessary because so much of our electricity comes from solar, and late in the afternoon as the sun goes down it produces less electricity,” CPUC President Michael Picker said during the voting meeting. “Demand is growing at those same times of the day.”

The start dates for the plans of the three utilities approved on May 10 were initially requested in December as part of a residential rate design window process.

PG&E had originally said it could start its transition to TOU rates in late 2019, but preferred to wait until 2020 because of the need to coordinate with a large number of community choice aggregation energy providers. SCE reported that it is implementing a new billing system and waiting until 2020 would help ensure a smooth rollout of the new rates.

“In order for it to be a success, the utilities have to be operationally ready,” Picker said.

SCE estimates about 3.3 million customers will be enrolled into the default TOU rate, while PG&E estimates that approximately 2 million customers would make the switch. Approximately 750,000 SDG&E customers will transition.
Docket: April Filings, continued from previous page

A1803018 • 30-MAR-2018 • Trans Bay Cable LLC • Application of Trans Bay Cable LLC (U934E) for an Exemption from the Reporting Requirements of Certain General Orders.


A1804005 • 02-APR-2018 • San Diego Association of Governments Application of the San Diego Association of Governments for an order authorizing construction of two light-rail vehicle tracks grade separated above realigned Campus Point Drive, in the City of San Diego, San Diego County, California.


A1804001 • 03-APR-2018 • Southern California Edison Company Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) to Establish the Wildfire Expense Memorandum Account in order to track disaster-related expenses.


A1701013 A1701014 A1701015 A1701016 A1701017 • 4-Apr-18 • ALJs/FITCH/KAO/CPUC Proposed Decision addressing Energy Efficiency Business Plans for four investor-owned utilities, three regional energy networks, and Marin Clean Energy


A0701031 A0704028 A0909022 • 4-Apr-18 • ALJ/YACKNIN/CPUC Proposed Decision granting petition to modify permit to construct the Valley-Ivyglen 115 kV Subtransmission Line Project and denying application for certificate of public convenience and necessity for the Alberhill System Project.


A1612010 • 5-Apr-18 • ALJs/ATAMTURK/BEMESDERFER/CPUC Decision denying without prejudice, Southern California Gas Company's application for reauthorization of the Customer Incentive Program.


A1607017 • 6-Apr-18 • ALJ/HAGA/CPUC Decision approving the 2017 Test Year General Rate Case for West Coast Gas Company.


R1212011 • 6-Apr-18 • CMRR/RANDOLPH/CPUC Proposed Decision authorizing a pilot test program for autonomous vehicles passenger service with drivers and addressing in part issues raised in the Petitions for Modification of General Motors, LLC/GM Cruise, LLC, Lyft, Inc., and Rasier-CA, LLC/UATC, LLC for purposes of a pilot test program for driverless autonomous vehicle passenger


R0310003 • 6-Apr-18 • ALJ/ALLEN/CPUC Proposed Decision establishing reentry fees and financial security requirements for community choice aggregators.


A1804003 • 06-APR-2018 • Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority • Application of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority for an order authorizing construction of two light rail tracks and one freight track at two (2) highway-rail crossings at (l) Gladstone Street and (2) and San Dimas Avenue in the Cities of Glendora and San Dimas in Los Angeles County, California.


A1804007 • 06-APR-2018 • Orange County Transportation Authority • Application of the Orange County Transportation Authority for an order authorizing construction of six (6) at-grade crossings, including two (2) pedestrian-only crossings in the Cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana in Orange County, California.


A1804008 • 06-APR-2018 • Orange County Transportation Authority • Application of the Orange County Transportation Authority for an order authorizing construction of three (3) Grade-Separated Crossings in the Cities of Garden Grove and Santa Ana in Orange County, California.


A1804009 • 06-APR-2018 • Orange County Transportation Authority • Application of the Orange County Transportation Authority for an order authorizing construction of thirty-four (34) at grade crossings in the City of Santa Ana in Orange County, California.


A1507019 • 9-Apr-18 • ALJ/WEATHERFORD/CPUC

Presiding officer’s decision adopting Phase 3B settlement agreement. Any party to this adjudicatory proceeding may file and serve an Appeal of the Presiding Officer’s Decision within 30 days of the date of issuance (i.e., the date of mailing) of this decision. In addi-

Continued on next page
In the Matter of the Application of PACIFICORP (U901E), an Oregon Company, for an Order Authorizing a General Rate Increase Effective January 1, 2019.


A1804004 • 13-APR-2018 • San Diego Gas & Electric Company • Application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902E) for Approval of its 2019 Electric Procurement Revenue Requirement Forecasts and GHG-Related Forecasts.


A1804006 • 13-APR-2018 • San Diego Association of Governments Application of the San Diego Association of Governments (SANDAG) for authority to construct San Elijo Lagoon Pedestrian Pathway underpass in the City of Solana Beach, County of San Diego.


A1804011 • 13-APR-2018 • San Pablo Bay Pipeline Company LLC Application of San Pablo Bay Pipeline Company LLC (PLC - 29) for authorization to suspend heated service.


A1804010 • 16-APR-2018 • City of Santa Clarita Application of City of Santa Clarita to construct a pedestrian underpass grade separation for a new Vista Canyon center platform station in the City of Santa Clarita on Southern California Regional Rail Authority’s Valley Subdivision at MP 39.93 (Proposed CPUC Crossing No. 101VY-39.93-BD and DOT No. 933889V.)


R1405013 • 18-Apr-18 • CMMR/PICKER/CPUC Proposed Decision granting in part a Petition for Modification of Decision 16-09-055.


A1712011 • 20-Apr-18 • ALJ/PARK/CPUC Proposed Phase I Decision addressing timing of transition to residential default time-of-use rates. Pursuant to Rule 14.6(c)(2), comments on the proposed decision must be filed within 20 days of its mailing and reply comments must be filed within 24 days of its mailing.


A1703020 • 20-Apr-18 • ALJ/SEMCER/CPUC • Electric Decision granting Cost Recovery for Utility-Owned Energy Storage Projects pursuant to Resolution E-4791.


A1804021 • 20-APR-2018 • Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority • Application of the Metro Gold Line Foothill Extension Construction Authority for an order authorizing construction of two grade-separated light rail tracks, and alteration of two at-grade commuter rail tracks and up to one freight track, at two (2) highway-rail crossings at (1) at Indian Hill Boulevard, and (2) Towne Avenue in the Cities of Claremont and Pomona in Los Angeles County.


A1804017 • 23-APR-2018 • MAGNA5 LLC Application of Magna5 LLC (U7292C) for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity to Provide Resold Competitive Local Exchange Telecommunications Services. HARD COPY FILED

A1804023 • 24-APR-2018 • Crimson California Pipeline, L.P. In the Matter of the Application of Crimson California Pipeline L.P. (PLC-26) for Authority to Increase Rates for its Crude Oil Pipeline Services.


A1704017 • 25-Apr-18 • ALJ/STEVENS/CPUC Proposed Decision approving the results of San Diego Gas & Electric Company’s 2016 Track IV Local Capacity Requirement Preferred Resources Procurement.


A1804025 • 25-APR-2018 • California-American Water Company Application of California-American Water Company (U210W), Hillview Water Company, Inc. (U194W), Roger Forrester, and Jerry L. Moore and Diane F. Moore, as trustees of the Jerry Moore and Diane Moore Family Trust, for an Order Authorizing the Sale of all Shares of Hillview Water Company, Inc. to California-American Water Company and Approval of Related Matters.

Green Book
Continued from page 1

applied to California.

As observed in the paper, “Now, as the state adapts to an electricity market transformation driven by more providers and resource choices, this project offers lessons learned from its own history and the experience of other markets as a way to help California policymakers address the state’s electricity future.”

Development of the paper began more than a year ago when the CPUC and the California Energy Commission hosted a joint En Banc session on the topic. Speakers at the hearing included representatives from large publicly owned utilities, Community Choice Aggregators, providers of rooftop solar installations, and other electricity providers.

In the months following the session, a team of analysts from the CPUC’s Policy and Planning Division interviewed additional experts in California and around the nation and hosted a workshop in October 2017 before compiling the paper issued this month.

The CPUC will accept public comments on the draft paper through June 4, via e-mail at customerchoice@cpuc.ca.gov in advance of an En Banc session scheduled for mid-June. Details on the June meeting will be posted to the Customer Choice Project webpage (www.cpuc.ca.gov/customer-choice) when they become available.

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<td>R1612001</td>
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<td>Proposed Decision approving a Settlement Agreement that amends Rule 18 of General Order 95. Opening comments are due no later than May 17, 2018. Reply comments are due 5 days after the last day for filing opening comments.</td>
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<td>Proposed Decision modifying Decision 16-12-036. Opening comments, which shall not exceed 15 pages, are due no later than May</td>
<td><a href="http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&amp;DocID=213823880">http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&amp;DocID=213823880</a></td>
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<td>Decision implemenating Senate Bill 350 provision on penalties and waivers in the renewable portfolio standard program and denying Petition for Modification of Decision 17-06-026. Opening comments are due May 21, 2018. Reply comments are due 5 days after the last day for filing comments.</td>
<td><a href="http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&amp;DocID=213823880">http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/SearchRes.aspx?DocFormat=All&amp;DocID=213823880</a></td>
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About Us
This monthly newsletter is to keep stakeholders throughout California informed of applications of note and proposed decisions by the CPUC’s Commissioners and Administrative Law Judges.

Each month, “Filings at the CPUC” features one or more applications or proposed decisions that have been filed, decided, or are about to be decided, that have risen to prominence since the prior newsletter, along with a “docket” summarizing the other filings at the CPUC in the previous month.

With certain exceptions, such as customer complaints against a utility and similar adjudicatory matters, we attempt to list every new filing for the month.

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

Prior editions of this newsletter are available online at: http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/General.aspx?id=6442455683