

Decision 20-02-027 February 6, 2020

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company
for Authority, Among Other Things, to Increase
Rates and Charges for Electric and Gas Service
Effective on January 1, 2017. (U39M.)

Application 15-09-001

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to June 20, 2020.

1. Background

Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5(a)¹ provides that ratesetting cases must be resolved within 18 months of the date the Scoping Memo is issued unless the Commission makes findings why that statutory deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending the 18-month deadline. Pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5(b), the Commission may also specify in a Scoping Memo a resolution date later than 18 months, if the Scoping Memo includes reasons for the necessity of a later date. The Commission previously extended the statutory deadline of this proceeding to February 9, 2020 via Decision (D.) 19-07-013.

¹ Application 15-09-001 was initiated prior to changes made to Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a). These changes only apply to cases filed after December 31, 2016.

On May 11, 2017, the Commission adopted D.17-05-013, approving with several modifications a comprehensive settlement in the proceeding and resolving contested issues. However, this proceeding remained open pending determination of whether settling parties would accept the modifications of the settlement ordered by the Commission, as well as disposition of two compliance items required by the decision:

- a. filing and service by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) of the SmartMeter Update calculations as instructed in Section 5 of the decision; and
- b. filing and service by PG&E of the Rule 20A audit plan described in Section 4.1.3.7 of the decision.

Settling parties timely filed a “Notice to Accept Alternative Terms to the August 3, 2016 Settlement Agreement” on May 26, 2017 and PG&E timely filed and served the compliance items listed above on July 10, 2017. The second compliance item listed above was resolved by the Commission in D.18-03-022. D.19-10-038 addressed the SmartMeter Update compliance item. However, an application for rehearing remains pending. Therefore, an extension of the statutory deadline in this proceeding to June 20, 2020, is necessary.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission’s Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment on proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, pursuant to this rule, the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Marybel Batjer is the assigned Commissioner and Michele Cooke is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The current statutory deadline for resolving Application 15-09-001 is February 9, 2020.
2. An extension of time until June 20, 2020, is necessary to resolve the pending application for rehearing.

Conclusions of Law

1. The statutory deadline imposed by Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5(a) should be extended to June 20, 2020.
2. This order should be effective immediately.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended to June 20, 2020.

This order is effective today.

Dated February 6, 2020, at Bakersfield, California.

LIANE M. RANDOLPH
MARTHA GUZMAN ACEVES
CLIFFORD RECHTSCHAFFEN
GENEVIEVE SHIROMA
Commissioners

President Marybel Batjer, being
necessarily absent, did not participate.