

Decision 20-06-019 June 11, 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, 2020. (U39M).

Application 18-12-009

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to December 13, 2020.

**1. Background**

Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util. Code) Section 1701.5(a) provides that the Commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo of a ratesetting proceeding within 18 months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the Commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met, and issues an order extending that deadline. In this proceeding, the 18-month statutory deadline for resolving this application is June 13, 2020.

On December 13, 2018, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) filed this application to increase its gas, electric distribution, and electric generation base revenue requirement by \$1.058 billion in 2020. Protests and responses to the

application were filed on January 11, 2019 and January 17, 2019. PG&E filed its reply on January 28, 2019.

A prehearing conference (PHC) was held on February 11, 2019, to discuss the issues of law and fact and to determine the need for hearing and schedule for resolving the matter. The assigned Commissioner issued the Scoping Memo and Ruling on March 8, 2019.

Public Participation Hearings were held on several days in July and August 2019. Evidentiary Hearings were held on several days on September, October, and on November 6, 2019. Briefs were filed on January 6, 2020 and reply briefs were filed on January 27, 2020.

On November 7, 2019, the Commission issued Decision (D.) 19-11-004 granting PG&E's motion to set the Test Year 2020 General Rate Case (GRC) revenue requirement and directing PG&E to establish a GRC memorandum account to record the difference in revenue requirement that is effective on January 1, 2020, and the final revenue requirement adopted in the GRC decision.

On January 14, 2020, a Joint Motion for Approval of a Settlement Agreement was filed by the Public Advocates Office of the California Public Utilities Commission, The Utility Reform Network, Center for Accessibility Technology, National Technology Coalition, Small Business Utility Advocates, Coalition of California Utility Employees, California City County Street Light Association, the Office of the Safety Advocates of the California Public Utilities Commission, and PG&E. Parties filed initial comments to the Settlement on January 21, 2020, and reply comments on February 5, 2020. The assigned Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) are reviewing the terms of the Settlement

Agreement, the initial and reply comments, and the objections to the proposed Settlement Agreement.

Therefore, an extension of the statutory deadline until December 13, 2020, is appropriate to allow the ALJs enough time to thoroughly review the documents received, issue a proposed decision for public review and comments, and to allow the Commission enough time to deliberate and issue its final decision.

## **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 the proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

## **3. Assignment of Proceeding**

Liane M. Randolph is the assigned Commissioner and Elaine C. Lau and Rafael L. Lirag are the assigned ALJs in this proceeding.

## **Findings of Fact**

1. This application was filed by PG&E on December 13, 2018.
2. Protests and responses to the application were filed on January 11, 2019 and January 17, 2019. PG&E filed its reply on January 28, 2019.
3. A PHC was held on February 11, 2019.
4. On March 8, 2019, the scoping memo and ruling was issued.
5. Public Participation Hearings were held on several days in July and August 2019.

6. Evidentiary Hearings were held on several days on September, October, and on November 6, 2019.

7. On November 7, 2019, D.19-11-004 was issued granting PG&E's motion to set the Test Year 2020 GRC revenue requirement.

8. Briefs were filed on January 6, 2020 and reply briefs were filed on January 27, 2020.

9. A Joint Motion for Approval of a Settlement Agreement was filed on January 14, 2020.

10. Initial and reply comments to the Joint Motion for Approval of a Settlement Agreement were filed on January 21, 2020 and February 5, 2020, respectively.

11. An extension of the statutory deadline to December 13, 2020 is necessary to issue a proposed decision for public review and comments, and to allow the Commission enough time to deliberate and issue its final decision.

### **Conclusion of Law**

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline in this proceeding should be extended to December 13, 2020.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until December 13, 2020.

This order is effective today.

Dated June 11, 2020, at San Francisco, California.

MARYBEL BATJER  
President

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