

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 78226

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct, install, operate, maintain, and use a 230-kv transmission line from the Tesla-Midway 230-kv transmission line to the proposed Devils Den Substation.

Application No. 52256
(Filed October 21, 1970)

(Electric)

OPINION AND ORDER

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) seeks an order of the Commission issuing to it a certificate pursuant to General Order No. 131 that the present and future safety, health, comfort, and convenience of the public and the present and future public convenience and necessity require or will require the construction, installation, operation, and maintenance of a 230-kv transmission line, hereinafter referred to as the Devils Den line, from the Tesla-Midway 230-kv double-circuit transmission line to a 230/70-kv substation to be installed adjacent to the existing Devils Den 70-kv switching station.

Pursuant to Section 6 of General Order No. 131, PG&E gave proper notice of filing the application to the legislative and planning commissions of the counties concerned (Kings and Kern) and to the State Highway Engineer by mailing copies of the application to them and also has given proper notice to the general public by advertisement.

No request for a public hearing has been received by the Commission.

Pursuant to Section 5 of General Order No. 131, PG&E submitted the following data:

Necessity for Proposed Line

PG&E proposes to install the Devils Den line by May, 1972, in order to avoid overloading of existing circuits and an existing transmission bank.

New agricultural land is being developed in the Devils Den - Lost Hills area as the result of availability of water from the California Aqueduct. The Dudley Ridge Water District and the Lost Hills Water District have constructed canals and lateral pipelines adequate to distribute water to approximately 70 square miles of previously undeveloped land.

The Devils Den - Lost Hills area is presently supplied from a 70-kv transmission system with inputs from Gates 230/115/70-kv Substation, approximately 33 miles to the northwest, Henrietta 230/70-kv Substation, approximately 36 miles to the north, and Taft 115/70-kv Substation, approximately 52 miles to the southeast. A map showing this general area and PG&E substations referred to in the application is attached to the application, marked Exhibit A.

In the summer of 1972, the expected loading of related transmission banks will be as follows:

	<u>Normal Capacity MVA</u>	<u>1972 Summer Load MVA</u>	<u>Percentage of Load to Capacity</u>
Gates 230/115 kv	120.0	119	99.2
Gates 115/70 kv	90.0	99	110
Henrietta 230/70 kv	107.2	100	93.3
Taft 115/70 kv	62.5	57	91.2

In addition to the 10 percent overload on the 90 MVA 115/70-kv transformer at Gates Substation, outage of the Gates-Devils Den 70-kv line will result in a 7 percent overload on the Gates-Tulare Lake 70-kv line (300A load on a 1/0 Cu. rated 280A summer emergency), and outage of the Taft-McKittrick 70-kv will result in a 7 percent overload on the Henrietta-Tulare Lake 70-kv line (300A load on 1/0 Cu. rated 280A summer emergency).

In order to eliminate these deficiencies, PG&E will acquire additional property adjacent to its existing Devils Den 70-kv switching station and a 230-kv transmission line right-of-way extending approximately 7 miles from this property to the Tesla-Midway 230-kv double-circuit transmission line. The property to be acquired adjacent to the existing switching station and the right-of-way will be used for the installation of a 230/70-kv substation supplied by a loop of one circuit of the Tesla-Midway 230-kv double-circuit transmission line to feed power into the 70-kv network where support is needed most urgently. The proposed transmission line should be completed and in operation by May, 1972, to promote the safety, health, comfort, and convenience of the public.

Location of Proposed Line

A map attached to the application, marked Exhibit B, shows the route of the proposed Devils Den line and existing transmission lines within one mile of the proposed line. A schematic diagram attached to the application, marked Exhibit C, shows transmission lines referred to in the application.

The proposed Devils Den line is located approximately 3.5 miles east of the small community of Devils Den, which is situated along State Highway 33, approximately 16 miles south of the town of Avenal. The line will traverse what is now unimproved grazing

land, in Kern and Kings Counties, presently zoned for agricultural use. The line will cross two parcels of land established as agricultural preserves pursuant to Section 51,200, et seq., of the California Government Code, the California Aqueduct, and the proposed route of Interstate Highway No. 5.

Applicant states that there are no settled area, parks, recreational areas, scenic areas, historic sites or buildings, or archeological sites located within one mile of the proposed Devils Den line route. Applicant states that construction of the proposed transmission line will not produce an unreasonable burden on natural resources, aesthetics, public health and safety, air and water quality.

Description and Cost of Proposed Line

A description of the proposed transmission line and its cost are as follows:

1. Length (miles)	7
2. Right-of-way width (feet)	100
3. Type of conductor	Aluminum cable, steel reinforced
4. Size of conductor	795 MCM
5. Capacity (MVA)	
a. Initial and Proposed	282 summer normal 322 summer emergency
6. Type of structures	Conventional square-base, self-supporting, double-circuit steel towers
7. Height of structures	Approximately 125 feet
8. Approximate span length	800 to 1,200 feet
9. Estimated cost	\$490,000 (does not include right-of-way costs)

As indicated above, the proposed Devils Den line will traverse what is now unimproved grazing land zoned for agricultural use and applicant states it will be compatible with the environment.

Selection of Proposed Route

The route for the proposed Devils Den line was selected because it has the least impact on environment and is most economical. Applicant states any alternate route would lengthen the line without offering any environmental or economic advantages.

Estimated Schedules

The estimated schedule for right-of-way acquisition and construction is as follows:

1. Authorization for right-of-way acquisition August 26, 1969
2. Right-of-way acquisition has commenced and is to be completed by October 1971
3. Construction Schedule:

	<u>Start</u>	<u>Complete</u>
(a) Foundations	November 1, 1971	January 1, 1972
(b) Tower Erection	December 1, 1971	March 1, 1972
(c) Conductor Stringing	January 15, 1972	May 1, 1972

4. Construction to be completed by May, 1972.

Governmental Agency Review

Consistent with Kern County and Kings County zoning ordinances, the proposed Devils Den line route was shown to the Planning Commissions of the respective counties for review and recommendation. The Kern County Planning Commission found the line route through that County not in conflict with any of the various elements of its General Plan, provided that the steel towers are set back a minimum of 55 feet from section lines and 45 feet from midsection lines in accordance with the Circulation Element of the General Plan. The Kern County Planning Commission's letter is attached to the application, marked Exhibit D. The Kings County Planning Commission found the proposed line route through that

County to be satisfactory. The Kings County Planning Commission's letter setting forth its findings is attached to the application, marked Exhibit E.

Findings

The Commission finds that:

1. The construction, installation, operation and maintenance of a 230-kv transmission line, referred to as the Devils Den line, and as described in this application, is reasonably required to meet area demands for present and future reliable and economic electric service.

2. The Devils Den line will not produce an unreasonable burden on natural resources, aesthetics of the area in which located, public health and safety, air and water quality in the vicinity, or parks, recreational and service areas, or historic sites and buildings or archeological sites.

3. Applicant's proposal is in the public interest, that public convenience and necessity now require and will require the construction of the 230-kv transmission line described in this application, that a public hearing is not necessary, and that a certificate should be issued.

The certificate herein granted shall be subject to the following provision of law:

The Commission shall have no power to authorize the capitalization of this certificate of public convenience and necessity or the right to own, operate or enjoy such certificate of public convenience and necessity in excess of the amount (exclusive of any tax or annual charge) actually paid to the State as the consideration for the issuance of such certificate of public convenience and necessity or right.

The action taken herein is for the issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity only and is not to be considered as indicative of amounts to be included in a future proceeding for the purpose of determining just and reasonable rates.

IT IS ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to Pacific Gas and Electric Company to construct, operate, maintain and use a 230-kv transmission line as described in the application.

The authorization herein granted shall expire if not exercised within three years from the date hereof.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California this 26th day of JANUARY, 1971.

[Signature]
Chairman
William J. [Signature]
[Signature]
Dennis L. Sturgeon
Commissioners