

Decision No. 80036

ORIGINAL

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 that the present and future public convenience and necessity require or will require the construction and operation by applicant of a 230-kv transmission line between Valley Spring Substation and the Tiger Creek-Newark 230-kv line

Application No. 53106
(Filed January 21, 1972)

OPINION AND ORDER

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Applicant), a California corporation, seeks an order of the Commission (Commission) granting to it a certificate pursuant to General Order No. 131 that the present and future public convenience and necessity require or will require the construction, operation, maintenance and use of a 230-kv transmission line between Valley Spring Substation and the Tiger Creek-Newark 230-kv transmission line.

Pursuant to Section 6 of General Order No. 131, Pacific Gas and Electric Company has given proper notice of filing of this application to the Board of Supervisors and Planning Commission of Calaveras County and to the State Highway Engineer by mailing copies of the application. In addition, notice was given to the general public by advertisement for two successive weeks in a local newspaper.

Pursuant to the Section 5 of General Order No. 131, Pacific Gas and Electric Company has submitted the following data:

Necessity for Proposed Line

The completion and operation of the proposed line by the year 1974 is necessary to promote the present and future safety, health, comfort and convenience of the public for the following reasons:

The load requirement in the area has been increasing and it is estimated that by the year 1974 the load will exceed the capacity of present facilities. Construction of the proposed line and addition of a 230/60-kv substation immediately adjacent to the existing Spring Valley's substation will be required to provide an economic, efficient and reliable means of providing the additional power required for the area.

Location of Proposed Line

A map attached to the application, marked Exhibit B, shows proposed routing details of the right-of-way, including topography of the area transversed.

The route of the proposed transmission line starts at Valley Springs Substation and proceeds for approximately 1.1 miles in a north-westerly direction through an area of rolling hills used primarily for agriculture and terminates at a point of connection to the applicant's existing 230-kv Tiger Creek-Newark transmission line. The route selected for the proposed transmission line is parallel and adjacent to two existing 60-kv transmission lines.

Description and Cost of Proposed Line

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

a. Length of line	1.1 miles (approx.)
b. Width of right-of-way	155 feet
c. Type and size of conductor	All aluminum, 1113 mcm
d. Capacity	(318 mva Summer normal 386 mva Summer emergency)
e. Voltage	230-kv
f. Type of Structure	Conventional Self-Supporting, Square based, lattice steel towers
g. Height of Structures	115 feet (average)
h. Estimated Cost	
	(Excluding right-of-way) \$80,000

Selection of Proposed Route

The proposed transmission line, for most part, will parallel the applicant's existing 60-kv transmission lines.

Applicant states that other alternative routes investigated failed to meet some criteria of well designed transmission line, and would lengthen the line without offering any environmental or economic advantage. The route selected will not pass in the vicinity of any historical sites or buildings, or archaeological sites, and will not produce any unreasonable burden on natural resources and aesthetics of the area.

Estimated Schedules

Necessary rights-of-way have been acquired. The estimated schedule for construction of the line is as follows:

- | | |
|---------------------------------|-------------------|
| a. Start of Foundations | February 18, 1974 |
| b. Start of tower erection | March 15, 1974 |
| c. Start of conductor stringing | April 5, 1974 |
| d. Operating date | May 1, 1974 |

Governmental Agency Review

The proposed route has been reviewed with the Planning Commission of Calaveras County. By letter of March 19, 1962, a copy of which is attached to the application and marked as Exhibit C, the Planning Commission approved the construction of the line. At a meeting of the Planning Commission on April 15, 1971, a copy of the minutes of which is attached to the application and marked as Exhibit D, the location of the line was again reviewed and approved with the condition that "PG&E take advantage of any new technological developments that might occur, such as underground installation." PG&E states that undergrounding of the 230-kv transmission line in such a remote area is not economically feasible and furthermore, installation of terminal structures, potheads, lightning arrestors and disconnect switches would impose additional visual distractions.

By letter of February 17, 1972, the Commission staff advised the Planning Commission of Calaveras County that the staff had reviewed the type of construction and the routing proposed by applicant and is of the opinion that the proposal is reasonable for the terrain and area to be traversed.

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

Findings

The Commission finds that:

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

2. The construction and operation of the said transmission line will not produce an unreasonable burden on the natural resources, aesthetics of the area in which the proposed facilities are to be located, public health and safety, air and water quality in the vicinity, or parks, recreational area, scenic areas, or historic sites and buildings, or archaeological 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 9th day of MAY, 1972.

Chairman

Commissioners