

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 88863 MAY 31 1978

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 under General Order
 No. 131 for a 230-kv Transmission Line
 from Applicant's Contra Costa-Tesla
 230-kv Transmission Line to Applicant's
 Brentwood Substation.
 (Electric)

Application No. 56396
 (Filed April 9, 1976)

STATEMENT OF FACTS

In Contra Costa County, east of the low rolling Mt. Diablo foothills and southeast of Antioch in the southerly area of the Sacramento-San Joaquin Rivers delta, amidst flat, richly productive farm and orchard lands, and bisected by State Highway No. 4, is the agricultural community of Brentwood. Residences and farm structures are scattered along the country roads which follow or parallel section lines, forming a grid system in the area. The area is under no small severe urbanization pressure at present although the region may be expected to build up in the future.

The electric distribution system in the Brentwood Valley area is presently served from three substations in the region. These can provide the area's projected 10.4 percent annual load growth through 1979, but it is anticipated that the existing system will not be able to supply the area's 1980 anticipated summer demand, even with allowance for energy conservation measures instituted after the 1973 summer. In order to thereafter be able to provide a reliable supply of electrical energy to existing and future customers of the Brentwood service area, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) proposes by this application to construct 3.1 miles of double circuit transmission line, tapping from the existing Contra Costa-Tesla 230-kv transmission line to supply a new 3 bank 230-kv distribution substation and associated 21-kv circuits. The general vicinity of Brentwood was selected for

adopted because it would be centrally located to service existing and future service loads; because of its proximity to existing distribution lines; its proximity to the Contra Costa-Tesla 230-kv. transmission line; the indicated compatibility of both the substation and the transmission line with their surroundings; and finally, because of cost considerations.

PG&E initially comprehensively identified and discussed the major environmental factors involved in this project in the EDS it furnished together with its application. Subsequently, as mandated by the "State EIR Guidelines" (Guidelines) under CEQA and Section 17.1 of this Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, these factors were further developed, commented upon, and analyzed by PG&E, the staff and the responsible agencies involved during the consultation process leading through the Draft EIR to the staff's preparation of the Final EIR. We have reviewed and considered these environmental factors including the information contained in the EIR along with other factors in arriving at our decision to approve the project. Therefore, we are able to certify that the Final EIR has been completed in compliance with CEQA and the Guidelines. The major environmental factors involved in the project are summarized below as to their impact:

Land Resources: There will be only minor inconvenience to agricultural operations as a result of the transmission line. Construction of the substation will remove approximately 6½ acres from agricultural usage. Land use of the surrounding property is not expected to change as a result of the project. 3/

Biological (vegetation and wildlife) Resources: The major disturbance will be during construction. There will be no significant permanent adverse impacts on the biological resources of the area.

Air and Water Resources: The project is expected to have negligible impact on the air and no significant impact on the water resources of the area.

3/ It should be noted that there are no park or recreational areas located near any of the alternate transmission line routes considered, nor are there any known archaeological sites near the proposed project area, and none of the recognized historical sites fall within the proposed project boundaries.

Mitigation measures to minimize the environmental impact of the project will be adopted (1) during the construction phase to reduce dust, limit access, and compensate inconvenienced landowners; and (2) during subsequent operations to harmonize structures with their surroundings by painting and landscaping, minimize operational and maintenance personnel by utilization of automation, and by the use of the most efficient equipment to conserve energy.

PG&E asserts that there is no project alternative if it is to meet its Public Utilities Code Section 451 obligations to its customers; that deferment would result in impaired reliability until in succeeding years after 1980 electrical service to new customers would become impossible. Therefore they contend, and we agree, that the "no project" alternative is not realistic. In considering alternatives with the scope of this proposal PG&E suggested and analyzed alternatives to the preferred route, including underground, substation location, and project design of facilities. While in some instances the alternatives were less costly, they were rejected in favor of the recommended route, substation location, and equipment because of conflicts with potential land usage, distance factors, negative visual qualities, greater impact on trees, agriculture and wildlife, and in some instances - cost considerations.

The proposed project is located in the area of the ... The project is located in the area of the ... The project is located in the area of the ...

1980 will exceed the capacity of the existing 60/21-kv system to meet service requirements.

4. The proposed project is reasonably required to meet area demands for future reliable and economic electric service.

5. The construction of the proposed project will not produce an unreasonable burden on 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, parks, recreational and scenic areas, or historic sites and buildings, or archaeological sites.

6. Adverse impacts resulting from the project will be mostly short-term or involve minor inconvenience to agricultural operation and aesthetic visual impairments. Tradeoffs will not involve significant commitment of resources.

7. Mitigation measures proposed to be taken to minimize the impact are satisfactory.

8. The alternatives to the proposed project, as well as the alternatives within the scope of the project, are less favorable than those of the preferred site, route, and appended facilities.

9. The short-term inconveniences and long-term commitment of resources are substantially outweighed by the benefits to be derived from availability of an adequate, reliable, and stable electrical supply.

10. There are no irreversible environmental effects involved in implementation of this project.

11. The project will facilitate expected growth in the area.

12. Future project plans include addition of phased transformer capacity as required.

13. Under the conditions here existing there would be minor aesthetic disadvantage to the public in permitting this transmission line to be overhead rather than underground, and the economic advantages in overheading would be substantial.

Conclusions

1. Present and future public convenience and necessity require the construction and operation of this 230-kv transmission line and substation.

2. The action taken herein is not to be considered as indicative of amounts to be included in future proceedings for the purpose of determining just and reasonable rates.

3. The applicant is placed on notice that operative rights, as such, do not constitute a class of property which may be capitalized or used as an element of value in rate fixing for any amount of money in excess of that originally paid to the State as the consideration for the grant of such rights. Aside from their purely permissive aspect, such rights extend to the holder a full or partial monopoly of a class of business. This monopoly feature may be modified or canceled at any time by the State, which is not limited in any respect as to the number of rights which may be given.

4. The Commission certifies that the Final EIR has been completed and adopted by this Commission in compliance with CEQA and the Guidelines, and that it reviewed and considered the information contained in the Final EIR in arriving at this decision.

5. The certificate of public convenience and necessity for the transmission line and substation should be authorized in the manner set forth in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity be granted to Pacific Gas and Electric Company to construct and operate a 230-kv transmission line from its Contra Costa-Tesla 230-kv transmission line to a new substation to be constructed and operated near Brentwood. This authority is to include related appurtenances.

2. Pacific Gas and Electric Company shall file with this Commission a detailed statement of the capital costs of this transmission line and substation project, together with related appurtenances, within one year following the date the project is placed in commercial operation.

The Executive Director of the Commission is directed to file a Notice of Determination for this project, with contents as set forth in Appendix A to this decision, with the Secretary for Resources.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 31st day of MAY, 1978.

President
William J. ...
Vernon L. ...
Richard D. ...

Commissioners

Commissioner Robert Batinovich, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Commissioner Claire T. Dedrick, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

APPENDIX A

NOTICE OF DETERMINATION

TO: Secretary for Resources
1416 Ninth Street, Room 1311
Sacramento, CA 95814

FROM: (Lead Agency)
California Public Utilities
Commission
350 McAllister Street
San Francisco, CA 94102

County Clerk
County of _____

SUBJECT: Filing of Notice of Determination in compliance with Section 21108 or 21152 of the Public Resources Code

Project Title	
Brentwood Substation and 230-kv Transmission Line	
State Clearinghouse Number (If submitted to State Clearinghouse)	
77042712	
Contact Person	Telephone Number
D. B. Steger	415-557-0442
Project Location	
Brentwood, California	
Project Description	
Application by Pacific Gas & Electric Company to California Public Utilities Commission for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct and operate a substation at Brentwood and a 230-kv transmission line from applicant's existing Contra Costa-Tesla 230-kv transmission line to that new substation.	

This is to advise that the California Public Utilities Commission
(Lead Agency)
has made the following determinations regarding the above-described project:

- The project has been approved by the Lead Agency.
 disapproved
- The project will have a significant effect on the environment.
 will not
- An Environmental Impact Report was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA.
 A Negative Declaration was prepared for this project pursuant to the provisions of CEQA. A copy of the Negative Declaration is attached.

Date Received for Filing

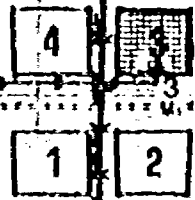
Signature Frederick E. John
Executive Director

Title
Date

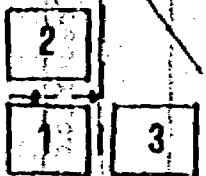
BRENTWOOD

BALFOUR SUBSTATION 60 KV

AREA A



AREA B



PROPOSED 230 KV T/L

ALTERNATE 230 KV T/L

EXISTING 60 KV P.L.

ALT. 1

ALT. 2

ALT. 3

AREA C

1

A. 56396
 APPENDIX "B"
 BRENTWOOD SUBSTATION
 230 KV TRANSMISSION
 LINE

AS COMPRESSOR STA



FAIRVIEW

CROOK CREEK

100 RD 37

CREEK

USLAH MARSH

MAIN

PURVISIA

CANAL

JAMES

PAUL

EDGEMO

WALTON

SELLERS AVE