

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 for  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company's  
Jefferson Martin 230 kV Transmission  
Project

Application A.02-09-043

PREHEARING CONFERENCE STATEMENT  
SUBMITTED BY THE TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

Town of Hillsborough

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The Town of Hillsborough submits this prehearing conference statement to identify additional substantive issues that should be within the scope of the hearing regarding Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) Application Number A-02-09-043.

Specifically the Town of Hillsborough wishes for the following issues to be considered:

- 1) In the Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA), PG&E has not demonstrated a clear need for the project in light of recent approvals of energy generation facilities in San Francisco, and energy conservation trends. The plan fails to consider a new generation facility at San Francisco Airport, Williams Energy Company's four new turbine generators scheduled for construction in San Francisco in the coming year or Mirant Corporation's proposed expansion of the Potrero Hill generation plant. The 2002 usage information also indicates significantly less demand than anticipated by the Stakeholders in 1999.
- 2) PG&E failed to explain the urgency of the project clearly; in many of scenarios evaluated, the project is not needed for up to another ten years.
- 3) The PEA did not consider adequate alternatives to the proposed route for electric transmission. The all-or-nothing approach taken by the PEA eliminated cost effective methods for mitigating the impact of the towers on private residences in Hillsborough or the San Mateo Highlands area. The Town of Hillsborough believes the PEA should have included the following two options:
  - a) Whether portions of Segment 1 could be undergrounded, such as from the Hillsdale Substation to Carolands Substation (which is outside of any earthquake fault zone) in order to accommodate residential uses, while leaving the largest portions above ground, or

- b) Whether the new towers can be located west of Highway 280, ensuring a wider buffer from the residential land uses.

The Town of Hillsborough believes the cost of both options would fall within the CPUC Decision 93-11-013 which includes a 4% low cost mitigation policy.

- 4) The PEA makes erroneous assessments in its evaluation, that caused the Stakeholders group to discount alternative Segment 1B route. Among the inaccuracies included in the report is the suggestion that undergrounding along Canada Road is impractical due to dense residential and urban development (page 3-11 and table 3-2). A reasonable person viewing the aerial maps in Figure 5-3 can see that there are only two commercial uses along Canada Road, while there are several hundred residences along the proposed Segment 1A overhead route. In general, Canada Road is in SFPUC watershed land and is undeveloped.
- 5) PG&E's towers are not uniformly located in the 100-foot rights-of-way, nor are they located in the center of those rights-of-way. The proposed 230kV towers will be in roughly the same proximity to residential structures and public spaces. Photos in Attachment A demonstrate how existing towers are with a few yards of residential structures homes. As an additional example, PEA Figure 8-3L Photo 46 shows a tower adjacent to Skyline Boulevard that is less than ten feet from the public roadway, and less than sixty feet from a private home. Of fourteen towers located on or adjacent to Hillsborough properties, seven of the existing towers are noted to be within 100 feet of a residential structure; one (7/39) is in the rear yard of a private residence.
- 6) PG&E must address the proximity of tower 8/52 to the private residence at 6935 Skyline Blvd, Hillsborough, CA 94010 (Photos on Attachment B). The 60 kV 80 ft tower is within twenty feet of the residence; a 230 kV will present a real health and safety threat to residents at that location. As can be seen on the photos, PG&E does not have broad right-of-way in which to safely locate a new 120 ft tower.
- 7) PG&E underestimates the impact of the 230 kV lines on the quiet enjoyment of residential properties located adjacent to the towers. The PEA states that the lines will affect the operation of the computer monitors, will add approximately 25 dbL of ambient noise, may electrify fences in close proximity, can affect heart pacemakers, and can cause magnetic field induction in metallic pipes located near the lines. In addition to causing inconvenience, the Town believes such effects may pose health and safety risks to residents.
- 8) Lastly, the Town of Hillsborough's General Plan clearly supports the undergrounding of all electrical utilities and prohibits the construction of any structures in excess of 32 feet in height. The Town's General Plan does not specifically address the issue of PG&E towers along the Highway 280 corridor, as those towers are not within the Town's jurisdiction. As stated in the previous protest, the Town would prefer that the towers be moved west of Highway 280 or

the electrical wires be undergrounded. The Town believes the existing towers are aesthetically unattractive adversely affecting property values in the area; and larger, higher towers will worsen an already unsatisfactory situation.

Respectfully submitted,

TOWN OF HILLSBOROUGH

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Attachment A





In many instances 100 ft rights of way overlap private residences. Existing towers are within 20-50 ft of residences.

Attachment B



Base of pole is within 20 ft of residence. Note location of “stop sign ahead” post relative to street and HWY 280.