

**UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION**

California Independent System Operator

**Docket No. ER02-250-000
ER02-527-000**

Pacific Gas and Electric Company

**Docket No. ER02-479-000
(Consolidated)**

**ORDER GRANTING MOTION OF THE CALIFORNIA INDEPENDENT
SYSTEM OPERATOR CORPORATION TO SHORTEN COMMENT PERIOD
ON UNOPPOSED OFFER OF SETTLEMENT**

(Issued October 25, 2002)

1. On September 17, 2002, the California Independent System Operator Corporation (“ISO”) submitted on behalf of the Sponsoring Parties¹ an Offer of Settlement and Settlement Agreement (“Settlement Agreement”) and related documents in the above styled and numbered dockets. The Settlement Agreement indicates that it is unopposed by the active participants, including the Commission Trial Staff and Staff of the California Public Utilities Commission.
2. With the Settlement Agreement and related documents, the ISO also submitted on behalf of the Sponsoring Parties a Motion to Shorten Comment Period (“Motion”). The Motion requests that the time for initial comments be reduced from 20 days to a period of 11 days. Initial Comments would therefore be due on October 28, 2002. The Motion further requests that the period for reply comments be shortened from 10 days to 5 days. Reply Comments would therefore be due on November 4, 2002.
3. The Motion stated that the parties making the filing believe that implementation of the Settlement Agreement is important to all participants in the ISO’s markets and that expedited consideration is, therefore, in the public interest. The Motion points to the fact that the lower rates provided under the terms of the Settlement Agreement from January 1, 2002 will not be made effective until the Settlement Agreement is certified to and approved by the Commission.
4. In addition, the Motion notes that all of the discussions over the four months of negotiation leading to the Settlement Agreement were noticed electronically; that drafts

¹ The “Sponsoring Parties” are the ISO, Pacific Gas and Electric Company, and Southern California Edison Company.

of the Settlement Agreement similarly were distributed; and that every component of the submission was reviewed, edited and revised in numerous drafting sessions to reflect the agreement of the affected parties.

5. The ISO also states in the transmittal letter for the Settlement Agreement and Motion that copies of the complete settlement package, including the Settlement Agreement and the Motion, were transmitted electronically to all market participants via an ISO market notice.

6. Because participants have made every effort to include affected parties in the negotiation of the Settlement Agreement; because the Settlement Agreement is either sponsored, supported, or unopposed by all of the active participants, including Commission Staff and the Staff of the California Public Utilities Commission, in the above dockets; because ISO market participants were made aware of the content of the filed Settlement Agreement immediately by electronic distribution; and because a shortened comment period may allow for expedited certification of the Settlement Agreement to the Commission, whose consideration and approval must be obtained prior to the lower rates negotiated in the Settlement Agreement taking effect; I find that good cause has been shown to shorten the period for initial comments from 20 days to 11 days, and the period for reply comments to be shortened from 10 days to 5 days. Initial Comments will therefore be due on October 28, 2002 and Reply Comments on November 4, 2002.

SO ORDERED.

Bobbie J. McCartney
Presiding Administrative Law Judge