California Public Utilities Commission

Facilitating Renewable Energy Development and Natural Resource Conservation Planning

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Sacramento

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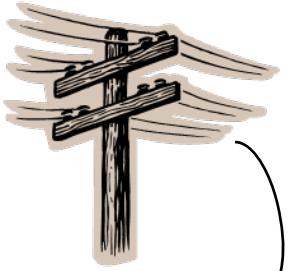
Renewable/Fossil Fuel Generator

Gen-tie

Distribution (<50 kV)



Substation

Transmission 115, 230, 500 kV lines

Substation

Small Electric Consumer

Transmission Towers and Lines

….simplified electric delivery

Who Do we Regulate?

- IOUs (Investor Owned Utilities)
  - PG&E, SCE, SDG&E, PacificCorp, Sierra Pacific
- NOT POUs (Public Owned Utilities)
  - LADWP, SMUD

CPCN / PTC PROCESS

- CPUC review of transmission line applications involves two concurrent and parallel processes:
  - **General Proceeding conducted by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) & Assigned Commissioner to assess need and review cost .**

    and

  - **Environmental review per CEQA or Joint CEQA / NEPA.**

- Application Filed

PEA

- **CEQA Review**
  - Completeness review
  - Agency Consultation
  - Public Workshop
  - Notice of Preparation
  - Public Scoping Meeting
  - Comments on NOP
  - Draft EIR
  - Public Meeting
  - Public Comments
  - Final EIR

Application

- **Proceeding**
  - Protest / Responses Filed
  - Prehearing Conference
  - Public Participation Hearing
  - Scoping memo
  - Evidentiary hearings

- Proposed & Alternative Decisions
- Public Comment
- CPUC Vote

CPUC PERMIT STREAMLINING INITIATIVES

1. CPUC Executive Director's Transmission Project Review Streamlining Directives
   - 3-6 months pre-filing work with proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA)
   - Post filing-Deem complete; CEQA schedule; early consultation/resolution of issues
   - Proceeding Phase-Establish efficient timelines

2. Established On-call contract process

3. Created PEA checklist to provide direction on PEA filings for applicants to avoid lengthy deficiency reviews

4. Mitigation measures streamlining guidelines for PEA

5. Transmission Technology Workshop

Response to Executive Order

1. Align the CAISO and CPUC requirements for determining the ‘need’ so analysis is only done once.

2. Investigate how we utilize RETI in permitting transmission lines

3. Workshop, to better coordinate Federal & State Resource agencies internal processes prepared resource agencies.

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Future contact:

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CEQA ENVIRONMENTAL REVIEW	SECTION 1001/GO 131-D REVIEW
Application filed May 30: Application includes the utility's Proponent's Environmental Assessment (PEA) of the proposed project's environmental impact, identifying the utility's preferred project alternative.	
Completeness review - CPUC staff review the application and the PEA for completeness. **Agency consultations** – CPUC staff meet with agencies. **Public workshops** – CPUC staff may hold workshops to explain the CEQA process. **Notice of Preparation (NOP)** – CPUC staff issue NOP giving public notice of the environmental review and inviting public participation. **Public scoping process** – CPUC staff conduct meetings to solicit information on the impacts of the proposed project and alternatives, and other suggested alternative routes and/or sites. Interested persons may also submit written comments on these scoping issues. **Comments on NOP** – Interested persons may submit written comment to the CPUC staff, including proposed alternatives to the project and alternative routes. **Draft EIR** – CPUC staff issue Draft EIR assessing environmental impact of the proposed project and alternatives, identifying mitigation measures for each, and identifying the environmentally preferred alternative. **Public meetings on Draft EIR** – CPUC staff conduct public meetings to discuss Draft EIR. **Public comments on Draft EIR** – Interested persons may submit comments stating any objections to the DEIR **Final EIR** – Final EIR, responding to public comments on the Draft EIR, is issued and submitted into the formal record of the proceeding.	**Protests/responses filed –** due within 30 days of the application filing date (GO 131-D § XII) *(protest date in A.08-05-039 extended to July 9 by ALJ ruling)* **Public Participation Hearings (PPH) –** to hear public comment. Public statements are not sworn or subject to cross-examination. May be scheduled at outset, prior to CPUC vote, or other appropriate point in the process, as determined by ALJ and assigned Commissioner. **Prehearing conference (PHC) –** to discuss scope of issues to be addressed, need for evidentiary hearing and schedule for the proceeding, and other procedural matters. **Scoping memo –** The Assigned Commissioner issues scoping memo determining the issues, schedule and other procedural matters. • Generally, **evidentiary hearing** will be limited to matters other than the environmental issues addressed in the CEQA process. • Whether or not evidentiary hearings are set, the schedule may provide for the filing of **briefs**.
Proposed and alternate decisions – The ALJ issues proposed decision. The Assigned Commissioner may concurrently issue an alternate decision. Other Commissioners may subsequently issue alternative decisions. **Comment on proposed and alternate decisions** – Generally, all proposed and alternate decisions are subject to 30 days for public review and parties' comment before the CPUC may vote on them. **CPUC vote** – The CPUC votes on the proposed and any alternate decisions at a public business meeting.	