

**REGULATORY UPDATE FOR FEBRUARY 22 (WEEK OF FEBRUARY 14, 2022)****CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (CPUC or COMMISSION)**New Proposed Decisions and Draft Resolutions<sup>1</sup>

R.17-07-007 (Rule 21). The three small and multi-jurisdictional utilities (SMJUs)—Bear Valley Electric Service, Liberty Utilities (CalPeco Electric) LLC, and PacifiCorp, d.b.a. Pacific Power—initiated “Working Group 8” to develop proposals to address the 22 interconnection issues previously resolved in this proceeding but related to large investor-owned utilities. This decision adopts the recommendation to not make any changes to the interconnection processes for SMJUs, with three minor modifications involving cost itemization, itemized billing processes, and participation in the Unintentional Islanding Working Group. Further, this decision directs SMJUs to hold a workshop, within 90 days of the adoption of this decision, to discuss interconnection portal improvements.

Voting Meetings

The Commission will hold a voting meeting on February 24, 2022. The agenda includes the following energy-related items:

Item 5. Draft Resolution L-615. This resolution authorizes the release of the Safety and Enforcement Division’s investigation records from the 2018 Camp Fire with the exception of certain telephone numbers of Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) customers, or of private individuals not associated with a utility, utility contractor, or governmental entity, who submitted fire information to the utility, contained within those records. The release of the investigation records will be delayed for 30 days to allow PG&E to seek rehearing of the resolution.

Item 6. Draft Resolution E-5189. This resolution approves with modification Southern California Edison (SCE) Advice Letter (AL) 4573-E, granting SCE approval for a Supplemental Provisions Agreement that clarifies SCE’s customer service tariffs for customers served by “Remote Grids.” “Remote Grids” are defined as “permanently islanded distribution facilities serving certain customers who are generally located in some of the remote portions of SCE’s distribution system.” The Remote Grid will consist of local sources of electric generation, such as solar photovoltaic, wind turbines, battery energy storage systems, and fuel-based generation, which will be connected to one or more customers through distribution and service facilities.

Item 10. A.21-08-010 (SDG&E 2022 Sales Forecast). This decision approves San Diego Gas and Electric’s (SDG&E) 2022 electric sales forecast, which is based upon the demand forecast that SDG&E developed for the California Energy Commission’s 2021 energy demand

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<sup>1</sup> Per CPUC Rules of Practice and Procedure Rule 14.3, comments on proposed decisions are due 20 days after issuance of the proposed decision, and reply comments are due five days thereafter. Comments on draft resolutions are due 20 days after the draft resolution appears in the CPUC’s daily calendar, per Rule 14.5.

forecast, and takes into account COVID-19 impacts and load migration to community choice aggregators and direct access programs. The decision also authorizes SDG&E to consolidate its future annual forecast applications with its annual ERRRA forecast applications. Prior to filing the consolidated applications, SDG&E is required to hold an annual all-party workshop to gather input and feedback from stakeholders.

Item 19. This decision grants PG&E contingent authority to manage temporary utility debt in the amount of \$3 billion that matures on June 16, 2022. PG&E currently intends to retire this \$3 billion in debt with proceeds from the issuance of \$7.5 billion of recovery bonds previously authorized by the Commission in Decision (D.) 21-05-015. However, due to pending appeals of D.21-08-022 (which denied applications for rehearing of D.21-05-015) and pending appeals of related decisions, it is unclear whether proceeds from the \$7.5 billion of recovery bonds will be available to PG&E on or before June 16, 2022, the date the \$3 billion debt matures. As a result, the Commission grants additional authority to PG&E to manage the \$3 billion debt, if and to the extent necessary, pending retirement of this debt via proceeds from the recovery bonds by extending the maturity date of the \$3 billion debt, refinancing the \$3 billion debt, or managing the debt by a combination of these methods. Should the proceeds from the \$7.5 billion of the recovery bonds become available to PG&E on a timely basis, PG&E will not exercise the authority granted herein

Item 26. R.13-02-008 (Biomethane Standards). This decision implements Senate Bill 1440 by setting biomethane and/or bio-synthetic natural gas procurement targets to reduce short-lived climate pollutant emissions.

## **CALIFORNIA ISO**

### **Stakeholder Initiatives: Upcoming Meetings and Deadlines**

**Central Procurement Entity Implementation.** The California ISO will hold a public stakeholder call on February 24, 2022 to discuss the revised draft tariff language for the Central Procurement Entity Implementation and Resource Adequacy Availability Incentive Mechanism Settlement Modification initiative. Written comments on the final proposal are due March 1, 2022.

**WEIM Resource Sufficiency Evaluation Enhancements Phase 1 Initiative: Emergency Actions Criteria Workshop.** The California ISO will hold a public workshop on February 23, 2022 to solicit stakeholder feedback on criteria that trigger resource sufficiency evaluation automatic failure in emergency conditions. This workshop is a continuation of the discussion that occurred in the Western Energy Imbalance Market (WEIM) Resource Sufficiency Evaluation Enhancements Phase 1 initiative.

**2022-2023 Transmission Planning Process.** The California ISO will hold a public stakeholder call on February 28, 2022 to discuss the 2022-2023 Transmission Planning process draft study plan. Comments on the stakeholder call discussion are due March 14, 2022.

## CALIFORNIA ENERGY COMMISSION (CEC)

### 2021 Integrated Energy Policy Report (IEPR)

At the February 16, 2022 Business Meeting, the CEC adopted the 2021 IEPR Update: Volume I, Building Decarbonization; Volume II, Ensuring Reliability in a Changing Climate; Volume IV, California Energy Demand Forecast; and Appendix, Assessing the Benefits and Contributions of the Clean Transportation Program. The final versions of 2021 IEPR Volumes I, II, and IV, and Appendix A are available [here](#).

### Senate Bill 100

CEC staff published a Notice of Joint Agency [workshop](#) regarding Analysis of Land Use Implications to meet Senate Bill (SB) 100 targets. The workshop is scheduled for February 22, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. PT and includes the CPUC, California ISO, and CEC. The workshop will focus on discussing approaches for examining the environmental and land use implications of potential resource portfolios to meet SB 100 targets. Additional information is available [here](#).

### Supply-Side Demand Response

On February 16, 2022, the CEC adopted Resolution No. 22-0216-5, entitled *Resolution Adopting Qualifying Capacity of Supply-Side Demand Response Working Group Interim Report*. The Resolution adopts the Interim Report and directs CEC staff to submit the report into the CPUC resource adequacy proceeding (R.21-10-002). The Resolution and the Interim Report are available in [Docket No. 21-DR-01](#).

### Offshore Wind

The CEC will hold an offshore wind energy workshop on March 3, 2022 at 1:00 p.m. PT that will focus on Assembly Bill (AB) 525 (Chiu, Chapter 231, Statutes of 2021). The workshop will address the requirement for the CEC to evaluate and quantify the maximum feasible capacity of offshore wind to achieve reliability, ratepayer, employment, and decarbonization benefits and establish offshore wind planning goals for 2030 and 2045.

According to the workshop [Notice](#) published on February 18, 2022, the Bureau of Ocean Energy Management will also present on activities for offshore wind in federal waters, including the process of moving toward a lease sale auction for areas off the north and central coast of California during the workshop. A detailed meeting schedule will be posted to [Docket 17-MISC-01](#) prior to the workshop.

### Lithium Valley Commission

The Lithium Valley Commission held a meeting on February 16, 2022 at 9:00 a.m. PT. The meeting was continued to February 24, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. PT (see [docket 20-LITHIUM-01](#) at

TN# 241571). Additional information about the meeting including remote-attendance instructions is available [here](#).

### CEC Business Meetings

The next CEC Business Meeting is scheduled for March 9, 2022.

### **CALIFORNIA AIR RESOURCES BOARD (CARB)**

CARB's next Board meeting will take place virtually on February 24-25, 2022. The agenda and links to the meeting are available [here](#). During the meeting, the Board will hear the following items:

- Proposed amendments to the regulations designating areas of California as attainment, nonattainment, nonattainment-transitional, or unclassified for pollutants under state ambient air quality standards.
- Proposed amendments to the Transport Refrigeration Units (TRUs) Airborne Toxic Control Measure, which would implement a transition for truck TRUs to zero-emission technology, set a particulate matter emissions standard for newly manufactured non-truck TRUs, and require the use of lower global warming potential refrigerants.
- An information update to the Board on the development of the 2022 State Strategy for the State Implementation Plan, the draft Strategy, and next steps for the Board and public engagement. Informal comments on the draft Strategy can be submitted [here](#) on or before March 4, 2022.
- An information update on the AB 32 Scoping Plan Update development process, the analytical work underway, and next steps for the Board, Environmental Justice Advisory Committee, and public engagement on the Update.

CARB will host meetings of the AB 32 Environmental Justice Advisory Committee Meeting on February 28, March 1, and March 3, 2022. Information and links to the virtual meetings are available [here](#). The meetings will focus on items related to the 2022 AB 32 Scoping Plan Update.

CARB is holding virtual public meetings and workshops as part of the AB 32 Scoping Plan Update, which will assess progress towards achieving the SB 32 target to decrease state-wide greenhouse gas emissions by 40% below 1990 levels by 2030 and to lay out a path to achieve carbon neutrality by 2045. On February 15, 2022, CARB held a [public workshop](#) in collaboration with the California Department of Public Health and the California Office of Environmental Health Hazard Assessment on CARB's planned qualitative and quantitative health analysis associated with decarbonization targets under SB 32 and the AB 32 Scoping Plan Update. Informal comments on the workshop can be submitted to CARB [here](#) on or before March 7, 2022. Recordings of past AB 32 Scoping Plan Update meetings and workshops are available [here](#).

## **MINNESOTA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION (MPUC)**

### **MPUC Meetings This Week**

At the agenda meeting scheduled for 8:00 a.m. PT on February 24, 2022 the MPUC will consider the following items: (1) Total Holdings, Inc. dba GTC Communications' certificate of authority; (2) Xcel's Renewable Energy Standard Rider; (3) Minnesota Power's Transmission Cost Recovery Rider; (4) Louise Solar Project, LLC's certificate of need and site permit; and (5) Northern Wind Energy Redevelopment, LLC's site permit amendment. In addition to the MPUC's agenda meeting, on February 22-23, the Minnesota Office of Administrative Hearings will continue contested case hearings related to the Commission's investigation into natural gas price spikes experienced during Winter Storm Uri.

## **OREGON PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION (OPUC)**

### **OPUC Meetings This Week**

On February 22, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. PT, the OPUC is holding a public meeting to discuss a wide range of dockets including UM 1930 (related to Oregon's community solar program). At the meeting, OPUC will decide whether to grant certification extensions to four solar projects. The staff report can be located [here](#).

Later in the week on Thursday February 24, 2022 at 1:30 p.m. PT, the OPUC is holding a public hearing to discuss PacifiCorp's 2021 Integrated Resource Plan. The full agenda can be located [here](#).

## **WASHINGTON UTILITIES AND TRANSPORTATION COMMISSION (WUTC)**

### **WUTC Meetings This Week**

On February 24, 2022 at 9:30 a.m. PT, the WUTC is holding a public meeting to discuss a wide range of dockets. The full agenda and dial in details can be located [here](#).

## **FEDERAL ENERGY REGULATORY COMMISSION (FERC)**

FERC issued a [Notice of Proposed Rulemaking](#) (NOPR) on January 20, 2022 that proposes to direct the North American Electric Reliability Corporation to develop and submit for FERC approval new or modified Critical Infrastructure Protection (CIP) Reliability Standards that require internal network security monitoring for high- and medium-impact Bulk Electric System (BES) Cyber Systems. The current CIP Reliability Standards address perimeter requirements but do not address internal network security monitoring, which creates a gap. The NOPR also requests comments on the potential usefulness and practicality of implementing internal network security monitoring to detect malicious activity in networks with low-impact BES Cyber Systems, including any potential benefits, technical barriers, and associated costs. Comments on the NOPR are due March 28, 2022.

FERC has extended until March 31, 2022 the waiver of its requirement that filings be notarized or supported by sworn declarations. FERC also extended the waiver of its requirements to hold in-person meetings or submit notarized documents for open access transmission tariffs.