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PG&E Comments on Microgrid Roadmap Scoping Workshop

Additional submitted attachment is included below.

May 9, 2017

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California Energy Commission
Dockets Office, MS-4
Docket No. 16-EPIC-01
1516 Ninth Street
Sacramento, CA 95814-5512

Re: Docket 16-EPIC-01: Pacific Gas and Electric Company Comments on the April 25, 2017
California Microgrid Roadmap Scoping Workshop

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on the recent California Microgrid Roadmap Scoping Workshop (Workshop) hosted by the California Energy Commission (CEC). PG&E provides comments including the following key points in response to the Workshop and elements of the development of the joint-agency *Roadmap to Commercialize Microgrids in California* (Roadmap):

- As raised by participants and summarized by the Moderator of the Regulatory break-out session, PG&E encourages microgrid roadmap discussions be framed in the context of defined configurations (i.e., single customer, remote, and multi-customer) given the location-specific nature of microgrids and wide range of possible configurations; and,
- PG&E encourages continued dialogue differentiating the subset of microgrid operating characteristics, benefits, and costs from non-islandable collections of distributed energy resources (DERs) (e.g., the benefits and additional costs of protection, isolation, and controls to enable operations in both grid-connected and islanded mode in the event of a broader grid outage).

PG&E looks forward to continuing to work with staff on this important effort.

I. PG&E Involvement in Microgrid Deployment

PG&E continues to be involved in and supportive of projects and feasibility studies across three general microgrid configuration categories, as follows.

A. Single-Customer facility microgrids

Current PG&E involvement covers a range of technical and administrative services, as well as financial incentives for qualifying technologies. Our services to assist individual customers in siting and interconnecting facility microgrids include:

- Evaluating early-stage plans and proposals.
- Participating on project-level Technical Advisory Committees.
- Conducting interconnection studies to assess the impact of proposed microgrids on the grid, and identifying any necessary equipment needed to ensure safety, power quality, and reliability.
- Working with customers to establish interconnection agreements for their microgrid systems.
- Conducting on-site inspection to support approval of the microgrid system interconnection with the PG&E distribution grid.

B. Utility microgrids in remote locations

Another area of PG&E interest is remote microgrid applications. Remote microgrids are likely operating in islanded mode on a continuous basis, although in some instances this is not required. They can serve either a single customer, or possibly multiple customers. PG&E is interested in exploring remote applications where there could be low-cost and high-reliability alternatives leveraging microgrid-related technologies.

C. Community microgrids

PG&E recognizes growing interest in community-scale DER deployment and microgrids. The community resilience interest embodies a number of principles that are core to PG&E, including efficient resource utilization, public safety and the ability to support community needs during natural disasters. PG&E is currently collaborating on three community microgrid feasibility studies, two of which are CEC grant-funded initiatives, and we look forward to those efforts contributing to future discussions.

II. Conclusion

PG&E appreciates this opportunity to comment on the April 25, 2017 California Microgrid Roadmap Scoping Workshop and looks forward to continuing to work with the CEC on this important issue.

Sincerely,

/s/

Wm. Spencer Olinek