



## **DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY**

### **Federal Energy Regulatory Commission**

**[Project No. 77-318]**

### **Pacific Gas & Electric Company; Notice Of Application for Non-Capacity Amendment of License Accepted for Filing, Soliciting Comments, Motions to Intervene, And Protests**

Take notice that the following hydroelectric application has been filed with the Commission and is available for public inspection:

- a. Application Type: Non-Capacity License Amendment to Article 52
- b. Project No: 77-318
- c. Date Filed: July 23, 2023; supplemented January 30, 2025, and September 26, 2025
- d. Applicant: Pacific Gas & Electric Company
- e. Name of Project: Potter Valley Hydroelectric Project
- f. Location: The project is located on the Eel River and East Fork of the Russian River in Lake and Mendocino counties, California.

The project occupies federal lands managed by the U.S.  
Forest Service.

g. Filed Pursuant to: Federal Power Act, 16 USC 791a - 825r

h. Applicant Contact: Chadwick McCready  
Pacific Gas and Electric Company  
300 Lakeside Drive, Oakland, CA 94612  
(530) 685-5710

i. FERC Contact: Katherine Schmidt  
katherine.schmidt@ferc.gov  
(415) 369-3348

j. Cooperating agencies: With this notice, the Commission is inviting federal, state, local, and Tribal agencies with jurisdiction and/or special expertise with respect to environmental issues affected by the proposal, that wish to cooperate in the preparation of any environmental document, if applicable, to follow the instructions for filing such requests described in item k below. Cooperating agencies should note the Commission's policy that agencies that cooperate in the preparation of any environmental document cannot also intervene. *See* 94 FERC ¶ 61,076 (2001).

k. Deadline for filing comments, motions to intervene, and protests: **December 1, 2025, 5:00pm Eastern Time.**

The Commission strongly encourages electronic filing. Please file comments, motions to intervene, and protests using the Commission's eFiling system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/efiling.asp>. Commenters can submit brief comments up to 6,000 characters, without prior registration, using the eComment system at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/ecomment.asp>. For assistance, please contact FERC Online Support at [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), (866) 208-3676 (toll free), or (202) 502-8659 (TTY). In lieu of electronic filing, you may submit a paper copy. Submissions sent via the U.S. Postal Service must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 888 First Street NE, Room 1A, Washington, DC 20426. Submissions sent via any other carrier must be addressed to: Debbie-Anne A. Reese, Secretary, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, 12225 Wilkins Avenue, Rockville, MD 20852. The first page of any filing should include the docket number **P-77-318**. Comments emailed to Commission staff are not considered part of the Commission record.

The Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure require all intervenors filing documents with the Commission to serve a copy of that document on each person whose name appears on the official service list for the project. Further, if an intervenor files comments or documents with the Commission relating to the merits of an issue that may affect the responsibilities of a particular resource agency, they must also serve a copy of the document on that resource agency.

1. Description of Request: The licensee requests a non-capacity license amendment regarding its minimum flow requirements under Article 52. The licensee states that this amendment is necessary to appropriately manage the water storage of Lake Pillsbury and remain in compliance with the requirements of Article 52, given current interim risk reduction measures due to seismic concerns, storage limitations, and the various water demands on the system.

First, the proposed changes to East Branch Russian River minimum flows, as measured by compliance gage E-16 in cubic feet per second (cfs), are as follows:

PERIOD		WATER YEAR CLASSIFICATION		
From	Through	Normal	Dry	Critical
October 1	April 14	35 cfs	35 cfs	5 cfs
		Scott Dam in Spill Condition		
April 15	May 14	35 cfs	25 cfs	5 cfs
-or-		Scott Dam <b>not</b> in Spill Condition		
April 15	May 14	5 cfs	5 cfs	5 cfs
		Scott Dam in Spill Condition		
May 15	June 30	75 cfs	25 cfs	5 cfs
-or-		Scott Dam <b>not</b> in Spill Condition		
May 15	June 30	5 cfs	5 cfs	5 cfs
July 1	September 30	5 cfs	5 cfs	5 cfs

Second, the minimum flow requirement below Scott Dam, as measured by compliance gage E-2, would be modified to 20 cfs at all times, regardless of calendar date or water year classification. In addition, the definition of compliance with minimum flows would be established as the mean daily flow, defined as the ‘calculated 24-hour average of the flow’. Further, the block water allocation of 2,500 acre-feet reserved for the release at the discretion of resource agencies would be changed from each ‘water’ year to each ‘calendar’ year. The licensee is proposing this modified mode of operation until the

Commission acts on the pending surrender application, filed with the Commission on July 25, 2025, or other Commission proceeding.

m. Locations of the Application: This filing may be viewed on the Commission's website at <http://www.ferc.gov> using the "eLibrary" link. Enter the docket number excluding the last three digits in the docket number field to access the document. You may also register online at <http://www.ferc.gov/docs-filing/esubscription.asp> to be notified via email of new filings and issuances related to this or other pending projects. For assistance, call 1-866-208-3676 or e-mail [FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov](mailto:FERCOnlineSupport@ferc.gov), for TTY, call (202) 502-8659. Agencies may obtain copies of the application directly from the applicant.

n. Individuals desiring to be included on the Commission's mailing list should so indicate by writing to the Secretary of the Commission.

o. Comments, Protests, or Motions to Intervene: Anyone may submit comments, a protest, or a motion to intervene in accordance with the requirements of Rules of Practice and Procedure, 18 CFR 385.210, .211, .214, respectively. In determining the appropriate action to take, the Commission will consider all protests or other comments filed, but only those who file a motion to intervene in accordance with the Commission's Rules may become a party to the proceeding. Any comments, protests, or motions to intervene must be received on or before the specified comment date for the particular application.

p. Filing and Service of Documents: Any filing must (1) bear in all capital letters the title “COMMENTS”, “PROTEST”, or “MOTION TO INTERVENE” as applicable; (2) set forth in the heading the name of the applicant and the project number of the application to which the filing responds; (3) furnish the name, address, and telephone number of the person commenting, protesting or intervening; and (4) otherwise comply with the requirements of 18 CFR 385.2001 through 385.2005. All comments, motions to intervene, or protests must set forth their evidentiary basis. Any filing made by an intervenor must be accompanied by proof of service on all persons listed in the service list prepared by the Commission in this proceeding, in accordance with 18 CFR 385.2010.

q. The Commission’s Office of Public Participation (OPP) supports meaningful public engagement and participation in Commission proceedings. OPP can help members of the public, including landowners, community organizations, Tribal members, and others access publicly available information and navigate Commission processes. For public inquiries and assistance with making filings such as interventions, comments, or requests for rehearing, the public is encouraged to contact OPP at (202) 502-6595 or [OPP@ferc.gov](mailto:OPP@ferc.gov).

Dated: October 31, 2025

**Debbie-Anne A. Reese,**

*Secretary.*