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David Edwards
Branch Chief
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California Air Resources Board
1001 "I" Street
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RE: Pacific Gas and Electric Comments in Response to the Air Resources Board's 25-Day Changes to the Regulation for the Reporting of Criteria Pollutants and Toxic Air Contaminants

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) appreciates this opportunity to provide feedback in response to the Air Resources Board's (ARB) Proposed 25-Day Changes to the Regulation for the Reporting of Criteria Pollutants and Toxic Air Contaminants (CTR), as released on May 13, 2019.

PG&E supported the passage of AB 617, and ARB's adoption of the CTR in December 2018. PG&E currently has a presence in 30 of the 35 local air districts in California, including the operation of 11 large stationary sources subject to greenhouse gas reporting defined as Mandatory Reporting Regulation (MRR) facilities and over 300 minor stationary sources subject to local air district permitting requirements. Due to this geographic breadth, PG&E is uniquely situated and continues to support uniform, efficient state-wide reporting that enhances transparency and data accuracy. In support of this goal, PG&E provides comments below in response to the Proposed Changes.

Thresholds for Determining Applicability (§93401(a)(4))

In the 25-Day Changes, Section §93401 outlines applicability standards for this regulation, with the fourth category being all permitted facilities that meet certain actual emissions and/or activity levels. PG&E notes that the actual emissions thresholds proposed in Appendix A, Table A-3 for combustion of diesel are currently drafted with very low activity level thresholds (5 hours of operation per year for Tier 4 engines or 30 gallons of fuel combusted per year for non-Tier 4

engines). PG&E requests that ARB provide the scientific basis for setting this very low threshold, which as currently drafted, would require reporting from back-up generators that only run in order to meet monthly testing requirements. While PG&E understands that the proposed changes would allow for certain sources to use abbreviated reporting, this will still be an additional administrative burden for facilities that have many back-up generators (PG&E has approximately 100-150 permitted stationary diesel engines that may fall in this category) and for facilities that only have one back-up generator and must ensure additional compliance with this reporting regulation for the first time.

PG&E supports providing communities with greater clarity on sources of criteria pollutant and toxic emissions but questions whether the sources that would be captured by the low activity threshold for diesel combustion will provide any added value. PG&E recommends increasing the activity threshold until such time as thoroughly supported and vetted scientific research is available to demonstrate the benefit of including such minor sources.

Reporting Emissions from Portable Equipment Used at Stationary Sources (§93404)

Section §93404(b)(2)(C) is a proposed new section to include emissions from portable equipment in facility emission reports. Subsection (C) states, “Emissions from portable engines or devices operated at a facility, regardless of equipment ownership or duration of operation, must also be reported.”¹ PG&E is concerned that facility owners will be held responsible for reporting emissions from portable equipment they do not own or operate that are brought in by outside vendors and contractors. PG&E does not currently track location and usage of portable engines owned by other parties and trying to obtain this information from numerous different companies that PG&E contracts across its service territory would be a huge additional cost and administrative burden. Rather than requiring the facility owner to seek and provide this information, PG&E recommends that ARB collaborate with the Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) to obtain this data directly from the owners and operators of the equipment.

Subsection (C) also states, “Any facility subject to this article must report the emissions or activity levels as required by this article for portable engines or devices registered under the Statewide Portable Equipment Registration Program (PERP) Regulation (CCR, title 13, section 2450 et seq.), if the engines or devices are located and operating at the facility for a period of three months or longer.” PG&E would like to note that in the PERP program, providers of essential public services (PEPS) are exempt from certain record-keeping including usage data (PG&E is classified as a PEPS). Based on these record-keeping exemptions, there may not be sufficient records available to calculate actual emissions from PG&E-owned PERP equipment if usage was not planned to exceed three months but ends up exceeding the planned timeframe and is then pulled into the reporting requirements of the CTR. PG&E recommends that the CTR

¹ CARB, Informal Public Review Draft of Proposed 15-Day Modifications, March 4, 2019, page A-28

include an exemption for PEPS as well, in order to maintain consistency with the PERP program.

Emissions Reporting Phase-In Categories (Appendix A, Table A-1)

For facilities in the fourth applicability category, ARB has proposed a complex phase-in structure. The first data year of reporting depends on which air district the facility is in and the process (equipment type) the facility is reporting for. Based on the matrix in Appendix A, Table A-1, the first data year of reporting could be as early as 2021 and as late as 2025. This complex phase-in structure could make it difficult for a company like PG&E (that has a wide variety of emissions sources throughout the state) to organize a reporting compliance strategy. Rather than having three separate sector phase-in categories, PG&E recommends simplifying the timeline by only providing one range that lands in the middle of the proposed timeframes for all sectors (i.e. 2023 for Air District Group A and 2024 for Air District Group B).

Clarifying Definitions in Section §93402

PG&E requests that ARB clarify the definition for “designated representative” so that it better aligns with the definition used by the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency for reporting or that of “responsible official” as the term is used for local permits.

Conclusion

PG&E appreciates the opportunity to provide informal feedback on the Proposed 25-Day Changes to the Regulation for the Reporting of Criteria Pollutants and Toxic Air Contaminants. Thank you for considering PG&E’s comments and please feel free to contact me if you have any questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

/s/

Fariya Ali