



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Shalini Swaroop | Regulatory & Legislative Counsel
415.464.6040 | sswaroop@mceCleanEnergy.org

EXCESSIVE CHARGES IMPOSED BY PG&E COST COMMUNITY CHOICE CUSTOMERS \$12.9 MILLION IN 2014

PG&E Says Request to Examine Fees Charged to Low-Income Customers is 'Unreasonable' and Public Input is 'Unnecessary'

San Rafael, CA – PG&E is currently authorized to impose excessive fees on Community Choice Aggregation (CCA) customers, increasing the community cost to choose local, renewable energy supply. PG&E's Power Charge Indifference Adjustment (PCIA) fee, billed monthly and based on electricity usage, covers the cost of energy bought by PG&E before a customer enrolled in a CCA program. Essentially, this charge requires that customers pay for energy that they will never use.

The PCIA fee is also applied to low or fixed-income customers, including those enrolled in the California Alternative Rates for Energy (CARE) program. PG&E is the only Investor-Owned Utility in California to impose these fees on low-income customers.

On March 6, 2015, MCE and Communities for a Better Environment (CBE) requested that the CPUC investigate the issue and host a public participation hearing in the City of Richmond to hear directly from affected customers.

PG&E argues that such a review is "unreasonable" and that the opportunity for community members to give their input on PG&E's exit fee policy for CARE customers is "unnecessary."

MCE estimates that its CARE customers have paid approximately \$1.6 million in PCIA exit fees to PG&E since 2010. In 2015, MCE estimates all of its customers will pay \$19.3 million in PCIA exit fees to PG&E. Although all MCE rates are currently lower than PG&Es, these fees diminish the savings that MCE customers receive.

In their motion to the CPUC, MCE and CBE argued, "Opportunities to reduce greenhouse gas emissions should not be limited to those who can easily afford it...The methodology and the application of PCIA to MCE CARE customers results in higher costs and inequitable fees to the community's most vulnerable populations. This hinders, if not violates, the Commission's duty to maintain just and reasonable rates."

Tom Butt, the Mayor of Richmond and Vice-Chairman of MCE's Board of Directors said, "Richmond is proud to be a member of MCE and has offered the CPUC a venue to directly hear from our constituents—we hope that the CPUC will accept and include the voices of our citizens within its administrative process."

Nile Malloy, Program Director of Communities for a Better Environment believes, "PG&E is not only charging low-income customers excessive exit fees, it wants to prevent a hearing in Richmond, where our voices, and the voices of everyday people, could be heard."

MCE and CBE expect a decision from the Commission on whether it will consider this issue by April 31.

About MCE: MCE is a not-for-profit, community-based electricity provider that gives customers the choice of having 50% to 100% of their electricity supplied from clean, renewable sources such as solar, wind, bioenergy, geothermal and hydroelectric at competitive rates. By choosing MCE, customers help support new in-state and local renewable energy generation. For more information about MCE, visit www.mceCleanEnergy.org or call 1 (888) 632-3674.