



**Pacific Gas and  
Electric Company**

# LETTER AGREEMENT NO. 18-02-PGE

**IBEW**



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
LABOR RELATIONS  
375 N. WIGET LANE  
SUITE 130  
WALNUT CREEK, CA 94598  
925.974.4461

ROBERT JOGA  
SENIOR DIRECTOR

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF  
ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO  
LOCAL UNION 1245, I.B.E.W.  
P.O. BOX 2547  
VACAVILLE, CALIFORNIA 95696  
707.452.2700

TOM DALZELL  
BUSINESS MANAGER

February 6, 2018

Mr. Tom Dalzell, Business Manager  
Local Union No. 1245  
International Brotherhood of  
Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO  
P.O. Box 2547  
Vacaville, CA 95696

Dear Mr. Dalzell:

This agreement cancels and supersedes Letter Agreement 12-41 regarding the internal job search process administered by the Return to Work Department. This agreement is not intended to modify or supersede the Table Settlement between the Company and Union dated November 1, 2016.

The provisions of this letter agreement apply to all employees prior to approval for Long Term Disability benefits. Except as identified herein, all other applicable contract sections and supplements thereto, remain intact.

If you agree, please so indicate in the space provided below and return one executed copy of this letter to the Company.

Very truly yours,

PACIFIC GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Robert Joga  
Senior Director

The Union is in agreement.

LOCAL UNION NO. 1245, INTERNATIONAL  
BROTHERHOOD OF ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO

By: \_\_\_\_\_

Tom Dalzell  
Business Manager

*February 26<sup>th</sup>*, 2018

**1) APPROVAL FOR LTD BENEFITS:**

Once an employee is approved for Long Term Disability benefits, the return to work guidelines are outlined in the Facts about Your Long Term Disability Benefits booklet that is sent to employees once an application for Long Term Disability Benefits is submitted and can also be obtained at the [mygebenefits.com](http://mygebenefits.com) website.

**2) PRIOR TO APPROVAL FOR LTD BENEFITS:**

**RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM:**

***Not Required To Participate:***

- An employee who is receiving a Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) benefit and has provided the award notification letter to Pacific Gas and Electric Company (Company).
- An employee who is actively working with the Company's third-party SSDI advocate.
- An employee who has elected to retire and has notified his/her supervisor and the Return to Work (RTW) Consultant and has submitted a completed Pension Elections Form to the Human Resources (HR) Solutions Center.
- An employee who has signed a Waiver of Opportunity to Return to Work form for the internal job search due to pending retirement plans if more than 30 days from the retirement date.
- An employee who is medically unable to work in any capacity in any bargaining unit classification.

**RETURN TO WORK PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS:**

***An employee's employment and benefits will be terminated for failure to comply with any of the Program's requirements and obligations within the specified time periods.***

***Required To Participate:***

An employee, who may or may not be **Absent from Work** by reason of injury or illness (occupational or non-occupational), who is permanent and stationary and/or permanently precluded from performing the essential functions of the employee's current regular classification and who is Medically Able to participate.

***Medical:***

The RTW program may request a medical opinion(s) from the appropriate medical professional. This could be the employee's treating **Physician**, an Agreed to Medical Examiner (AME), Qualified Medical Examiner (QME), Independent Medical Examiner (IME), Medical Provider Network (MPN), or whatever type of medical opinion is necessary to the determination as to the employee's ability to return to work in the employee's current regular classification with a reasonable accommodation(s) and/or modification(s) or alternate **Position(s)**.

***When:***

The Company will notify the employee in writing at his/her last known address or via electronic mail (if employee agreed to receive the notification electronically) of the employee's requirement to participate in the RTW Program following notification by employee's **Physician** that the employee is permanent and stationary and/or permanently precluded from returning to the employee's current regular classification. If sent by email, email addresses will be confirmed prior to email being sent. A call to discuss the RTW program will be made within seven days of this notification.

If during the RTW process, an employee's certified medical condition changes significantly (e.g. need for surgery, increased work restrictions, etc.), including an employee who returns to the Workers' Compensation payroll; the RTW process will be halted until an industrially injured/ill employee becomes permanent and stationary and a non-industrially injured/ill employee becomes stable at which time the employee will be notified of his/her requirement to participate and the process will resume.

**What:**

An employee must fully participate in and comply with the RTW Program requirements and the instructions of the RTW Consultant when notified in writing to do so, or the employee may be terminated immediately.

Upon request by the Company, an employee shall provide medical certification and any additional clarification of disability **related to their participation in the** RTW program. An employee may be required to sign forms for Authorizations for Release of Medical Information (Medical Release). Medical Releases authorize the employee's **Physician(s)** to respond to the Company's request for information regarding the employee's ability to perform the essential functions of the identified **Positions** with or without reasonable accommodation(s). Additional Medical Releases may be required to authorize PG&E's Workers' Compensation Department, the Employee Assistance Program (EAP) Department and the Company's third-party Long-Term Disability (LTD) administrator to release information to the RTW Department and for the RTW Department to release information to these other entities. It may be to the employee's advantage in some circumstances to submit additional medical information. The decision to submit additional medical information is at the employee's option. However, the Company will only be able to make decisions based on the medical information provided.

The RTW Consultant will determine whether the current residence or residence at date of disability will be used when bidding/applying for **Positions**. This decision will be based on the residence location that maximizes the placement opportunities for the employee.

An employee must accept, at any time prior to, during or following the RTW Process, any job assignment to a **Position** covered by the collective bargaining agreements between PG&E and the IBEW, ESC or SEIU, for which the employee **Qualifies**. In addition, an employee may accept a non-bargaining unit position. In all cases the placement must comply with the LTD **Pay** and **Commutable Distance** requirements as defined in the LTD Program Plan.

If it is determined by the RTW Consultant that the employee meets criteria established by the Company's third-party Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) advocate, the RTW Consultant will provide information to the employee regarding the advantages of the third-party SSDI advocate's services, a free service to the employee. The RTW Consultant will recommend and make an employee referral with the agreement of the employee.

**TIMELINE REQUIREMENTS:**

**A. Within 45 Days following notification by the RTW Consultant of the employee's Requirement to Participate, the employee shall:**

1. Consult with the RTW Consultant to determine if the employee can safely and efficiently perform the essential functions of the employee's current regular classification with or without reasonable accommodation(s) and/or to identify alternate classifications to which the employee may return in light of available medical information, and
2. If needed, ensure the **Physician's** office provides to the RTW Department, the **Physician's** written assessment or clarification of the employee's ability and limitations related to the employee's disability, and
3. If needed, provide signed Medical Release(s) of information to the **Physician(s)** authorizing the **Physician(s)** to respond to the RTW Consultant's request for information.
4. It is the employee's responsibility to ensure the Company receives the **Physician's** report by the 45th **Day**.
5. Employee shall not delay the process or fail to fully cooperate in the process.

**B. Within 30 Days following the date the RTW Consultant notifies the employee of the Physician's written report, the employee shall:**

1. Submit transfers and/or prebids to all alternate classifications identified by the RTW Consultant, to all headquarters that are within a **Commutable Distance** as defined in the applicable provisions of the LTD Program Plan, and
2. Schedule and take all qualifying tests required for each classification identified, if not already test qualified.

- C. Within 30 Days of becoming eligible to retake a test, the employee shall schedule and retake all tests for which the employee did not obtain a qualifying score, unless the employee is no longer eligible under the bargaining agreements to take the test.

**EMPLOYEE RESPONSIBILITIES:**

- D. The employee must actively maintain at all times, all prebids and transfers for all Positions consistent with the Physician's written assessment.
- E. The employee must comply with all directives from the RTW Consultant.
- F. The employee shall be assigned and must report on the date, time, and location designated by the Company to any unrestricted **Position**, any **Position** for which the employee is the highest priority bidder, or any **Position** created through a letter of agreement with the Union, for which the employee is **Qualified**, that is within a **Commutable Distance** and meets the **Pay** provisions of the LTD Program Plan.
- G. The employee shall attend any required meeting, training, school, assessment, evaluation and test, etc., on the date, time, and location specified by the Company.
- H. Once an employee is within 105 days of LTD eligibility, the RTW Consultant will advise the employee of the requirement and process to apply for LTD. Between 45-105 days prior to eligibility for LTD benefits, an employee shall apply for LTD benefits by contacting the LTD Claims Administrator and submitting a claim in writing via telephone or electronically. However, if an employee has already been off work (e.g., Workers' Compensation), this time period may be adjusted.
- I. An employee who requests to be considered for non-union represented positions and/or any position that is outside of a **Commutable Distance** must accept the position at the location the employee has identified when the position becomes available and meets the **Pay** requirements under the LTD Program Plan.
- J. An employee who is not required to participate in this RTW Program, but chooses to do so, shall be subject to all requirements, timelines, and consequences of the RTW Program.
- K. An employee who is required to participate in the RTW Program but chooses not to participate may resign by sending a personally signed and dated letter of resignation (including the effective date of resignation) to Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Return to Work Department, 1850 Gateway Blvd., 7th Floor, Concord, CA 94520. An employee who is eligible for retirement should contact the HR Solutions Center at 800-700-0057. However, an employee choosing to retire must continue to participate in the RTW process until the employee has returned the signed Waiver of Opportunity to Return to Work form to the RTW Consultant or the completed Pension Elections form has been received by the Company.

**ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS:**

- L. Company may require the employee, at the Company's expense, to obtain further medical examination(s) and/or review(s) designated by the Company by an AME, QME, IME, MPN, or whatever medical examination(s) and/or review(s) is appropriate for the situation.
- M. Timelines and consequences may be adjusted if a decision is pending on an employee's application for LTD benefits or a RTW accommodation pursuant to the SAW/RTW Joint Oversight Committee. If prior to or during the RTW process, an employee's LTD benefit entitlement has expired or the employee is denied LTD benefits, the RTW process will end and the employee's employment and benefits will be terminated. If an LTD application that was originally denied is later approved (through appeal etc.), the employee would be under the RTW provisions of the LTD program.
- N. An employee who is determined to be medically permanent and stationary (occupational injury/illness) or permanently precluded (non-occupational injury/illness) by an appropriate **Physician** and is unable to return to the employee's current regular classification on a regular basis will be provided with accelerated bid rights to any classification lower in the Line of Progression in the department pursuant to Sections 19.9 of the Clerical Agreement and 206.9 and 306.9 of the Physical Agreement. To exercise accelerated rights,

employees must select the "A" rights box on the online transfer/bid application. In order to be placed into one of these classifications on an accelerated basis, the employee must meet all of the qualifications for the classification. When the Company is downsizing in a department and the employee is not on the active payroll, the employee's prebids and transfers will not be considered for vacancies in that department until such time as the displacement/demotion/layoff activity has concluded.

- O. An employee who accepts a **Position** at a headquarters that is beyond a **Commutable Distance** from the employee's current residence or the residence at the time the employee became disabled, may exercise the employee's rights under the moving allowance provision(s) of the applicable Union contract section.
- P. An employee's benefits and employment will be terminated if the employee fails to meet any of the requirements and obligations identified in this document.

Pursuant to Letter of Agreement 11-06, the provisions of Sections 306.9/206.9/19.9 will be expanded to include employees who are placed into an IBEW Bargaining Unit job in another Line of Progression or a different Bargaining Unit as the result of an internal job search or who are returned to work from LTD into a different bargaining unit.

Should any part of this agreement become unworkable; the parties will meet and discuss possible alternatives.

**DEFINITION OF TERMS:**

**Absent from Work:** Any absence due to either an occupational or non-occupational injury or illness.

**Commutable Distance:** All of the following:

- The employee's last regular headquarters, or
- The employee's last regular point of assembly, if the employee is a General Construction employee, and
- Headquarters that are within 45 miles or 60 minutes from the employee's current residence or the residence at the time of disability for LTD Program Plan III, or 30 miles or 45 minutes for LTD Program Plan I and II, and
- Headquarters that is equal to the employee's last regular commute if it exceeded 45 miles or 60 minutes for Plan III.

When calculating **Commutable Distance**, the RTW Consultant will use both the miles and the minutes to determine if the **Position** identified falls within the **Commutable Distance** definition, e.g., the **Position** exceeds the 45 miles but the commute time is 59 minutes for LTD Program Plan III. The **Position** in this example is within a **Commutable Distance**.

(NOTE: The Company will use an online mapping system to determine if the **Position** is within a **Commutable Distance**. If a dispute arises, the parties will determine the method to resolve the dispute.)

**Day:** Calendar day

**Medically Able:** *Excludes employees who are:*

1. *Terminally ill*
2. *Hospitalized*
3. *Institutionalized*
4. *Incapacitated (e.g., major stroke, heart attack, etc.)*

**Pay:** Pay provisions of the LTD Program Plan with regard to qualifying for LTD benefits or any applicable union contract as it applies to returning to work.

**Physician:** A licensed physician and will be one or more of the following: employee's treating physician, AME, QME, IME, MPN, WC designated physician, or physician selected by the Company.

**Position or Position(s):** All full-time regular union or non-union represented positions within the Company.

This means placement opportunities may cross union boundaries or may be a non-union position (if employee elected to expand search to include non-union positions). The Company can place an employee in any vacant regular position that the employee is **Qualified** to perform that is covered by any of the collective bargaining agreements between PG&E and the IBEW, ESC or SEIU. Placement can occur at any time prior to, during, or after the internal job search has concluded as long as the employee **Qualifies** for the position and the position is within the **Commutable Distance** and **Pay** requirements as defined in the LTD Program Plan. An employee can voluntarily accept a regular part-time position.

**Qualify(ied/ies):** Meeting any qualifying test(s), training, certification, licensing, experience, etc., requirements for the **Position**; and, medically able to safely and efficiently perform the essential functions of the identified **Position(s)** with or without reasonable accommodation(s).