

Decision No. 38011

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY, a
corporation, for an order authorizing
it to file and make effective an emer-
gency rule and regulation restricting
deliveries of natural gas to residential
and nonresidential consumers.

Application No. 26647

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER:

This application seeks authority for San Diego Gas and Electric Com-
pany to put into effect an emergency rule and regulation placing certain limi-
tations upon the use of natural gas by nonresidential and residential consumers.
The purpose of the proposed rule and regulation is to continue in effect for a
temporary period substantially the same restrictions as have been imposed upon
it since the beginning of the war by virtue of War Production Board orders.

Applicant states that for some time past its service of natural gas
has been subject to limitations issued by the War Production Board under Limi-
tation Order L-31 and subsequently by Order U-7. In addition, limitations were
also placed upon surplus natural gas service in California by this Commission
in the latter part of 1941 and again in 1942, 1943 and 1944 by Decisions Nos.
34797, 35455, 36415 and 37471:

The supply of natural gas to the area served by the San Diego Gas and
Electric Company is limited to the capacity of a single 12-inch transmission
line. The deliverability of the line is about 26,000,000 cubic feet a day,
while the peak day firm demands during the past heating season were considerably
in excess of the natural gas available. Without additional line capacity it
does not appear possible for the applicant to further increase its firm peak day
requirements.

It is anticipated and applicant so states that the War Production Board in the very near future may modify their various limitation orders relative to the use and delivery of natural gas to both residential and nonresidential consumers. In view of these circumstances, it appears highly desirable that applicant be afforded a measure of control similar to that now in effect in accordance with the War Production Board limitation orders.

To do this, applicant proposes to file and make effective an emergency rule and regulation "A-5" entitled "Limitation Upon the Use of Natural Gas by Nonresidential and Residential Consumers." The proposed rule and regulation, marked Exhibit "A," is attached to and made a part of the application. The primary reasons for the limitation in the rule and regulation are stated thereon as follows:

"Because increased gas requirements for war and civilian uses, coupled with the scarcity of materials for the construction of pipe lines and other facilities have resulted in a shortage of natural gas in the area served by the San Diego Gas and Electric Company during peak load periods the following rule and regulation is established in order to safeguard firm gas deliveries to war industries and essential military and civilian services, to protect the public interest, and to promote the war effort."

The rule and regulation itemizes in a form similar to the War Production Board Order U-7 the various conditions under which natural gas service to nonresidential and residential consumers may or may not be available.

It is to be observed that the term of the proposed limitation upon the use of natural gas is to be temporary during the present war and not longer than six months after an armistice, unless terminated or extended by order of this Commission, and it is further provided that in the event any provisions of the rule and regulation are in dispute any person, including the company, may present the matter for this Commission's consideration.

The Commission is aware of the known deficiency that exists in the availability of gas for applicant to meet its firm peak day requirements. A relaxation of the existing limitation orders could easily lead to a condition wherein the gas deliverability to the essential war industries and civilian service might become seriously impaired during certain parts of the year. We

feel the emergency rule and regulation as set forth in Exhibit "A" is desirable at this time to avoid the occurrence of any situation that may impede the war effort. In exercising this control the utility should give due consideration to the demand and availability of natural gas supplied by it for other than firm uses.

A public hearing under the circumstances being deemed unnecessary, and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that San Diego Gas and Electric Company is authorized to file and to carry out and make effective the provisions of the rule and regulation designated as Emergency Rule and Regulation A-5, and as the aforesaid rule is written and attached to the application as Exhibit "A."

The effective date shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 19th day of June, 1945.

David Anderson
Justin F. Cooper
Richard K. Ketchum
Frank W. ...
James H. ...
Commissioners.