

Decision No. 41784

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
 PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, a  
 corporation, for an order authorizing  
 applicant to refile and continue in  
 force and effect until December 31,  
 1948, Emergency Gas Rule and Regulation  
 A-4 (Limitation Upon Surplus Natural  
 Gas Service).

Application No. 25139  
 (Third Supplemental)

FOURTH SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

In this Third Supplemental Application, Pacific Gas and Electric Company seeks authorization to refile and continue in force and effect, until December 31, 1948, its presently effective Rule and Regulation A-4, Limitation Upon Surplus Natural Gas Service.

The rule limiting the availability of surplus natural gas service was made effective on September 25, 1942 and, with some minor modifications has continued to be effective in accordance with authorization granted by decisions<sup>1/</sup> of this Commission. A condition in the rule currently filed provides that it will terminate on June 30, 1948. Applicant seeks to refile the rule in its present form modified to provide:

"This emergency rule and regulation shall remain in full force and effect until December 31, 1948, or such prior date as the Commission may fix."

In support of such an extension, applicant makes reference to the original and supplemental applications and this Commission's orders on this matter. Attention is called to the fact that the many problems covering surplus natural gas service and rates are still

<sup>1/</sup> Decision No. 35707, August 18, 1942; First Supplemental Order, Decision No. 37470, November 9, 1944; Second Supplemental Order, Decision No. 40464, June 28, 1947; and Third Supplemental Order, Decision No. 41081, December 22, 1947.

under investigation and study by both applicant and the Commission and that because of this continued situation, said Rule and Regulation A-4, governing surplus natural gas service, should continue in force.

Since the issuance of the Third Supplemental Order in this proceeding, the Commission instituted an investigation (Case No. 4937) into the reasonableness of the fuel oil escalator provisions contained in applicant's gas rates. This matter has been heard and submitted. The Commission is of the opinion that although the need and effectiveness of Rule and Regulation A-4 is greatly lessened at the present time, yet a cancellation of the rule before a decision is rendered in Case 4937 would be premature and might create confusion. Under the circumstances, the extension prayed for will be granted.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that Pacific Gas and Electric Company be and hereby is authorized to refile, effective July 1, 1948, its Emergency Rule and Regulation A-4, which rule shall provide that it shall remain in effect until December 31, 1948, unless sooner cancelled. This Order is subject to reconsideration and revision at any time prior to such date after notice and hearing upon this application.

The effective date of this Order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1948.

R. E. Indurana  
Justice F. Cramer  
Frank Russell  
Harold P. Kils  
Samuel Potter  
Commissioners.