

Decision No. 50565**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the Application )	
of California Electric Power )	Application No. 34958
Company for increase of rates. )	(Amended)

PRELIMINARY OPINION

By the above-entitled application, filed on December 14, 1953, the California Electric Power Company seeks authority to increase its electric rates in the amount of \$1,330,000 annually. The applicant is a California corporation and provides electric utility service in portions of Mono, Inyo, Kern, San Bernardino, Riverside, and Imperial Counties in California, and in Esmeralda and Nye Counties in Nevada.

Public hearings on Application No. 34958 were held June 11 and July 28 and 29 in Los Angeles before Commissioner Potter and Examiner Emerson. During the course of these hearings, testimony was introduced by the California Electric Power Company in support of its application.

On August 25, 1954 applicant filed a petition requesting authority to place into effect increased rates as set out in said petition within the corporate limits of the City of San Bernardino and adjacent territory. In support of its petition, applicant shows that on August 17, 1954 this Commission entered its order in Decision No. 50449 in the matter of the Southern California Edison Company, Application No. 33952, thereby fixing various schedules of rates for said Edison Company's electric service in the City of San Bernardino and adjacent territory where the Edison Company and applicant are in competition, said schedules being further identified as D-3, H, P-1, P-2, A-3, and A-7.

Attached to the petition are applicant's proposed schedules of rates for various classes of service in said competitive territory identical with said schedules of Edison Company, except that whereas Edison's Schedule D-3 provides a metered kilowatt-hour charge for water heating, applicant offers an optional flat rate for water heating under its present Schedule DWH, which schedule is not included in this filing. Applicant's proposed schedules are designated as D-1, H-1, P-1-C, P-1-D, A-4, and A-5. Applicant requests that said schedules be made effective as to service furnished on and after September 13, 1954, the date when Edison's increased rates become effective. The annual increase in revenue to result from the proposed filing of the aforesaid schedules is estimated by applicant to be \$90,367.

Petitioner alleges that it desires to continue its present practice of maintaining rates equal to those of the Edison Company for all classes of service in the competitive territory within the corporate limits of San Bernardino and certain adjacent territory.

The Commission, in its order in Decision No. 46397, dated November 6, 1951, on California Electric Power Company's Application No. 32188 for increased system-wide rates, stated as follows (51 CPUC 189,207):

"If applicant decides not to make such revisions in its Schedules D-1, L-1, H-1, P-1-C, and P-1-D, which are presently applicable within the city limits of San Bernardino, it shall retain in effect the present rates and charges of said tariffs."

Applicant did not elect to make such increases effective in San Bernardino within the time limit imposed by such order and has thus maintained its rates at the then effective level of Edison's rates.

It is recognized that applicant's rates in San Bernardino have been unduly depressed, as compared with its other rates, for a period of years in view of the competitive condition there existing. Now that the Commission has authorized higher rates in the territory served by the Edison Company within San Bernardino it appears to be in the public interest that applicant's petition be granted. The rates authorized herein in the main are somewhat higher, while some are lower, than the level authorized in 1951 by said Decision No. 46397 and differ somewhat in form. In order to assure uniformity of application and charges to petitioner's and Edison's customers, the new rates will maintain parity of rate levels on the two utilities.

We hereby find that the increases in rates authorized herein are justified.

PRELIMINARY ORDER

California Electric Power Company having petitioned this Commission for an interim order in the above-entitled application, it appearing to this Commission that applicant's petition should be granted and that a public hearing thereon is not necessary, and good cause appearing; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that California Electric Power Company is authorized to file in quadruplicate with this Commission after the effective date of this order, in conformity with General Order No. 96, revised tariff schedules as attached to the petition for interim order and designated as Schedules D-1, H-1, P-1-C, P-1-D, A-4, and A-5, except that Schedule D-1 shall be limited to single-phase domestic service and made similar in respect to rates, minimum charge and special conditions as Schedule D-3 authorized in Decision No. 50447, dated August 17, 1954, Application No. 33952 of the Southern California Edison Company.

Applicant is further authorized, on not less than two days' notice to the Commission and to the public, to make said rates effective for service furnished on and after September 13, 1954.

At the time of making effective the rates authorized by the above sections herein, applicant may cancel the existing schedules designated as D-1, L-1, H-1, P-1-C, and P-1-D, and transfer the customers to the appropriate new schedules authorized herein.

The effective date of this order shall be September 10, 1954.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 3rd day of September, 1954.

Arthur E. Mitchell  
President  
James J. Calver  
Dennis Higgins

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Commissioners

Commissioner Kenneth Fottor, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.