

Decision No. 65877**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
 SOUTHERN COUNTIES GAS COMPANY for a )  
 general increase in gas rates under )  
 Section 454 of the Public Utilities )  
 Code. }

Application No. 35742

ORDER DIRECTING SAN DIEGO GAS &  
 ELECTRIC COMPANY TO REFUND \$1,472,524.44  
 PLUS INTEREST TO CUSTOMERS AND TO FILE A  
 REFUND PLAN, OR TO SHOW CAUSE WHY SAID  
 AMOUNT SHOULD NOT BE REFUNDED TO CUSTOMERS

Pursuant to Decision No. 65610, dated June 20, 1963 in the above-entitled matter, Southern Counties Gas Company of California (Southern Counties) will refund \$1,472,524.44<sup>(1)</sup> to San Diego Gas & Electric Company (San Diego Company). Such refund will appear on San Diego Company's gas bill for July 1963 from Southern Counties.

By Decision No. 65606, dated June 20, 1963, this Commission named San Diego Gas & Electric Company a party respondent in the above-entitled proceeding and directed that none of the refund amount received by San Diego Company shall be disbursed by it to any customer until a refund plan satisfactory to this Commission has been filed by San Diego Company and approved by this Commission and that such amount shall accrue interest from the date of its receipt by San Diego Company at the rate of six percent per annum until refunded to customers.

<sup>(1)</sup> \$1,456,720.02 principal plus \$15,804.42 interest to cut-off date of July 24, 1963.

Pursuant to said Decision No. 65606 San Diego Company submitted a refund plan designed to refund certain amounts to customers served under electric and steam heat rates subject to fuel price escalation, to discount by six percent over a period of three months' bills for residential gas and electric customers, and to retain approximately 50 percent of the \$1,472,524.44 amount.

The Commission has considered the proposed disposition to be made of the amount of \$1,472,524.44 to be received by San Diego Company from Southern Counties and finds that the entire amount, namely \$1,472,524.44 plus accrued interest at the rate of six percent per annum from the date of its receipt by San Diego Company to the date of refund to customers, should be refunded to customers. Accordingly, San Diego Company will be required by the order herein to refund such amount to customers and to file a refund plan acceptable to the Commission to accomplish such refund or show cause why said entire amount should not be refunded to its customers.

Good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. San Diego Gas & Electric Company shall refund to customers the entire amount of \$1,472,524.44, plus accrued interest at the rate of six percent per annum from the date of its receipt to the date of refund to customers. Such refund shall be made within sixty days after approval by the Commission by supplemental order, of a refund plan to accomplish such purpose. Within ten days after the effective date of this order San Diego Gas & Electric Company shall file with this Commission a refund plan designed to refund to the customers of its Gas Department and in turn the customers of its Electric and Steam Heat Departments the entire amount set forth above for the consideration of the Commission.

2. In the alternative to the order contained in paragraph 1 above, San Diego Gas & Electric Company may show cause, if any it has, why the total sum of \$1,472,524.44 to be received by San Diego Company from Southern Counties Gas Company, plus accrued interest at the rate of six percent per annum, should not be disbursed to all of its customers in a fair and equitable manner.

The Secretary of the Commission is directed to cause a certified copy of this order to be served forthwith upon San Diego Gas & Electric Company.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 1963.

William W. Bennett  
President  
George L. Grover  
Fredrick B. Hallock  
Commissioners