

ORIGINAL

66232

Decision No. _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
 PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY for
 an order of the Commission authorizing
 applicant to increase its present rates
 and charges for natural gas service in
 the manner and to the extent herein set
 forth.

Application No. 36635

ORDER DIRECTING SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION
TO MAKE REFUNDS TO ITS CALIFORNIA CUSTOMERS
IN ACCORDANCE WITH REFUND PLAN

Pursuant to Decision No. 65605, dated June 20, 1963, in the above-entitled proceeding Southwest Gas Corporation (Southwest) filed with this Commission on October 24, 1963 a plan designed to refund to its California customers the full amount of \$78,961.37 Southwest has received from Pacific Gas and Electric Company, plus interest on that amount, as a result of orders of this Commission and of orders of the Federal Power Commission in Docket No. G-4769.

Under the refund plan filed by Southwest, customers are segregated into two types for refund purposes, Type 1 and Type 2. A Type 1 customer is defined as any customer or former customer of Southwest who received and paid for gas from Southwest during the period April 15, 1955 through December 31, 1957 under any filed Southwest rate schedule except Rate Schedule G-1. The plan provides for refunding by check to a Type 1 customer considering his usage during the period April 15, 1955-December 31, 1957.

A Type 2 customer is defined as any person, not qualifying as a Type 1 customer, who is an active general natural gas service customer of Southwest, purchasing gas on Southwest's Rate Schedule G-1 at such time during the period in which Southwest disburses the monies as the account in question is billed. Refund to a Type 2 customer, under the plan, would be made in the form of a credit on his bill based upon his usage during the month of October 1963.

Upon consideration, the Commission finds that:

1. The refund plan filed by Southwest Gas Corporation on October 24, 1963 is fair, reasonable and in the public interest.
2. Southwest Gas Corporation should be directed to make refunds to its customers in California in accordance with the refund plan attached hereto as Appendix A.
3. Southwest Gas Corporation should give notice in newspapers of general circulation in its service area in California of the general provisions of the refund plan hereinafter set forth as Appendix A.

Good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Within sixty days after the effective date of this order Southwest Gas Corporation shall refund to its customers in California not less than \$78,961.37 plus accrued interest at the rate of six percent per annum from the date of its receipt by Southwest to the date refunds to customers begin in accordance with the refund plan attached hereto as Appendix A and made a part hereof.
2. Southwest Gas Corporation shall give notice in newspapers of wide general circulation to domestic, commercial and other establishments in its California service area of the general provisions of the refund plan hereinafter set forth as Appendix A, within fifteen days after the effective date of this order.

3. Within sixty days after making initial refunds to customers as directed herein, and every sixty days thereafter for eight additional months, Southwest Gas Corporation shall file written reports with this Commission setting forth separately the amount refunded to customers, the amount of returned checks and, when applicable, the amount of uncashed checks outstanding six months after the month of their issuance. Such reports shall show such amounts segregated by principal classes of service.

4. Southwest Gas Corporation shall inform each recipient of a refund either by transmittal letter or by notation on the bill or check reflecting the refund that:

"This refund is pursuant to an order of the California Public Utilities Commission."

The Secretary of the Commission is directed to cause a certified copy of this order to be served forthwith upon Southwest Gas Corporation.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th day of October, 1963.

William A. Burns
President

[Signature]
[Signature]

George T. Hoover

Fredrick B. Holdhoff
Commissioners

SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION

PLAN FOR DISBURSEMENT TO CALIFORNIA
GAS SERVICE CUSTOMERS OF MONIES FLOWING
FROM FEDERAL POWER COMMISSION ORDERS
IN DOCKET NO. G-4769

1. Purpose

The purpose of this plan is to disburse to California customers of Southwest Gas Corporation ("Southwest" herein) the monies refunded to Southwest by Pacific Gas and Electric Company originating with El Paso Natural Gas Company and pertaining to gas purchased during the period from April 15, 1955 to December 31, 1957.

2. Definitions

Source Period

The period from April 15, 1955 through December 31, 1957, inclusive.

Current Record Period

The month of October, 1963.

Disbursement Period

The period during which Southwest disburses the monies.

Type 1 Customer

Any customer or former customer of Southwest who received and paid for gas from Southwest during the source period under any filed Southwest rate schedule except Rate Schedule No. G-1.

Type 2 Customer

Any customer, not qualifying as a Type 1 Customer, who happens to be an active general natural gas service customer of Southwest, purchasing gas on Southwest's Rate Schedule No. G-1 at such time during the disbursement period as the account in question is billed.

Commission

The California Public Utilities Commission.

3. Eligibility

All Type 1 and Type 2 Customers of Southwest are eligible to receive disbursements, to the extent provided in this plan.

4. Total Amount to be Disbursed

The total amount which Southwest will disburse will be equal to the refund received from Pacific Gas and Electric Company plus interest thereon to the date disbursement is to begin.

5. Disbursement Formula

Disbursements will be made to all Type 1 Customers in direct proportion to the amount of gas purchased and paid for by them during the Source Period. Monies will be allocated to purchases made by Type 1 Customers at the rate of 2.687¢ per Mcf. The remainder of the monies will be allocated to the Type 2 Customers as a group.

6. Disbursements to Type 1 Customers

Southwest will compute the total amount per Mcf allocable to gas purchased by Type 1 Customers during the Source Period and will disburse to each Type 1 Customer, on the basis of his usage during the Source Period, his pro rata portion of the total sum allocated to Type 1 Customers, less the amount of any delinquent account of any such Type 1 Customer to Southwest. Southwest, as promptly as possible after the approval of this plan by the Commission, will make a check to each Type 1 Customer and mail it to him forthwith together with a suitable explanatory note.

7. Disbursements to Type 2 Customers

Disbursements to all Type 2 Customers will be made in the form of credits applied to November, 1963 billings, based on usage billed during the Current Record Period to all Type 2 Customers billed on Southwest's Rate Schedule No. G-1. The amount credited will be shown separately on the customer's bill and designated "Gas Refund Credit".

8. Cost of Disbursement

The plan proposed herein is designed to keep costs of disbursing this refund to Southwest's customers as low as possible by using simplified methods where the disbursement to individual small general service customers is so small that the loss in accuracy will mean minor departures from the results which would be achieved by more elaborate methods involving disproportionate expense in calculating the disbursement and in locating customers. Any difference between the amount allocated for disbursement to customers and the actual amount disbursed, including checks uncashed at the end of six months, will be placed in a suspense account for disposition by supplemental order of the Commission.