

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 67685

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ARCADE COUNTY WATER DISTRICT,  
 a County Water District,  
 Complainant,

vs.

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY,  
 a California Corporation,  
 Defendant.

Case No. 7834  
 (Filed February 5, 1964)

O P I N I O N

Complainant, a public agency, alleges that defendant utility has refused to supply gas under its Schedule No. G-50, "Interruptible Natural Gas Service", to operate certain of complainant's water well pumps in unincorporated territory north of Sacramento within defendant's service area. Complainant further alleges that it is willing and able to comply with all requirements for service under Schedule No. G-50, including the provisions of Special Condition 3 thereof, which requires adequate standby equipment and fuel ready for immediate operation if defendant's gas supply is curtailed.

Defendant, answering, has admitted that up to the time of filing the complaint it had refused to provide interruptible service to complainant on the same ground that it had refused to provide such service to a nearby utility, Washington Water and Light Company, the complainant in recently concluded Case No. 7748. Defendant maintains that the health and safety of water customers depend upon adequate water pressure and continuous supply; that should defendant

be required to interrupt gas service there would have to be a guaranteed and sufficient standby service available at all times, since, should standby facilities fail or prove inadequate during normal interruptions of gas service, defendant would inevitably be requested to provide what would in effect be firm service.

Defendant has offered to provide interruptible natural gas service to complainant provided that complainant agrees to comply with the conditions imposed on Washington Water and Light Company (Decision No. 66770, February 11, 1964, Case No. 7742), which are, substantially, that complainant (1) first provide at least 500 gallons of propane storage at each well at which interruptible natural gas service is requested and (2) thereafter, throughout the period in which such service is received, keep the required standby facilities ready at all times for immediate operation in the event that the supply of gas from defendant is partially or totally curtailed.

We find that the two conditions set out above for provision of standby service by complainant are reasonable.

Defendant will be directed to provide interruptible natural gas service to complainant, under applicable tariff schedules, provided complainant agrees to meet the foregoing conditions respecting provision and maintenance of standby facilities and so advises defendant and this Commission within a reasonable time, as specified in the ensuing order.

A public hearing is not necessary.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company, subject to compliance by Arcade County Water District with the conditions hereinafter set forth, shall provide said district with interruptible natural gas service in accordance with applicable tariff schedules of Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

2. Arcade County Water District, prior to receiving the service referred to in paragraph 1, above, and as a condition thereof, shall provide at least 500 gallons of propane storage at each well at which interruptible natural gas service is requested and thereafter, throughout the period in which such service is received from Pacific Gas and Electric Company, keep the required standby facilities ready at all times for immediate operation in the event that the supply of gas from Pacific Gas and Electric Company is partially or totally curtailed.

3. The effective date of this order will be deferred for a period not to exceed thirty days from the date hereof. If, during such period, the parties herein advise the Commission, in writing, that the foregoing conditions respecting provision and maintenance of standby facilities by Arcade County Water District have been agreed to, the Commission, by supplemental order, will fix the effective date of this order. Otherwise, the complaint will be dismissed at the expiration of said thirty-day period.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 11<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUST, 1964.

Frederick B. Holbrook  
President  
George T. Traver

Commissioner William M. Bennett, being necessarily absent, the not Commissioners in-  
disposition of this proceeding.