

Decision No. 67820

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY for an order amending Rule 86.9 of General Order No. 95 to permit the use of plastic guy guards.

) Application No. 46741
) (Filed June 18, 1964)

In the matter of the application of PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY for an order authorizing it to deviate from certain provisions of Rule No. 56.9 of General Order No. 95, so as to permit the use of plastic anchor guy guards.

) Application No. 46824
) (Filed July 20, 1964)

(Electric)

O P I N I O N

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company (PT&T) in Application No. 46741 requests an order amending Rule 86.9 of the Commission's General Order No. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction", to permit the use of plastic guards for anchor guys; also, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) in Application No. 46824 requests an order authorizing it to deviate from the provisions of Rule No. 56.9 of General Order No. 95 to permit the use of plastic anchor guy guards.

Present Rule 56.9 and Rule 86.9 pertaining to protection of anchor guys for supply lines and communication lines, respectively, require that a substantial wood guard (preferably painted white) or metal guard shall be securely attached to each anchor guy which is exposed to traffic.

The plastic guard which both applicants propose to utilize is similar in form to the galvanized steel guards currently in use and is said to be an improvement in several respects over steel guards. Being flexible, it will spring back into shape if bent, and, if torn, will not leave sharp jagged edges. It has also demonstrated

good weathering properties and high impact resistance over a wide range of temperatures. Applicants state that the proposed plastic guard is lighter, easier to handle in storing and installing, and therefore offers a safety advantage to employees. Specifications covering the engineering requirements for the proposed guard are attached to Application No. 46741 as Exhibit B.

Following an extensive staff study in 1955, by Resolution No. E-902, General Telephone Company of California was authorized to deviate from the requirements of Rule 86.9 of General Order No. 95 to use plastic guy guards. The Commission has been informed that this utility's experience with plastic guy guards has been very satisfactory.

California Interstate Telephone Company, by Resolution No. E-1118, dated August 14, 1962, was granted authority for a similar deviation. The Commission has been informed that this utility's experience with plastic guy guards has also been very satisfactory.

PG&E states that for sometime they have been evaluating various plastic anchor guy guards and that technical advances in the plastic industry have resulted in the development of plastic guards which are superior in some properties to metal guards; also, they are now priced approximately \$1.00 per guard lower than comparable metal guards.

By this Commission's Resolution No. E-1160, dated April 21, 1964, PT&T was authorized to deviate from the requirements of Rule 86.9, General Order No. 95, to the extent of using guy guards made of high density ethylene copolymer plastic on anchor guys required to have guards of wood or metal. This deviation was granted contingent upon PT&T filing an application to amend the provision of General Order No. 95 to include the use of plastic guy guards by any or all utilities in California.

After investigation the Commission finds that plastic materials are suitable and adequate for use as guy guards; that certain economies are afforded by their use; that safety standards are not reduced, and that General Order No. 95 should be modified to provide for the use of plastic guy guards statewide by all utilities. A public hearing is not necessary. The order which will issue herein will satisfy the requests contained in both Applications Nos. 46741 and 46824.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Rule 56.9 and Rule 86.9 of this Commission's General Order No. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction" be and it is hereby modified to read as follows:

"56.9 Protection

A substantial wood guard (preferably painted white), or metal guard, or a plastic guard of suitable materials, not less than 8 feet in length, shall be securely attached to each anchor guy which is exposed to traffic. Such a guard will not be required where the anchor rod is 1-1/4 inches or greater in diameter, has an overall length above the ground of not less than 8 feet, and extends to a height of not less than 6 feet vertically above ground."

"86.9 Protection

A substantial wood guard (preferably painted white), or metal guard, or a plastic guard of suitable materials, not less than 8 feet in length, shall be securely attached to each anchor guy which is exposed to traffic. Such a guard will not be required where the anchor rod is 1-1/4 inches or greater in diameter, has an overall length above ground of not less than 8 feet and extends to a height of not less than 6 feet vertically above ground."

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Secretary shall cause a copy of this order to be served upon each electric and telephone utility subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission and, further, to cause a suitable number of copies to be made available for distribution to such other utilities and the general public as may request

the same.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this
15th day of SEPTEMBER, 1964.

Frederick B. Hallock
President
[Signature]
George W. Page

Commissioners

Commissioner George G. Grover, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

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