

SW

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 78204

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY for Authority: (a) to Increase Its Gas Rates to Offset Higher Costs Occasioned by an Increase in the Rates of the Suppliers of Out-of-State Gas to the Pacific Lighting Utility System, (b) to Continue the Advice Letter Procedure for Tracking Increases in Purchased Gas Cost Based on Federal Power Commission Dockets Nos. RP70-11 and RP70-19, and (c) for a General Increase in Its Gas Rates.

Application No. 51567
(Filed December 19, 1969)

In the Matter of the Application of SOUTHERN COUNTIES GAS COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA for Authority: (a) to Increase Its Gas Rates to Offset Higher Costs Occasioned by an Increase in the Rates of Suppliers of Out-of-State Gas to the Pacific Lighting Utility System, (b) to Continue the Advice Letter Procedure for Tracking Increases in Purchased Gas Cost Based on Federal Power Commission Dockets Nos. RP70-11 and RP70-19, and (c) for a General Increase in Its Gas Rates.

Application No. 51568
(Filed December 19, 1969)

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

By its petitions filed on August 28, 1970 (August Petitions) and by its petition filed on November 30, 1970 (November Petition), Southern California Gas Company (SoCal), as the surviving corporate party to its merger with Southern Counties Gas Company of California, seeks modifications of the

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orders in Decisions Nos. 77100 and 77101 issued April 14, 1970 (the Phase I decisions) in the above-entitled matters. The August Petitions arise from a so-called basic gas cost increase to SoCal filed by Transwestern Pipeline Company (Transwestern) in FPC Docket No. RP71-1 and the November Petition arises primarily from a time extension beyond December 31, 1970, for filing tracking rate increases by El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) in FPC Dockets Nos. RP70-11 and RP71-13 and by Transwestern in FPC Docket No. RP70-19.

Prefaced by observing on the one hand that the petitions were timely filed and on the other that frequent changes, both increases and decreases, recently in out-of-state gas costs have made practicable a temporary deferment of rate changes by SoCal (Resolution No. G-1505, dated December 8, 1970; Advice Letter No. 812), this supplemental order is issued for the following purposes:

(a) To point out that appropriate treatment of the modification sought by SoCal in the August Petitions, but not the modification sought in the November Petition, falls within the scope of Application No. 52358, which SoCal filed December 18, 1970.

(b) To provide authority for SoCal to offset tracking rate increases filed by El Paso and Transwestern on or after January 1, 1971, which become effective on or before March 31, 1971, or on or before the effective date of pertinent further order herein, whichever is later.

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(c) To consolidate for hearing with Application No. 52358 the November Petition to the extent it relates to offsetting possible tracking rate increases occurring during the last three-quarters of 1971.

Good cause appearing, therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The time limitation of December 31, 1970, as one of the requirements to be met, in employing the Advice Letter Procedure established in Decisions Nos. 77100 and 77101, is extended to include tracking rate increases filed by El Paso in FPC Docket No. RP70-11 and by Transwestern in FPC Docket No. RP70-19, which become effective on or before March 31, 1971, or on or before the effective date of pertinent further order herein, whichever is later.

2. The "Petition of Southern California Gas Company for Modification of Orders Contained in Decisions Nos. 77100 and 77101", filed November 30, 1970, is, to the extent it relates to possible tracking rate increases by El Paso and Transwestern, which become effective after March 31, 1971, consolidated for hearing with Application No. 52358.

3. Notice is hereby given that the hearing in the thus consolidated proceedings will be held, as set originally for Application No. 52358, before Commissioner Vukasin and

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Examiner Main on Monday, February 1, 1971, at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission Courtroom, State Office Building, 107 South Broadway, Los Angeles, California, at which time and place all interested parties may appear and be heard.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California,
this 19th day of JANUARY, 1971.

Chairman
William J. ...
John ...
Thomas L. Sturgeon

Commissioners

Commissioner J. P. Vukasin, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.