

Decision No. 78305

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the
Application of
SOUTHWEST GAS CORPORATION
For Authority to Increase
Natural Gas Rates in San
Bernardino County, California.

Application No. 51529
(Petition filed on
December 30, 1970
for Modification of
Decision No. 77448)

OPINION AND ORDER

By the above referred to petition, Southwest Gas Corporation, applicant, requests an order modifying Decision No. 77448 in Application No. 51529 by extending the time through December 31, 1971, for the filing of revised tariff schedules reflecting tracking increases required to offset the effect of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Schedule No. G-62 rate increase filings.

Ordering paragraph 2.a. of Decision No. 77448, provides:

"Applicant is also authorized to file with this Commission such revised tariff schedules with changes in rates, charges and conditions as result through applicant's accomplishing, by filing under an advice letter procedure, tracking increases to offset the effect of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Schedule G-62 rate increase filings between May 18, 1970 and December 31, 1970, as a result of increases under FPC Docket No. 70-11."

The petitioner alleges that pursuant to said ordering paragraph and in accordance with the prescribed advice letter procedure, it has from time to time, made revised tariff schedule filings with the Commission reflecting, in part, the nature and effect of tracking filings made by Pacific Gas and Electric Company as a result of rate increases flowing from FPC Docket No. RP 70-11; that on October 30, 1970, the Federal Power Commission issued an Order Amending Prior Orders Authorizing Tracking Rate Filings in RP 70-11, therein providing: "that the tracking period in RP 70-11 (may) be extended through March 30, 1971, one day prior to the date that El Paso's increased rates may be placed in effect, after suspension, in Docket No. RP 71-13."; that on October 30, 1970, the Federal Power Commission also issued an Order Permitting Tracking of Purchased Gas Increases in Docket No. RP 71-13, therein permitting "El Paso to recover increased purchased gas costs which may be incurred after March 31, 1971" by allowing El Paso to track supplier rate changes through December 31, 1971"; that by reason of the foregoing, Pacific Gas and Electric Company has filed a petition with the Commission wherein it requests that the Commission modify a portion of its order in Decision No. 77102 (as amended by Decision No. 77131) to permit Pacific Gas and Electric Company to extend its "existing authorization to track certain increases in its cost of natural gas purchased from El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) through December 31, 1971"; and that in the petition Pacific Gas and Electric Company stated that it "requests no increase in the maximum amount of the tracking increase authorized by the Commission in Decision No. 77102, and it has indicated that the rate spread therein established "would continue in effect without change of any kind".

The petitioner further alleges that ordering paragraph 2(a) of Decision No. 77448, in effect, authorized it to offset tracking increases granted to Pacific Gas and Electric Company; that Pacific Gas and Electric Company has petitioned the Commission to modify the order of Decision No. 77102 to extend the expiration date of the tracking authorization therein enunciated from December 31, 1970 to December 31, 1971; and that by reason of the foregoing, petitioner requests modification of Decision No. 77448 to extend petitioner's authority to file tracking increases to offset the effect of Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Schedule No. G-62 rate increase filings from the present expiration date of December 31, 1970 to an expiration date of December 31, 1971.

The staff has reviewed the petition and advised the Commission it should be granted.

We find that the petition should be granted, and a public hearing is not necessary. Accordingly,

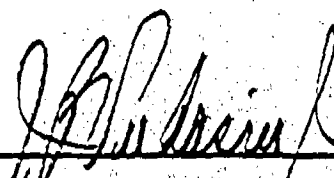
IT IS ORDERED that ordering paragraph 2.a. on page 16 of Decision No. 77448 is amended to read as follows:

"Applicant is also authorized to file with this Commission such revised tariff schedules with changes in rates, charges and conditions as result through applicant's accomplishing, by filings

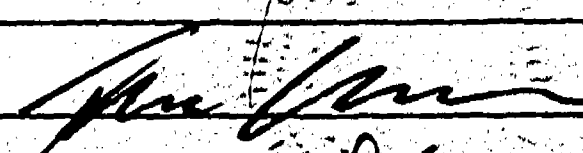
"under an advice letter procedure, tracking increases to offset the effect of Pacific Gas and Electric Company Schedule G-62 rate increase filings between May 18, 1970 and December 31, 1971, as a result of increases under FPC Docket No. RP 70-11."

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

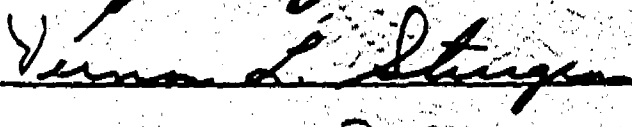
Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of
FEBRUARY, 1971.



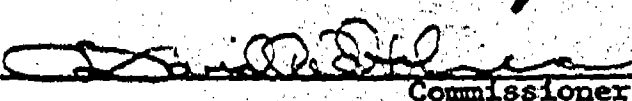
Chairman



Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioners

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