

Decision No. ~~78516~~

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the PACIFIC POWER AND LIGHT COMPANY for an order amending General Order No. 95 "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction" with respect to Rule No. 22.2.

Application No. 50857 (Filed February 4, 1969)

O P I N I O N

Pacific Power and Light Company requests an order amending and revising the Commission's General Order No. 95 in such manner as will permit the use of U-Shape Polyvinyl Chloride (PVC) Moulding as a "suitable protective covering" for ground wire runs on the surface of wood pole and structures required by Rule 54.6B.

Rule 22.2, at present provides that:

"Hardwood moulding (oak or rock elm) three eighths of an inch in thickness ... (or) Douglas Fir moulding 1/2-inch in thickness shall be considered as ... suitable protection of ground ... wires."

In recent years, as improvements have been made in the synthesis and fabrication of plastic material, the Commission has authorized the use of the proposed plastic material in overhead electric system as protective covering. By Decision No. 73455, dated January 6, 1968, the Commission amended Rules 22.2 and 54.6. The effect of those amendments, as related to supply lines, was to allow the use of U-shaped PVC moulding as a suitable protective covering for vertical runs.

The applicant states that:

a. The proposed U-shaped moulding will adequately and sufficiently cover and retain the ground lead wire within the moulding and is more economically and conveniently installed by means of staples and its sections are easily joined by overlapping joints.

b. The size of the moulding and the high impact resistance of the PVC material permits the use of a ground wire run that is smaller in diameter and is less susceptible to puncture than other approved materials.

c. The design and material composition of the plastic moulding together with its mode of attachment provide a degree of safety for workmen and the public equal or superior to presently approved protective coverings.

d. The proposed moulding has been used in applicant's overhead system in other states than California for at least two winter seasons under weather conditions of temperatures to below -30° Fahrenheit at elevations exceeding 9,000 feet and has proven to be highly acceptable, and therefore desires to standardize its use throughout its system.

Applicant forwarded copies of its application to major electric and communication utilities and the IBEW Union Local 1245. Substantially, all the utilities and the IBEW by reply letters concur in the suitability of plastic as a protective covering in accordance with applicant's proposed modification. Copies of said letters from applicant and the replies are made a part of the record herein.

In view of the evidence presented the Commission concludes that the application herein should be granted and that a public hearing is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the Commission's General Order No. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction", is hereby amended to the extent set forth in Appendix A attached hereto.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Secretary shall cause a copy of this order and its Appendix A to be served upon each electric and telephone utility subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission, the State Division of Industrial Safety, and further, to cause a suitable number of copies to be made available for distribution to such other agencies furnishing utility service 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 2nd day of APRIL, 1971.

[Signature]
Chairman
William J. Lyons

Vernon L. Sturgeon

Commissioners

Commissioner Thomas Moran, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Commissioner D. W. Holmes, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

APPENDIX A

The rules of General Order No. 95 are amended as set forth below:

1. Add the following Rule 22.2-E:

E. RIGID U-SHAPED GROUND WIRE MOULDING made of polyvinyl chloride having the properties specified as Class 14333-D in ASTM Standard D1784-69. The plastic moulding herein specified shall be installed only outside the climbing space on the surface of wood poles or structures and shall have dimensions as shown in Figure 81-A of Appendix G, and shall effectively contain and entrap the ground wire. Moulding shall be marked with wire size (e.g., AWG 6) at intervals of not more than four feet.

2. Add Figure 81-A to Appendix G of the General Order to appear as follows:

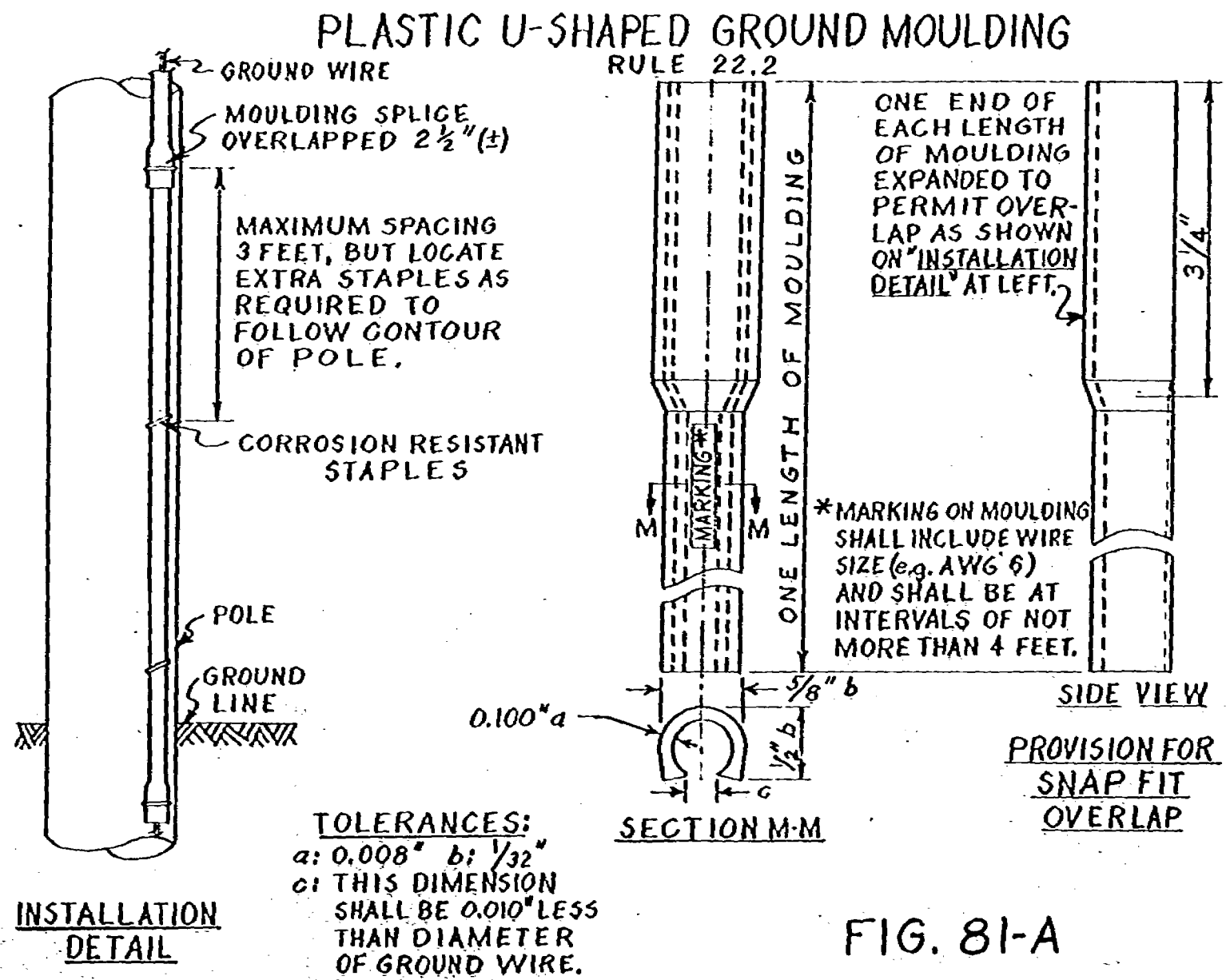


FIG. 81-A