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ORIGINAL

Decision No. 79383

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY for authority to revise its tariff for natural gas service to offset increases in expense caused by increases in the price of natural gas from the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

Application No. 52335

(Gas)

ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR
MODIFICATION OF DECISION NO. 78468

By Decision No. 77102, dated April 14, 1970 (Application No. 51686), the Commission, among other things, authorized Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to file limited rate increases subject to refund in order to offset the effect of tracking increases filed by El Paso Natural Gas Company (El Paso) with the Federal Power Commission (FPC) in FPC Docket No. RP70-11. The FPC authorized El Paso to file such increases through December 31, 1970.

By Decision No. 78286, dated February 9, 1971 (Application No. 51686), the Commission extended PG&E's tracking authorization to March 31, 1971, and in Decision No. 78468, dated March 23, 1971 (Application No. 52335), the Commission, among other things, further extended PG&E's tracking authorization to December 31, 1971, and increased the originally authorized limit of .84 cent per Mcf by an additional .20 cent per Mcf. These authorizations matched those granted El Paso by the FPC in Docket Nos. RP70-11 and RP71-13.

Of the maximum tracking increases authorized for PG&E during 1971, .12 cent per Mcf remains unused. Under the petition involved herein, PG&E requests that the tracking increase authorization be extended through December 31, 1972, and that the existing limitation on tracking increase authorization be deleted.

The extension of time and deletion of limitation is requested as a result of the FPC's having granted on July 30, 1971, in FPC Docket

No. RP71-13 a new authorization to El Paso extending its tracking increase authority through the end of 1972 and deleting the tracking increase limitation.

The Commission finds that the requested modification is reasonable and concludes that it should be granted. No protest have been filed. A public hearing is not necessary.

The increases in rates herein authorized will not increase applicant's level of earnings but will merely offset increases in cost of purchased gas. Such increases are, in our opinion, consistent with the purposes of the Economic Stabilization Act of 1970, as amended. Applicant is expected to comply with the requirements of the Price Commission's regulations relating to the stabilization of prices and rents after November 13, 1971.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Paragraph 3.c.(a) of Decision No. 78468, pertaining to adjustments in Pacific Gas and Electric Company's rates occasioned by rate changes filed by El Paso Natural Gas Company on or before December 31, 1972, is modified to provide that the time for such adjustments is extended through December 31, 1972, and to delete the existing limitation on tracking increase authority.

2. In all other respects, Decision No. 78468 remains in full force and effect. ✓

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 23rd day of NOVEMBER, 1971.

William J. ... Chairman
[Signature]
Vernon L. ...
[Signature]
Commissioners