

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 79421

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of Southern California Edison Company, a Corporation, for Special Ruling Waiving the Requirements of Section B3 of Applicant's Rule No. 15.2 Relating to Underground Extensions within New Commercial and Industrial Developments.

Application No. 52822
(Filed August 24, 1971)

OPINION AND ORDER

Southern California Edison Company requests a special ruling waiving the mandatory undergrounding provisions of Section B3 of their Rule 15.2, Underground Extensions within New Commercial and Industrial Developments, to allow the applicant to provide overhead electric service to within 200 feet of the commercial development located adjacent to the Colorado River, approximately 35 miles south of the City of Blythe in Imperial County, California.

The applicant received a request for electric service from the customer, Colorado River Recreation Park, Inc., for the above commercial development which consists of a trailer park and a commercial area which includes a service station, a cafe-general store, a boat shop, a pump, and camping area. In order to provide service the nearest existing distribution line must be extended approximately 1½ miles within the former water course of the Colorado River where the water table ranges from 2 to 5 feet and the ground consists of varying types of unstable and alkaline soil.

As provided in Section B3 of Rule No. 15.2, any required extension to the development must be made underground.

The applicant states that the soil conditions and high water table of the area prohibit conventional trenching for underground construction and due to swampy conditions within portions of the area use of plow in equipment is impossible. In addition, the area is subject to washouts resulting from frequent flash floods. Such washouts and the corrosive effect of the highly alkaline soil would jeopardize the reliability of underground service.

The applicant states that it would not be feasible to install the underground cable along the access roads to the park because they are merely graded, graveled trails and subject to relocation by flash floods or development by any of the property owners. The proposed route is the only one acceptable to the property owner north of the development.

The customer has requested that the electric line extension to the development be installed overhead. The Imperial County Board of Supervisors has indicated that it has no objections to the construction of the overhead extension, and the county has no ordinance requiring the undergrounding of utility facilities.

The remaining 200 feet of electric distribution line leading to the development as well as all of the electric distribution facilities within the development will be placed underground. The portion requested to be placed overhead is subject to unusually severe conditions.

The Commission having considered the above-entitled application and being of the opinion and finding that the application should be granted and that a public hearing thereon is not necessary, therefore,

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IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern California Edison Company is hereby authorized to deviate from its tariff rules with respect to mandatory undergrounding in order to serve within 200 feet from the boundary of the commercial development by means of overhead facilities.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th day of NOVEMBER, 1971.

[Signature]
Chairman
William J. Quinn
[Signature]
James L. Stinson
[Signature]
Commissioners