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ORIGINAL

Decision No. 86226

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Annis La Verne King,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Gas Company,

Defendant.

Case No. 9316

(Filed January 13, 1972)

Annis La Verne King, in propria persona,
and Raymond T. Weaver, for complainant.
K. R. Edsall, Frederick Peasley, Rufus W.
McKinney and Israel Butler, by Israel
Butler, Attorney at Law, for defendant.

O P I N I O N

Complainant complains that her bills for gas service were too high during the winter of 1970-1971, and requests an adjustment in her bill. Public hearing was held on May 24, 1972, in Los Angeles before Examiner Robert Barnett.

Essentially, complainant's evidence consisted of her gas bills which did show an unusually high amount of gas consumption in December 1970 and January 1971. Complainant stated that her manner of using gas during that period was no different from her gas usage at other times. A list of her gas bills for

the period November 1969 through March 1971 is as follows:

<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Amount</u>
11-7-69	\$ 9.85	8-11-70	\$ 8.25
12-10-69	19.50	9-10-70	9.41
1-12-70	42.25	10-9-70	10.66
2-10-70	42.41	11-9-70	22.95
3-12-70	45.74	12-10-70	54.44
4-10-70	36.62	1-12-71	88.73
5-12-70	38.07	2-10-71	33.81
6-10-70	20.90	3-12-71	16.80
7-10-70	21.00		

A witness for defendant testified that early in 1971 complainant complained to defendant about excessive gas bills and, in response to that complaint, defendant tested the gas meter on the premises. The test showed that the meter was in good working order and registering accurately. After the complaint was filed, defendant removed the meter and tested it again. This test also showed that the meter was in good condition. The witness agreed that the meter readings for December 1970 and January 1971 appeared high, but explained that that winter was one of the coldest winters in recent years. During the period December 10 through January 12, the number of degree days were 398, substantially more than in November 1970 or February 1971.

The Commission finds that during the billing period in question, complainant's meter was operating properly and that the cause of the high bills was primarily due to cold weather. The Commission concludes that relief should be denied.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the complaint is dismissed.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California,
this 11th day of JULY, 1972.

President
William J. Sturgeon

Vernon L. Sturgeon

John J. Sturgeon

Commissioners

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.