

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 8C327

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of PACIFIC GAS AND  
ELECTRIC COMPANY for authorization  
to discontinue the operations of its  
Trinity Center Generating Plant,  
Trinity County.  
(Electric)

} Application No. 53226  
} (Filed March 23, 1972;  
} Amended May 18, 1972)

OPINION AND ORDER

Pacific Gas and Electric Company seeks authority to discontinue the maintenance and operation of its Trinity Center Standby Generating Plant, located in Trinity County, California. Incorporated by amendment to this application is Exhibit C, a certified letter containing an excerpt from the minutes of the April 11, 1972, meeting of the Trinity Center Community Services District in which the members voted that Pacific Gas and Electric Company may remove the emergency generators located in Trinity Center.

On November 12, 1964, Pacific Power & Light Company (PP&L) and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) jointly filed Application No. 47109 before this Commission, seeking authority to carry out the terms and conditions of an agreement by which the former agreed to sell to the latter certain electric facilities in and near the community of Trinity Center. A standby generating plant consisting of one 100, two 75, and one 50-horsepower units was excluded from the sale of the facilities and was to be removed and disposed of by PP&L.

At the public hearing on A-47109 held February 17, 1965, it was learned that many customers in the nearby area opposed removal of the standby generating plant. In Decision No. 69028, effective May 31, 1965, it was therefore ordered that Pacific Gas and Electric Company should continue the operation of the Trinity Center diesel plant and should station a capable employee within the Trinity Center area from November 1 through January 31 of each year to operate and

maintain the plant. It was further ordered that Pacific Gas and Electric Company should not discontinue the operation and maintenance of the Trinity Center diesel plant except upon authorization by this Commission. PGandE agreed to provide PP&L an appropriate and reasonable rental charge for PGandE's use of the plant.

PGandE first supplied service to Trinity Center in 1965 by extending an overhead 12-kv line a distance of 31.5 miles from Lewiston Substation. During the first three winters of operation, a total of 296 hours of operation of the standby generators was required as a result of outages caused by prevailing weather and tree conditions.

To improve reliability, a 14.73-mile underground line section was installed in 1968 to provide an alternate feed around a 20-mile section of the overhead line where most line faults had occurred. During the four winter seasons (through February, 1972) since this underground line has been installed, the standby generators have been required on only one occasion, for a total of 25 hours. The generators have not been required since that occasion. Service reliability in this area is expected to continue to improve as a result of continuing line reconstruction and tree-trimming programs. Exhibit A to the application summarizes hours of generator use since 1965.

Since it appears that Pacific Gas and Electric Company has achieved sufficient reliability on its Trinity Center System to justify removal of the standby generators and since the maintenance and operation of this plant is costly, the Commission finds that

public convenience and necessity no longer require the operation and maintenance by Pacific Gas and Electric Company of the Trinity Center Standby Generating Plant and concludes that the application should be granted. A public hearing is not necessary.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is authorized to discontinue the maintenance and operation of the Trinity Center Standby Generating Plant.
2. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is authorized to discontinue the assignment of an employee to operate and maintain this plant during the winter season.
3. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is authorized to discontinue payment of rent for the standby generating facilities and to return same to the Pacific Power & Light Company for its disposition.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 15<sup>th</sup> day of AUGUS, 1972.

James L. Sturgeon  
President  
William J. ...  
...  
...  
Commissioners