

Decision No. 80736**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's own motion into the Rules Pertaining to Underground Extensions to Commercial and Industrial Developments and to Individual Customers of all Electric and Communication Public Utilities in the State of California. Investigation on the Commission's own motion into Mandatory Requirements for Underground Extensions.

Case No. 8993

ORDER REOPENING INVESTIGATION

Decision No. 77187, dated May 5, 1970, made undergrounding of electric and telephone extensions in new residential subdivisions, as specified in the decision, mandatory unless a deviation from such mandatory requirement is authorized by the Commission.

Subsequently, there have been many inquiries concerning the circumstances under which deviations from the mandatory rules would be authorized. Pursuant to requests for deviations, the Commission has by resolutions and decisions authorized some deviations from the mandatory rule and denied others. Letters from the Commission to the electric utilities have dealt with "lot split" developments and subdivisions for which no agreement was entered into for electric service prior to May 5, 1972.

In considering the requests for deviations from the mandatory rule the Commission has variously considered, among other things, the following criteria:

(1) type of application for electric service i.e., to an individual or to the entire development; (2) type of development i.e., "lot split," "lot split" with coordinated development, or subdivision within the meaning of other statewide or local laws; (3) existence or proposed development of other improvements e.g., buildings, roads, sewers, water lines, etc.; (4) lot or parcel size; (5) existence of other nearby overhead lines; (6) proximity to public view or scenic highways or other scenic areas; (7) cost of undergrounding as affected by nature of terrain or length of extensions; and (8) local requirements.

The Commission wishes to reaffirm its policy with respect to mandatory undergrounding in new residential subdivisions. However, the Commission also believes that it is desirable to consider at this time the criteria and factors that might warrant deviations from the mandatory underground requirements in new residential subdivisions. Such consideration could lead to the establishment of guidelines or rules or tariff changes that would more clearly apprise all parties of the circumstances under which deviations from the mandatory undergrounding rules would be authorized. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that Case No. 8993 is reopened for the purpose of considering the application of the mandatory underground rules for electric and telephone extensions to and within new residential subdivisions.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that respondent electric utilities Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas and Electric Company, and Southern California Edison Company present proposals in the reopened proceedings for criteria for the application of the affected mandatory undergrounding rules.

All other interested parties are also invited to submit such proposals for the Commission's consideration.

Hearings in this reopened proceeding will be before such Commissioner or examiner and at such time and place as may hereafter be designated.

The Secretary is directed to serve copies of this order upon all parties in Case No. 8993 and to mail notices of hearing at least ten (10) days prior to the date of hearing.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 14th day of NOVEMBER, 1972.

Vernon L. Sturgeon
President
William J. ...
J. B. ...
Alan ...
...
Commissioners