

ORIGINALDecision No. 82358

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's
Own Motion into the Adequacy and
Reliability of the Energy and Fuel
Requirements and Supply of the
Electric Public Utilities in the
State of California.

Case No. 9581

THIRD INTERIM ORDER

On November 13, 1973 by Decision No. 82139, this Commission ordered respondent electric utilities to proceed forthwith with a program of voluntary conservation and curtailment to achieve a reduction of 10 percent in the use of electric power. Hearings commencing November 29, 1973 and further developments led the Commission to the conclusion that mandatory curtailment of certain end uses of electricity was necessary to protect the public health, safety, comfort, and convenience. The Commission, therefore, on January 3, 1974 issued Decision No. 82305 ordering mandatory curtailment of specific customer groups to achieve a minimum of 15 percent reduction of electric usage.

On January 14 and 15, 1974, the California Electric Sign Association and the California State Outdoor Advertising Association presented uncontroverted evidence substantiating their claim that the mandatory curtailment of usage ordered in Decision No. 82305 was discriminatory to their industries especially in light of the city of Los Angeles' ordinance authorizing these industries to operate until 10:30 p.m. The record shows that the savings of electricity for billboard lighting with a 10:30 p.m. turnoff is approximately 33 percent of usage. In order to achieve statewide uniformity and to achieve fair and reasonable treatment for this industry, the Commission is of the opinion that Decision No. 82305 should be amended.

The amendment which we now make should not be construed as indicating any change in our views of the need for consumers to conserve electric energy. We reaffirm the importance of compliance by every citizen with the voluntary curtailment program if we are to avoid the need for additional mandatory curtailments which could have significant adverse impacts upon the economy of California.

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that paragraph (a)(2) of Appendix A as set forth in Decision No. 82305 is amended to read as follows:

- (2) Notwithstanding the provisions of subsection (a)(1) hereof, each business establishment may operate its window and display lighting and illuminate one outdoor sign between the hours of sunset and one-half hour after closing or 10:30 p.m., whichever is later, and each billboard may be illuminated between the hours of sunset and 10:30 p.m. local time.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the filing date for tariffs required under Decision No. 82305 is extended until January 30, 1974.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 11th day of JANUARY, 1974.

Vernon L. Sturgeon
President
William Symons Jr.

Thomas M. Mason
Commissioners

Commissioner J. P. Vukasin, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Commissioner D. W. Holmes, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.