

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 82368

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Robert Ramos,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Edison Company,  
a California corporation.

Defendant.

Case No. 9554  
(Filed May 7, 1973)

Robert Ramos, for himself, complainant.  
Woodbury, Cahall, & Elston, by William T. Elston, Attorney at Law, for Southern California Edison Company, defendant.

O P I N I O N

Complainant Robert Ramos seeks an order requiring defendant, Southern California Edison Company (Edison), to bill his six-unit house on the same tariff schedule as his single-family domestic residence.

Public hearing was held before Examiner Johnson at Redlands on October 29, 1973 and the matter was submitted on November 20, 1973 upon receipt of the transcript.

Complainant's Position

Complainant testifying on his own behalf made the following statements:

1. The residence in question is a two-story building with three living quarters on each of the two floors and is occupied by six single elderly women.
2. Each of the living quarters has its own kitchen or kitchen facility.

3. The electric bill for the approximately 2,000 square foot, six-unit structure was \$49.60 for 977 kilowatt hours of electric energy for the period February 6, 1973 to March 27, 1973, whereas the electric bill for his own 1,800 square foot residence was \$31.60 for the consumption of 1,057 kilowatt hours of energy.

4. The six women live more or less as a family and inasmuch as Edison provides no additional service at the six-unit residence than at any single residence, complainant believes the same rate should apply in both instances.

#### Defendant's Position

Defendant presented testimony and three exhibits through a district budget and service manager and a senior rate specialist. This testimony indicated that:

1. A field check revealed that the premises in question were occupied by six unrelated individuals.

2. The structure was a multifamily accommodation as defined by Edison's Rule No. 1.

3. All prior owners of these premises since its subdivision were billed on the general service schedule.

4. The multifamily domestic rate modifies the single-family domestic rate by multiplying the kilowatt-hours blockings but not the customer charge by the number of single-family accommodations on the meter.

5. Complainant's premises did not qualify for the multifamily rate at the time he applied for service but, based on complainant's testimony, would appear to qualify at the time of the hearing.

#### Discussion

Exhibit 2 "Definitions" defines a single-family dwelling as a residential unit that is used as a residence by a single-family, and a multifamily accommodation as a group of single-family accommodations located on a single premise. The record is clear that the premises in question consist of six individual units

occupied by six unrelated individuals and, therefore, cannot be considered as a single-family accommodation eligible for billing on the regular domestic service schedule applicable only for domestic service to a single-family accommodation.

Complainant alleges that the six individual residents occupying his premises are not unlike a single family and the electric billings should reflect this similarity by the application of the same rate as for a single-family accommodation. It would appear, however, that the electrical usage patterns of six individual units equipped with cooking facilities and occupied by unrelated individuals would more nearly approximate six single-family dwellings, with the only primary difference being one electrical meter rather than six. The similarity of usage patterns and the savings in meter reading and billing costs associated with a single meter form the basis of the design of the multifamily schedule which multiplies the energy blocks but not customer charge by the number of individual units on a single meter. The schedule is made optional to the general service schedule to provide for those circumstances when such billings will be to the customers' advantage.

Complainant has the option of having his six-unit multifamily billed on the general service schedule or on the multifamily schedule with a multiplier of six. At the electrical energy consumption recorded at these premises the differential in billing is essentially negligible with the general service rate being lower during months of relatively high consumption and the multifamily rate being lower during months of relatively low consumption.

Findings

1. The premises in question consist of six individual units occupied by six unrelated individuals.
2. Complainant has the option of having these premises billed on the multifamily accommodation schedule with a multiplier of six

or on the general service schedule but is ineligible for billing in the single-family domestic service schedule.

3. Complainant is being properly billed in accordance with Edison's applicable tariff schedules.


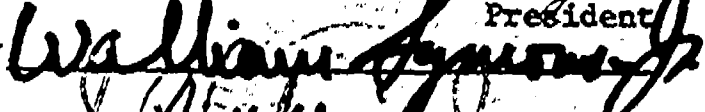

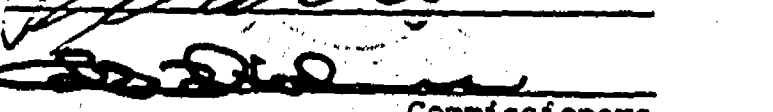
The Commission concludes that the relief requested should be denied.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the relief requested is denied.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22<sup>nd</sup> day of JANUARY, 1974.

  
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President  
  
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Commissioners