

Decision No. 83653**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of ROBERT C. SMITH on
behalf of property owners of Valley
View Subdivision in Shasta County,
for authority to deviate from
provisions of rule providing for
undergrounding of electric line
extensions.

Application No. 55128
(Filed August 22, 1974)

O P I N I O N

This application was filed by Robert C. Smith and joined by eleven other property owners in Valley View Subdivision, located in Shasta County 22 miles east of Redding. The applicants and the lots they control are listed below:

1. Philip and Carmen Donia - Lots 1 through 6
2. Robert C. Smith - Lots 9 through 24
3. Dorothy V. Pfitzner - Lot 25
4. Gene and Renati E. Crocker - Lots 28, 37, and 42
5. Earl and Mary Hoey - Lots 32 and 55
6. John A. Anzalone - Lot 39
7. Thomas and Josephine Naughton - Lot 40
8. Wesley R. and Rachel B. Chown - Lot 45
9. Delfino and Florence Masino - Lots 48 through 50
10. Jack and Jeannine L. Brewen - Lot 51
11. Harold and Mollie D. Simon - Lot 52
12. Richard A. and Judith Demsky - Lot 56

The applicants hold 36 of the 56 parcels in the subdivision.

The lots range in size from 5.0 to 2.5 acres. A separate application (No. 54767) was filed on April 1, 1974 by the owner of two additional lots. A hearing was held on the latter application and evidence placed in the record to illustrate the type of terrain found in the subdivision. Applicants are requesting that

they be authorized to place all electric lines on power poles, rather than underground as required by the line extension rules of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E).

It is alleged that the terrain is forested, mountainous, and rocky, with frequent large boulders. The application includes an attached letter from a contractor who refused to estimate the cost of excavation through solid rock. It was inferred that equipment will have frequent breakdowns in this type of terrain and that blasting will be necessary, causing further delay and expense. It is further alleged that the Shasta County Planning Commission has no objection to the installation of overhead lines and that PG&E will install the overhead lines if the authority to deviate is granted.

It is evident that the undergrounding of electric lines in Valley View would impose a hardship on the landowners, excavator, and utility. Some of the lot owners have not joined in this application, but we can assume under the circumstances that no one is likely to protest the deviation.

The application was listed on the Commission's Daily Calendar. No protests to the granting of the application have been received.

The Commission finds that:

1. The application of the mandatory requirements of Rule 15.1 of the tariff of PG&E to Valley View Subdivision in Shasta County is impractical and unwarranted.

2. Overhead lines would be virtually unnoticed because of the many trees and bushes on the property.

3. It is reasonably certain that the project involved in this proceeding will not have a significant effect on the environment.

4. The requested deviation would not be adverse to the public interest.

5. A public hearing is not necessary.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Pacific Gas and Electric Company is authorized and directed to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding provisions of its line extension rules to the extent of providing an overhead electric line extension or extensions in applicants' Valley View Subdivision located 22 miles east of Redding in Shasta County.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th
day of OCTOBER, 1974.

Vernon L. Sturgeon
President
William J. Quinn Jr.
John A. [unclear]
[unclear]
Robert E. McLaughlin
Commissioners