

Decision No. 84620**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of GIUSEPPE & ILDA ARNOLDI }  
to request deviation of underground  
lines.

Application No. 55094  
(Filed August 1, 1974)

O P I N I O N

Giuseppe and Ilda Arnoldi seek a deviation from the mandatory underground provisions of the line extension rules of the Southern California Edison Company (Edison) applicable to new residential subdivisions and developments in connection with applicants' single-family residence on a 10-acre building site on their property on San Marcos Pass Road in Santa Barbara County near the city of Santa Barbara. As San Marcos Pass Road is a scenic highway, Commission authorization is required to construct overhead lines within 1,000 feet thereof.

According to the application, applicants' property consists of approximately 272 acres; the terrain is mountainous with many ravines and is covered with brush and trees; approximately 80 percent of the property could not be used for building; the area is zoned for 40-acre units; applicants do not plan to subdivide their property; there are no underground ordinances for single-family dwellings in this area; the home in issue was constructed in 1948; applicants have had their own water and sewage system on the building site for many years; they have just obtained an overhead easement from the adjoining property owner to cross 300 feet of his property with overhead service; and the General Telephone Company of California (General) will use the facilities constructed by Edison to bring telephone service to their home.

A letter from Edison attached to the application states that the overhead installation could be done very easily; that Edison has a pole line on the other side of the 300-foot easement across the neighboring premises, and applicants' residence is an additional 700 feet from the boundary between the two properties; that three poles would be required; that two of the poles would be hidden from view of the highway, and the other pole, as well as the wire spanning the two ravines to reach it, would have a mountain as a backdrop; and that to underground would be extremely difficult because of the deep ravines and rough terrain which could not be reached with mechanical equipment, and the expense would be substantial.

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 the undergrounding rules of the tariffs of Edison and General to applicants' single-family residence is impractical and unwarranted.
2. Overhead lines would be virtually unnoticed because of the rugged terrain and ground cover.
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:

1. Southern California Edison 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 to applicants' single-family dwelling on a 10-acre building site on their property on San Marcos Pass Road in Santa Barbara County near the city of Santa Barbara.

2. General Telephone Company of California is authorized and directed to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding provisions of its line extension rules to the extent of providing an overhead telephone line extension to applicants' single-family dwelling on a 10-acre building site on their property on San Marcos Pass Road in Santa Barbara County near the city of Santa Barbara.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 28<sup>th</sup>  
day of JANUARY, 1975.

Veron L. Sturgeon  
President  
William Symons, Jr.  
Leonard Ross  
Commissioners