

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 84945

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of FRIENDLY
HILLS FOUNDATION, INC.,
for Authority to Install
Overhead Electric Lines
in San Bernardino County.

Application No. 55729
(Filed June 11, 1975;
amended July 21, 1975
and July 31, 1975)

O P I N I O N

Applicant, Friendly Hills Foundation, Inc., a non-profit California corporation, seeks a deviation from the mandatory undergrounding provisions of the line extension rules of Southern California Edison Company (SCE) applicable to new residential subdivisions and developments, in relation to the extension of service to its parcel of property in San Bernardino County, California described as:

"The West 330 feet of the Northwest one-quarter of Section 35, Township 1 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Meridian, EXCEPT the North 1,056 feet thereof, containing twelve (12) acres more or less."

Applicant proposes to erect and operate a new, non-profit residential development of 32 units, consisting of 15 single occupancy and 8 double occupancy units and a recreation hall, on 8 acres, for the use of elderly people in financial need. Applicant is to receive funds for this limited purpose from a trust heretofore established by a person now deceased.

There will be five or more separately metered domestic accommodations, each unit will be constructed on a parcel of less than three acres. Applicant's project does not qualify for exemption from the underground requirements of Rule 15 C1 of SCE; however, deviation from the rules governing underground extensions within new residential developments may be sought and authorized when application of the rule appears impractical or unjust. (SCE Rule 15.1 E4.)

Applicant alleges that the real property is located in a sparsely populated area in the high desert approximately 8 miles from the United States Post Office in Yucca Valley, California, and is not within any corporate city limits; that there are no structures or dwellings on any of the adjoining land surrounding the property within 2,000 feet of its boundaries; and all utility lines in the immediate area are overhead and none are underground.

The entire parcel contains approximately 12 acres and is 330 feet in an east-west direction by 1,584 feet in a north-south direction. The southwest corner is at the intersection of Sunburst Drive and Sunny Vista Road; the west boundary fronts entirely on Sunny Vista Road; the north boundary is approximately 1,056 feet south of State Highway No. 62, which is listed in Section 263.1 of the Streets and Highways Code as a component of the State Scenic Highway System.

On April 10, 1975 the development of the property by applicant as a single unit was approved by the San Bernardino County Planning Department as not being a subdivision but a social care facility housing project. No development of adjacent or nearby territory by applicant is contemplated and applicant states that it knows of no plans by any other owner to develop nearby land.

The nearest electric line is approximately 670 feet east of the southeast corner of the property. It is proposed to extend this electric line from its present terminus, overhead, along the easterly prolongation of the south boundary to the southeast corner of the property. The estimated cost to install the overhead extension is approximately \$1,000, and the estimated cost of the extension underground is approximately \$12,000.

The proposed overhead lines would be one half mile from and would not be in proximity to or visible from a designated scenic highway, state or national park, or other area determined by a governmental agency to be of unusual scenic interest to the general public. The terrain of the area is such that the line between the terminus of the existing overhead electric line on the easterly prolongation of the south line of applicant's property and the southeast corner of applicant's property is visually obscured from State Highway No. 62, by rising ground, to the extent that the proposed overhead extension onto applicant's property will not be visible from the highway.

The application was listed in the Commission's daily calendar. No protests to the granting of the application have been received. A public hearing is not necessary.

Findings

1. Overhead lines are presently serving the area where applicant's land is situated and an overhead line serving applicant would be visually unnoticed and no more conspicuous, and would have no more environmental impact than the existing line.
2. It is reasonably certain that the project involved in this proceeding will not have a significant effect on the environment.
3. The cost of \$12,000 to install the extension underground in a remote, sparsely populated area, instead of \$1,000 for the overhead extension would create an undue hardship.
4. The application of the mandatory requirement of Rule 15 of SCE would be impractical and unjust.

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

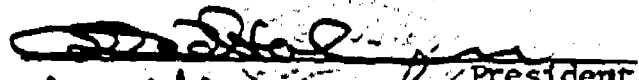
ORDER

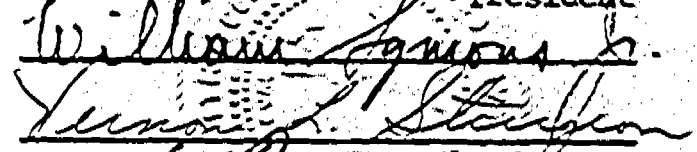
IT IS ORDERED that Southern California Edison Company is authorized and directed to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding provisions of their line extension rules to the extent of providing overhead line extension to applicant's property in San Bernardino County, California, described as:


"The West 330 feet of the Northwest one-quarter of Section 35, Township 1 North, Range 6 East, San Bernardino Meridian, EXCEPT the North 1,056 feet thereof, containing twelve (12) acres more or less."

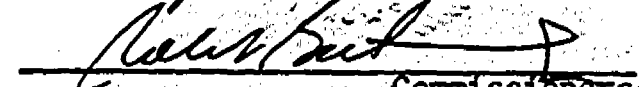
The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th day of SEPTEMBER, 1975.



President






Commissioners