

Decision 84 04 009

APR 4 1984

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ronald W. Carr,

Complainant,

vs.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company,

Defendant.

(ECP)

Case 83-12-09

(Filed December 29, 1983)

Ronald W. Carr, for himself, complainant.
Robert S. West, for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, defendant.

O P I N I O N

This is a complaint by Ronald W. Carr against Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) alleging that his electric bill for May 1983 was excessive due to a malfunctioning meter. PG&E contends that the meter was tested and found to be functioning properly and that the electricity consumed during the period in question was consonant with Carr's past usage.

Carr testified that for May 1983 he was billed for 2,448 kWh of electricity and that it would be impossible to consume that much in a residence of 950 square feet of living space. He stated he believed that the meter was faulty and that when PG&E tested it in his presence the meter continued to turn rapidly even with some breakers switched to the off position. He stated that after a new meter was installed in June 1983 his average monthly usage declined by 278 kWh.

PG&E's representative stated that the 2,448 kWh billing for May resulted from a meter reading error made in March 1983. As a

result of this error, Carr was billed for only 438 kWh (\$23.80) in March instead of the 1,438 kWh actually used. PG&E produced evidence to show that except for the month where the meter was misread, monthly consumption before and after installation of the new meter was uniform.

The PG&E representative stated that a new meter was installed for customer satisfaction even though the old meter was functioning properly. He also stated the Carr account was credited \$8.92 to allow full benefit of the lifeline allowance for the months of March, April, and May 1983.

Carr has failed to sustain the burden of proving that the old meter was functioning improperly. The complaint should be denied. The monies on deposit should be disbursed to PG&E for credit to Carr's account.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Complainant is entitled to no relief in this proceeding and the complaint is denied.
2. Ronald W. Carr's deposit of \$192.69, and any other deposit made by Carr in connection with this complaint, shall be disbursed to Pacific Gas and Electric Company.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated APR 4 1984, at San Francisco, California.

LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.
President
VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA C. GREW
DONALD VIAL
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE COMMISSIONERS TODAY.

Commissioner William T. Bagley being necessarily absent, did not participate.



Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director