

Decision 84 04 047 APR 18 1984

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's own motion into the allowances, rules, practices, and procedures concerning free footage for new connections of Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company, Sierra Pacific Power Company, California-Pacific Utilities Company, Southwest Gas Corporation, and Pacific Power & Light Company, respondents.

Case 10260
(Filed February 15, 1977)

ORDER DISCONTINUING
PROCEEDING AND RESCINDING
PRIOR ORDERS

This proceeding was instituted to consider whether existing free footage allowances for extension of electric and gas service should be modified or abolished. Following public hearing and several interim decisions, we issued Interim Decision (D.) 82-04-068, which adopted a policy of reducing and eventually eliminating free footage allowances. D.82-09-110 modified D.82-04-068 and granted rehearing.

D.82-12-094 issued December 15, 1982 finalized earlier decisions, terminated suspension of the rules adopted in D.82-04-068, as amended, and established the date of June 1, 1983 for the filing of utility tariffs implementing the revised line extension rules.

Senate Bill 48 (SB 48), an urgency measure enacted in 1983, made numerous legislative findings relating to the Commission's proposed new rules for extension of utility gas and electric service. It amended the Public Utilities Code (PU Code) to require

the Commission to continue to enforce the rules governing the extension of service by gas and electrical utilities in effect on January 1, 1982 (PUC § 783) (prior to D.82-12-094). The Commission is precluded from amending these rules unless a detailed investigation is undertaken pursuant to PU Code § 783(b). Subsection (b) mandates the Commission to make written findings on seven specific issues. Subsection (a) provides an exception and mandates the Commission to amend the existing rules to permit applicants for service to install line extensions in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 783. As a result of the enactment of SB 48, the Commission, by D.83-09-066 dated September 27, 1983, rejected all tariffs which had been filed in compliance with D.82-12-094. That decision also ordered that C.10260 be reopened to hold further hearings to consider procedural and other requirements of SB 48.

By its motion filed March 8, 1984, the Commission staff urges the Commission to dismiss Case (C.) 10260, which was reopened solely to consider procedural and other requirements of SB 48. The staff points out that the existing record is bulky and out-dated, and would be unsuitable as a starting point for any investigation made under PU Code § 783(b). No party to C.10260, including our staff, is prepared to seek changes in line extension rules at the present time.

The only remaining issue, that of competitive bidding, has been the subject of informal meetings between our staff and interested parties looking toward a consensus approach to new rules. A new proceeding will be instituted to review and adopt the new rules pursuant to PU Code § 783(f).

The Commission finds that: (1) the issues in C.10260 are moot in view of Senate Bill 48 amendments to the PU Code, except for competitive bidding, and (2) rules governing competitive bidding will be adopted in a separate proceeding.

The Commission concludes that C.10260 should be discontinued and all prior orders issued in that proceeding should be rescinded.

Therefore, good cause appearing, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Case 10260 is discontinued on the effective date of this order.
2. All prior orders issued in Case 10260 are rescinded.

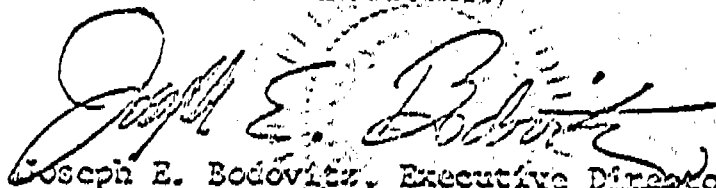
This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated APR 18 1984, at San Francisco, California.

LEONARD M. CRIMES, JR.
President

VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA C. GREW
DONALD VIAL
WILLIAM T. BAGLEY
Commissioners

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


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director

the Commission to continue to enforce the rules governing the extension of service by gas and electrical utilities in effect on January 1, 1982 (PUC § 783) (prior to D.82-12-094). The Commission is precluded from amending these rules unless a detailed investigation is undertaken pursuant to PU Code § 783(b). Subsection (b) mandates the Commission to make written findings on seven specific issues. Subsection (a) provides an exception and mandates the Commission to amend the existing rules to permit applicants for service to install line extensions (a practice hereafter referred to as competitive bidding) in accordance with subsection (f) of Section 783. As a result of the enactment of SB 48, the Commission, by D.83-09-066 dated September 27, 1983, rejected all tariffs which had been filed in compliance with D.82-12-094. That decision also ordered that C.10260 be reopened to hold further hearings to consider procedural and other requirements of SB 48.

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The only remaining issue, that of competitive bidding, has been the subject of informal meetings between our staff and interested parties looking toward a consensus approach to new rules. A new proceeding will be instituted to review and adopt the new competitive bidding rules pursuant to PU Code § 783(f).