

APR 28 1988

ORIGINAL

Decision 88-04-076 April 27, 1988

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company for authority to adjust its electric rates effective August 1, 1986.  
(Electric) (U 39 M)

Application 86-04-012  
(Filed April 4, 1986)

OPINION

Summary

This decision delays the termination date for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) PA-2, PA-3, PA-4, and PA-R (PA TOU rate schedules) until 45 days after adopted AG time-of-use (TOU) rate schedules are effective.

Background

On April 5, 1988 Farm Bureau filed a petition for modification of Decision (D.) 87-04-028 in order to delay the May 1, 1988 termination date of existing agricultural PA TOU rate schedules. The Farm Bureau states that an extension of time is necessary due to PG&E's pending Application (A.) 88-03-038 in which new AG TOU rate schedules are proposed.

In its April 11, 1988 response to Farm Bureau's petition, PG&E supports a delay in the termination date for PA TOU rate schedules. PG&E is concerned that without a delay in the termination date agricultural accounts may be required to move to one AG rate schedule on May 1, 1988, only to move to a revised AG rate schedule a short time later. Additionally, PG&E states that it needs 45 days to notify agricultural customers of a change in rate schedules, obtain their choice of schedules, and set the customer's TOU meters for the AG rate schedules they choose. To accomplish this, PG&E proposes that the termination date of the existing PA TOU rate schedules be set 45 days after the effective date of a decision revising AG TOU rate schedules in A.88-03-038.

Discussion

Because the irrigation season for agricultural customers is upon us, A.88-03-038 is being processed on an expedited basis. A hearing was held on April 8, 1988, briefs were filed on April 14, 1988 and we anticipate a decision will be issued in June. With the possibility that PG&E's AG TOU rate schedules may soon be revised, we will grant: (1) Farm Bureau's petition to modify D.87-04-028 and (2) PG&E's request to delay termination of PA TOU rate schedules until 45 days after revised AG TOU rate schedules are adopted in A.88-03-038.

Findings of Fact

1. Farm Bureau filed a petition for modification of D.87-04-028 to extend the May 1, 1988 termination date of PG&E's PA TOU rate schedules.
2. PG&E supports Farm Bureau's petition and proposes that the termination date for PA TOU rate schedules be delayed until revised AG TOU rate schedules are adopted.
3. PG&E filed A.88-03-038 requesting authority to revise the existing AG TOU rate schedules.
4. A hearing was held in A.88-03-038 on April 8, 1988 and briefs on the issue of agricultural rate design were filed on April 14, 1988.
5. PG&E needs 45 days to notify agricultural customers of a change in rate schedules, to obtain their choice of schedules, and to set the customer's TOU meters for the AG rate schedules they choose.

Conclusions of Law

1. The termination of PG&E's PA TOU rate schedules on May 1, 1988 may cause some agricultural customers to have one rate change in May and another in June.
2. Forty-five days is a reasonable period of time for PG&E to notify agricultural customers of a change in rate schedules, to

obtain their choice of schedules, and to set the customer's TOU meters for the AG rate schedules they choose.

3. Farm Bureau's petition for modification of D.87-04-028 to extend the termination date of PA TOU rate schedules should be granted.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that Decision 87-04-028 is modified to extend the May 1, 1988 termination date of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's PA-2, PA-3, PA-4, and PA-R time-of-use rate schedules until 45 days after the effective date of adopted AG TOU rate schedules in A.88-03-038.

This order is effective today.

Dated April 27, 1988, at San Francisco, California.

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President  
DONALD VIAL  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
Commissioners

Commissioner G. Mitchell Wilk,  
being necessarily absent, did  
not participate.

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

  
Victor Weiss, Executive Director

AB

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 adjust its electric rates effective  
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OPINIONSummary

This decision delays the termination date for Pacific Gas and Electric Company's (PG&E) PA-2, PA-3, PA-4, and PA-R (PA TOU rate schedules) until 45 days after revised AG time-of-use (TOU) rate schedules are effective.

Background

On April 5, 1988 Farm Bureau filed a petition for modification of Decision (D.) 87-04-028 in order to delay the May 1, 1988 termination date of existing agricultural PA TOU rate schedules. The Farm Bureau states that an extension of time is necessary due to PG&E's pending Application (A.) 88-03-038 in which new AG TOU rate schedules are proposed.

In its April 11, 1988 response to Farm Bureau's petition, PG&E supports a delay in the termination date for PA TOU rate schedules. PG&E is concerned that without a delay in the termination date agricultural accounts may be required to move to one AG rate schedule on May 1, 1988, only to move to a revised AG rate schedule a short time later. Additionally, PG&E states that it needs 45 days to notify agricultural customers of a change in rate schedules, obtain their choice of schedules, and set the customer's TOU meters for the AG rate schedules they choose. To accomplish this, PG&E proposes that the termination date of the existing PA TOU rate schedules be set 45 days after the effective date of a decision revising AG TOU rate schedules in A.88-03-038.

Discussion

Because the irrigation season for agricultural customers is upon us, A.88-03-038 is being processed on an expedited basis. A hearing was held on April 8, 1988, briefs were filed on April 14, 1988 and we anticipate a decision will be issued in June. With the strong likelihood that PG&E's AG TOU rate schedules will soon be revised, we will grant: (1) Farm Bureau's petition to modify D.87-04-028 and (2) PG&E's request to delay termination of PA TOU rate schedules until 45 days after revised AG TOU rate schedules are adopted in A.88-03-038.

Findings of Fact

1. Farm Bureau filed a petition for modification of D.87-04-028 to extend the May 1, 1988 termination date of PG&E's PA TOU rate schedules.

2. PG&E supports Farm Bureau's petition and proposes that the termination date for PA TOU rate schedules be delayed until revised AG TOU rate schedules are adopted.

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Conclusions of Law

1. The termination of PG&E's PA TOU rate schedules on May 1, 1988 may cause some agricultural customers to have one rate change in May and another in June.

2. Forty-five days is a reasonable period of time for PG&E to notify agricultural customers of a change in rate schedules, to

obtain their choice of schedules, and to set the customer's TOU meters for the AG rate schedules they choose.

3. Farm Bureau's petition for modification of D.87-04-028 to extend the termination date of PA TOU rate schedules should be granted.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that Decision 87-04-028 is modified to extend the May 1, 1988 termination date of Pacific Gas & Electric Company's PA-2, PA-3, PA-4, and PA-R time-of-use rate schedules until 45 days after the effective date of revised AG TOU rate schedules in A.88-03-038.

This order is effective today.

Dated APR 27 1988, at San Francisco, California.

Commissioner G. Mitchell Wilk being necessarily absent, did not participate.

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President  
DONALD VIAL  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
JOHN B. CEANIAN  
Commissioners