

Decision 88 07 056 JUL 22 1988

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

PACIFIC POWER & LIGHT COMPANY,)
)
 Complainant (U 901-E),)
)
 vs.)
)
 SURPRISE VALLEY ELECTRIFICATION)
 CORPORATION,)
)
 Defendant.)
 _____)

Case 84-03-08
 (Petition for Modification
 of Decision 84-08-119
 Filed April 21, 1988)

OPINION ON MODIFICATION OF DECISION 84-08-119

Statement of Facts

Pacific Power & Light Company (Pacific), a Maine corporation, provides electric public utility service in six states including northern California. Surprise Valley Electrification Corporation (Surprise Valley), a California nonprofit corporation, provides electric public utility service in northern California. The United States Air Force proposes to construct an installation designated as the Over-the-Horizon Backscatter (OTH-B) West Coast Receiver Site in portions of Modoc County in northeastern California.

On August 7, 1984, after a hearing, this Commission issued Decision (D.) 84-08-119 granting Pacific a certificate of public convenience and necessity to provide electric service to 56 square miles in Modoc County, including service to the proposed Air Force installation. This service was to be taken off Pacific's Line No. 5, an existing 69 kV transmission line running from the Oregon border to Pacific's Alturas Substation. In the area of our interest this 69 kV transmission line runs parallel to Highway 139. At the time of our 1984 decision the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) was planning construction of a 230 kV

transmission line to extend from a jointly owned Pacific-BPA substation near Malin, Oregon, to Alturas where it also planned to construct its Warner Substation. Pacific expected to serve the Air Force site by means of a 12 kV distribution line from its existing 69-12 kV Perez Substation on its 69 kV transmission line.

Surprise Valley had also sought to provide service to the Air Force site although to grant it authorization would have resulted in creation of a remote, noncontiguous service island 15 miles away from and unconnected in any way with its nearest existing service area facilities east near Canby Station. It also would have required construction of a new 230-12 kV transformer substation on the planned BPA 230 kV transmission line at an estimated cost of \$350,000. To have permitted Surprise Valley to make the substantial jump from its then existing Canby service area to set up a duplicative facility in Pacific's existing service area would only have served to incubate future service conflicts of benefit to no one.

However, as a condition of the Commission's authorization to Pacific, the utility was required to agree to upgrade its Line 5 Hackamore Regulator near Hackamore, about 7 miles southeast of the Perez Substation, to make it possible to feed the entire No. 5 line from the south.¹ Pacific on September 5, 1984 agreed to comply.

Subsequently, BPA completed construction of its planned Malin-Alturas 230 kV transmission line and its Warner Substation.

1 Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.84-08-119 reads:

"As a condition of this grant of certification, Pacific must within 30 calendar days from the effective date of this order advise the Executive Director of this Commission in writing of its agreement to upgrade, within six months of the effective date of this order, its Line 5 line regulatory south of its Perez Substation to make it possible to feed the entire No. 5 line from the south."

Prior to completion of the Warner Substation, Pacific modified its adjacent Alturas Substation to provide for a 115 kV interconnection with the BPA Warner 230-115 kV installation. With completion of this intertie to BPA at Alturas, Pacific now has a sufficiently strong bus bar to feed its 69 kV Line 5 to and including its Newell Substation near the Oregon border, without need for or use of its Hackamore Regulator. This latter use of the intertie at Alturas to BPA facilities presents a more economical and reliable solution than upgrading the Hackamore Regulator to accomplish the desired and needed improvement of service to Pacific's Line 5.

Accordingly, by this petition to modify D.84-08-119, Pacific seeks Commission approval of its alternative solution, and release from the condition contained in Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.84-08-119.

Notice of this petition for modification appeared on the Commission's Daily Calendar of April 25, 1989, and was also served on the attorney of record for Surprise Valley. No protest has been received.

Discussion

Pursuant to Rule 43 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, petitions for modification of a Commission decision shall indicate the reasons justifying the relief sought and contain a certificate of service on the parties.

In the present proceeding petitioner Pacific has indicated its reasons for adopting an alternate method of accomplishing improved service from Pacific's Line 5. It has also furnished the Commission with the sworn affidavit of James L. Mitseff, a Principal Planning Engineer of its System Planning Department. Mitseff, with over 30 years of engineering experience with the utility, is the engineer responsible for the planning of new and the modification of existing transmission line and substation facilities of Pacific's Southern Oregon and Northern California electric service areas. There have been no objections

filed to the petition of Pacific and no request for a public hearing. Accordingly, the Commission will proceed ex parte.

It is the sworn statement of Mitseff that the intertie between BPA's Warner Substation and Pacific's adjoining Alturas Substation has provided sufficient voltage and capacity, without need for or use of Pacific's Hackamore Regulator, to feed from the south the California portion of Pacific's Line 5 from Alturas Substation to Newall Substation. It is his further sworn statement that the resulting method of feeding Line 5 is more desirable, more economical, and more efficient than could be accomplished by upgrading the Hackamore Regulator.

It is the considered judgment of the Commission that these sworn statements suffice to reasonably show that because of the changed circumstances and Pacific's acts, the objective of enhanced service capability on Line 5 has been obtained as a result of the BPA-Pacific Alturas intertie, thereby obviating need for compliance with the provisions of Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.84-08-119.

Findings of Fact

1. Pacific is an electric power public utility within the jurisdiction of this Commission.
2. By D.84-08-119 Pacific was authorized to provide electric service to a portion of Modoc County including an Air Force site, subject to a condition contained in Ordering Paragraph 2 of that decision requiring Pacific to agree to upgrade its Hackamore Regulator south of its Perez Substation to make it possible to feed Line 5 from the south.
3. Conditions have changed since D.84-08-119 was issued in 1984 in that BPA has completed a 230 kV transmission line to Alturas and constructed its Warner 230-115 kV Substation in Alturas, and Pacific has intertied its Alturas 115-12 kV Substation to the BPA Substation, with resulting ability now to feed Line 5 from the south, independent of the Hackamore Regulator.

4. The Pacific intertie arrangement is more desirable, more economical, and more efficient than would be the result to be obtained by upgrading the Hackamore Regulator as required by Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.84-08-119.

5. There no longer is any need to upgrade the Hackamore Regulator.

6. There were no protests to Pacific's petition.

Conclusions of Law

1. There is no need for a public hearing on this petition.

2. The petition should be granted as provided in the following order.

ORDER MODIFYING DECISION 84-08-119

IT IS ORDERED that Decision 84-08-119 is modified to delete Ordering Paragraph 2.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated JUL 22 1988, at San Francisco, California.

STANLEY W. HULETT
President

DONALD VIAL
FREDERICK R. DUDA
C. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners

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

Victor Weiss
Victor Weiss, Executive Director