

Mailed

Decision 91-09-009 September 6, 1991

SEP 9 1991

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ethel Whitebear,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Gas Company,

Defendant.

ORIGINAL

(ECP)

Case 90-12-053

(Filed December 21, 1990)

Ethel Whitebear, for herself, complainant.  
George Hannah, for Southern California Gas Company,  
defendant.

OPINION

This is a complaint by Ethel Whitebear (Whitebear) against Southern California Gas Company (SoCal). Whitebear contends that she is not receiving the proper baseline allowance. SoCal asserts that she has been given the proper allowance and billed at the correct rate.

The matter was filed under the Commission's expedited complaint procedure. (Rule 13.2.) Thereafter, on motion of SoCal, the presiding Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) referred the matter to the Commission staff for informal resolution pursuant to Rule 10. The Commission staff subsequently notified the ALJ that it was unable to effectuate an informal resolution of the matter and it was calendared for hearing.

A duly noticed public hearing was held in this matter before ALJ Donald B. Jarvis in Los Angeles on April 4, 1991, and the matter was submitted on that date.

Whitebear is entitled to be billed for gas service under SoCal's residential low-income service tariff rate. In December 1989, Whitebear lived at 838 Silver Lake Boulevard, Los Angeles.

Her gas bill for the 33 days from November 9, 1989, to December 12, 1989, was \$42.60 which was derived as follows:

Customer Charge	33 days @ \$0.08663 per day	= \$ 2.86
Baseline Therms	2.055 per day	68 @ \$0.31174 = 21.20
Over Baseline		22 @ \$0.66381 = 14.60
State Regulatory Fee		90 @ .00076 = .07
	City tax	<u>3.87</u>
	Total current charges	= \$42.60

Whitebear subsequently moved to 1920 West 52nd Street, Los Angeles. Her gas bill for the 30 days from October 16, 1990, to November 15, 1990, was \$32.23 which was derived as follows:

Customer Charge	30 days @ \$0.8663 per day	= \$ 2.60
Baseline Therms	1.233 per day	37 @ \$0.33558 = 12.42
Over Baseline		27 @ \$0.63761 = 17.22
State Regulatory Fee	64 therms @ .00076	= <u>.05</u>
	Total current charges	= \$32.29

The baseline winter therm allowance applies from November 1 through April 30. The baseline summer therm allowance applies from May 1 through October 31. Bills prepared for the May and November billing periods reflect the applicable daily therm allowance from the last seasonal period. A baseline rate is applied to the allowable therms.

Baseline has two parts:

1. The seasonal therm allowance.
2. The rate applied to that allowance.

Each part of baseline is authorized by the Commission.

When Whitebear lived at 838 Silver Lake Boulevard, the winter therm allowance for residential low-income service was 2.055 therms per day. The baseline rate was 31.174 cents per therm. By the time Whitebear moved to 1920 West 52nd Street, the Commission had authorized changes in baseline therm allowances and rates for residential low-income service. The Commission lowered the daily therm allowance for the winter period. The rate per therm was

increased to 33.558 cents. It has been increased above that amount since the events herein considered occurred.

The change in baseline billing to Whitebear has nothing to do with her move from Silver Lake Boulevard to 52nd Street. The billing would have changed in a similar manner at the Silver Lake Boulevard address. The bill is higher because the Commission authorized a decrease in daily therm allowance and an increase in the rate per therm for SoCal's residential low-income service.

SoCal has properly billed Whitebear for the bills in question. It applied the correct daily therm allowance and authorized rate for residential low-income service. Whitebear is entitled to no relief.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Complainant Ethel Whitebear is entitled to no relief and the complaint is denied.
2. Complainant's deposit of \$32.29, and any other deposits made by complainant in connection with this complaint, shall be disbursed to defendant Southern California Gas Company on the effective date of this order.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated September 6, 1991, at San Francisco, California.

PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
President  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
DANIEL Wm. FESSLER  
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY  
Commissioners

I abstain.

/s/ G. MITCHELL WILK  
Commissioner

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

  
NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director  
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