

FEB 5 1992

Decision 92-02-008 February 5, 1992

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

David W. Charter,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Edison Company,

Defendant.

ORIGINAL

(ECP)

Case 91-07-044

(Filed July 31, 1991)

David W. Charter, for himself, complainant.  
Patricia A. Aldridge, for Southern  
California Edison Company, defendant.

O P I N I O N

David W. Charter (complainant) alleges that his electric bill during the period January and February 1991 was excessive by about 500 kilowatt hours. He seeks reparations in the amount of \$56.03. Southern California Edison Company (defendant) answered denying the allegations of the complaint. Public hearing was held October 11, 1991 at which time complainant presented 1 witness, himself; defendant presented 5 witnesses and 13 exhibits.

Complainant testified that it was not possible for him to use the amount of electricity billed as he is gone from his apartment over 16 hours a day 5 or 6 days a week. He eats on the job and does not cook and has never used his oven nor does he own a refrigerator. He has never had the electric wall heater in his apartment turned on as he uses a small portable electric heater in the morning for a maximum of 30 minutes a day.

Defendant's witnesses testified that they tested his meter and inspected his premises and found the meter to be running properly and that the electric load on the premises was sufficient to generate the kilowatt hours used.

Findings of Fact

1. During the period in question complainant was billed for the following amounts:

<u>Dates</u>	<u>Kilowatt-hours</u>	<u>Amount</u>
12/6/90	60	\$ 5.73
1/8/91	113	11.07
2/8/91	656	76.33
3/8/91	<u>147</u>	<u>15.70</u>
TOTAL		\$108.83

2. After receiving complainant's complaint defendant rebilled complainant under its "baseline rebill" procedure. With a baseline rebill the customer is billed for all kilowatt hours used but the kilowatt hours are distributed in a manner that gives the customer the maximum benefit for his baseline allocation. With this rebill complainant's bill was reduced to \$98.53 for the four months in question.

3. Defendant's representative checked the meter and found it to be operating properly and made a connected load investigation at complainant's address.

4. There was sufficient load at the address to generate the kilowatt hours billed and defendant's billing was accurate.

5. Defendant either left his heater on or cold weather caused the thermostat on the heaters in the apartment to automatically start the heaters.

6. Complainant is responsible for the kilowatt hours used.

The Commission concludes that the relief requested in the complaint should be denied.

O R D E R

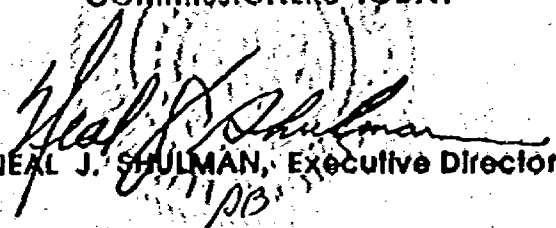
IT IS ORDERED that the relief requested in Case  
91-07-044 is denied.

This order is effective today.

Dated February 5, 1992, at San Francisco, California.

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

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

  
NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director