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Decision 92-04-015 April 8, 1992

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY
(U 338-E) for Authority to Increase
its Authorized Level of Base Rate
Revenue Under the Electric Revenue
Adjustment Mechanism for Service
Rendered Beginning January 1, 1992
and to Reflect this Increase in
Rates.

And Related Matters.

ORIGINAL

Application 90-12-018
(Filed December 7, 1990)

I.89-12-025
(Filed December 18, 1989)

I.91-02-079
(Filed February 21, 1991)

OPINION ON ELIGIBILITY

Pursuant to Rule 76.54 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, Toward Utility Rate Normalization (TURN) has requested a finding of eligibility for compensation in all phases of this consolidated proceeding, which is the test year 1992 general rate case of Southern California Edison Company. The request was made on October 16, 1991, within 45 days after the close of the evidentiary record in Phase 1 of the proceeding. Phase 1 covers revenue requirement issues in the general rate case. No party has filed a response to TURN's request or proposed designation of a common legal representative pursuant to Rule 76.59.

Under Rule 76.54(a), requests for eligibility must include:

- *(1) A showing by the customer that participation in the hearing or proceeding would pose a significant financial hardship. A summary of the finances of the customer shall distinguish between

grant funds committed to specific projects and discretionary funds. If the customer has met its burden of showing financial hardship in the same calendar year, ...the customer shall make reference to that decision by number to satisfy that requirement;

- "(2) A statement of issues that the customer intends to raise in the hearing or proceeding;
- "(3) An estimate of the compensation that will be sought; and
- "(4) A budget for the customer's presentation."

1. Financial Hardship

TURN's participation in Phase 1 of this proceeding was completed during 1991. The Commission found significant financial hardship for TURN during calendar year 1991 in Decision (D.) 91-05-029, satisfying Rule 76.54(a)(1).

2. Statement of Issues

Phase 1 hearings have been completed, and the Commission has issued D.91-12-076 on Phase 1 issues. TURN participated in issues regarding operating expenses; research, development, and demonstration; demand-side management; and marginal costs.

TURN has not submitted a statement of issues, a compensation estimate, or a budget for subsequent phases of the general rate case. Nor has financial hardship been found for 1992, during which subsequent phases are being litigated. However, the Commission has previously found TURN eligible for all phases of a proceeding based on its showing for a single phase, because separate showings would unnecessarily tax the resources of both

TURN and the Commission.¹ Therefore, the finding of eligibility in this decision will cover all phases of this proceeding.

3. Compensation Estimate

TURN estimates that it will eventually seek \$150,000 in compensation for its Phase 1 participation. The precise amount will be determined in its subsequent request.

4. Budget

TURN's budget for Phase 1 is \$150,000, matching its compensation estimate.

Findings of Fact

1. TURN has filed a timely request for a finding of eligibility for compensation in all phases of this proceeding.

2. No party has protested the request or proposed designation of a common legal representative for TURN.

3. TURN's request includes the information required under Rule 76.54(a).

4. Separate showings of eligibility for future phases of this proceeding are not necessary.

5. Designation of a common legal representative for TURN in Phase 1 of this proceeding is not necessary.

Conclusion of Law

TURN should be found eligible for compensation for its participation in all phases of this proceeding.

1 D.88-11-057, at mimeo. pp. 2-3; and D.91-06-033.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that Toward Utility Rate Normalization is eligible for compensation for its participation in all phases of this proceeding.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated April 8, 1992, at San Francisco, California.

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER

President

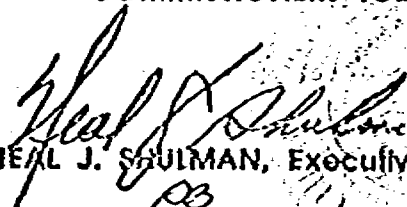
JOHN B. OHANIAN

PATRICIA M. ECKERT

NORMAN D. SHUMWAY

Commissioners

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


NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director