

SEP. 3. 1992

Decision 92-09-017 September 2, 1992

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ETHEL DOTSON,

Complainant,

vs.

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC  
COMPANY,

Defendant.

(ECP)  
Case 91-10-027  
(Filed October 15, 1991)

OPINION DENYING PETITION FOR MODIFICATION  
OF DECISION 92-03-068

Background

Decision (D.) 92-03-068 ordered Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) to contact complainant Ethel Dotson and attempt to establish an agreement wherein Dotson would repay in full the amount in arrears on November 18, 1991, as well as pay her future bills.

Petition for Modification

Dotson filed a petition for modification (petition) of D.92-03-068 on June 30, 1992, stating that a payment agreement had been reached, and she had been paying \$23.60 per month on the amount in arrears plus the current monthly bills. The agreement apparently assumed that the \$610.63 assistance check for utilities Dotson expected to receive was forthcoming. D.92-03-068 indicated that PG&E could assume this, but if that amount is not timely received, the amount should be added to the past due balance. Since the assistance was not timely available, PG&E added the amount to Dotson's bill, and subsequently referred it to a collection agency for payment.

Dotson petitioned to modify D.92-03-068 as follows:

1. She will continue to pay \$23.60 per month plus current bills, to amortize \$283.25 of the past due amount by March 31, 1993.
2. If she is unable to obtain financial assistance to pay the \$610.63 amount by December 31, 1992, "Defendant (PG&E) will refer this amount to its financial office which will obtain tax credit from Defendant's filing with the Internal Revenue Service...."
3. Defendant will recall her account from the collection agency.

#### Discussion

D.92-03-068 considered the effect of anticipating the assistance amount of \$610.63 in an attempt to work out an agreement that Dotson could live with, considering her testimony that she could pay only \$100 per month to PG&E. PG&E properly added the \$610.63 amount to the bill when it was not timely received.

The substance of Dotson's petition is that PG&E should write off the \$610.63 amount and cease the collection agency's efforts.

The Commission has no basis for ordering PG&E to write off utility bills for energy that has been consumed. To do so could cause PG&E's other ratepayers to in effect make up that amount through future rates. Dotson is solely responsible for her own utility bills, and cannot expect other ratepayers to be burdened with them.

We will deny the petition.

#### Findings of Fact

1. Dotson requests that PG&E write off \$610.63 of the amount her PG&E bill is in arrears.

2. Since the \$610.63 amount was not timely received, PG&E added that amount to Dotson's bill, in accordance with D.92-03-068.

3. Dotson is responsible to pay PG&E bills for energy consumed.

Conclusion of Law

The petition should be denied.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the petition of Ethel Dotson for modification of Decision 92-03-068 is denied.

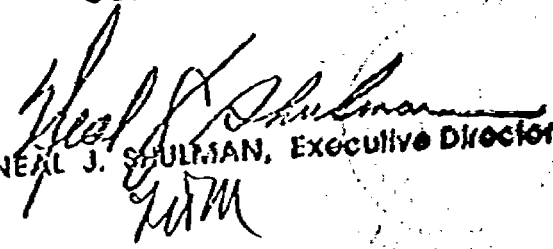
This order is effective today.

Dated September 2, 1992, at San Francisco, California.

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

Commissioner Patricia M. Eckert,  
being necessarily absent, did  
not participate.

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

  
NEAL J. SHULMAN, Executive Director