

SEP 16 1992

Decision 92-09-074 September 16, 1992

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's  
own motion to comply with Senate  
Bill 987 and realign residential  
rates, including baseline rates, of  
California energy utilities.

**ORIGINAL**  
1.88-07-009  
(Filed July 8, 1988)  
(Petition for Modification  
of D.89-09-044;  
filed June 26, 1992)

(See Attachment A for appearances.)

O P I N I O N

WP Natural Gas filed a petition for modification of Decision (D.) 89-09-044 on June 26, 1992. WP Natural Gas seeks to join the energy utilities authorized by that decision to use the State of California Department of Economic Opportunity (DEO) to process applications for Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance (LIRA).

D.89-09-044 established the initial details of the LIRA program and authorized Pacific Power and Light Company (Pacific Power) to use DEO to process LIRA applications. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) had previously been authorized to use DEO to process LIRA applications in D.89-07-062.<sup>1</sup> In D.90-07-062, we granted the joint petition of Southern California Gas Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southwest Gas Corporation, and Sierra Pacific Power Company (Sierra) to modify D.89-09-044 to allow them to use DEO in the same way.

WP Natural Gas serves an area that until September 1991 was CP National's South Lake Tahoe service territory. WP Natural Gas' review of the LIRA program for its new territory suggested the

<sup>1</sup> D.89-11-018 and D.90-07-062 erroneously state that PG&E received its authorization in D.89-09-044.

possibility of cooperation with Sierra, which provides electric service to customers who receive gas service from WP Natural Gas. If WP Natural Gas, like Sierra, is authorized to use DEO to process LIRA applications, customers could use the same application to apply for both electric and gas rate discounts, reducing customer confusion and duplication.

No party protested WP Natural Gas' petition.

WP Natural Gas should be allowed to use DEO for the same services we have authorized for other energy utilities. This authorization is particularly appealing in light of the potential for cooperation between WP Natural Gas and Sierra. We will grant the petition.

In D.90-07-062, we authorized the petitioning utilities to collect certain information from LIRA applicants, as we had authorized PG&E and Pacific Power to do in D.89-11-018. We will extend the same authorization to WP Natural Gas.

Findings of Fact

1. WP Natural Gas has petitioned to be allowed to join other energy utilities in using DEO to process LIRA applications.
2. If WP Natural Gas is authorized to use DEO to process LIRA applications, customers served by both WP Natural Gas and Sierra could use the same application to apply for both electric and gas rate discounts, reducing duplication and customer confusion.

Conclusions of Law

1. The petition to modify D.89-09-044, filed by WP Natural Gas on June 26, 1992, should be granted.
2. This decision should be made effective today so that WP Natural Gas' low-income customers may be found eligible for LIRA discounts by the onset of the winter heating season.

O R D E R

Therefore, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The petition for modification of Decision (D.) 89-09-044, filed by WP Natural Gas on June 26, 1992, is granted.

2. WP Natural Gas is authorized to use the State of California Department of Economic Opportunity in the manner authorized for Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Pacific Power and Light Company (Pacific Power) in D.89-07-062 and D.89-09-044.

3. WP Natural Gas is authorized to request the social security number and ethnic background of Low-Income Ratepayer Assistance applicants, as PG&E and Pacific Power were authorized in D.89-11-018.

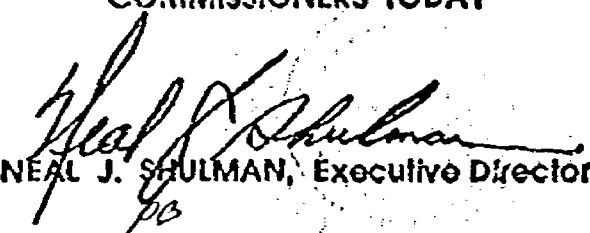
This order is effective today.

Dated September 16, 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

ATTACHMENT A

List of Appearances

Respondents: R. Durant, C. Henningson, J. Lehrer, C. Schmid-Fraze, M. Mackness, Attorneys at Law, for Southern California Edison Company; C. Warner and G. Slocum, Attorneys at Law, for Pacific Gas and Electric Company; Robert V. Sirvaitis, for Pacific Power & Light Company; Leon L. Lundgren, for Sierra Pacific Power Company; Vicki Thompson and David Clark, Attorneys at Law, for San Diego Gas & Electric Company; Nancy Day, for Southern California Gas Company; Joseph F. Young and Susan Conway, for Southern California Water Company; Thomas R. Sheets and Jack A. Socha, Attorneys at Law, for Southwest Gas Corporation; and Thomas D. Dukich, for WP Natural Gas (CP National).

Interested Parties: Sara Hoffman, for County of Contra Costa; William Marcus, for J B S Energy, Inc.; Thomas R. Brill and L.P. Lorenz, for Pacific Enterprises; John W. Witt, City Attorney, by W. Shaffran and L. Girard, Deputy City Attorneys, for City of San Diego; Michel P. Florio, Attorney at Law, for Toward Utility Rate Normalization; Antonio Radillo, for California Energy Commission; Robert P. Martinez, Director, for Department of Economic Opportunity; Michael Shapiro and Bob Alvarez, for Senate Energy & Public Utilities Committee; and Awad and Singer by Joel Singer, Attorney at Law, Barakat and Chamberlin by Andrew Brown, Biddle and Hamilton by Richard L. Hamilton, Attorney at Law, Downey, Brand, Seymour & Rohwer, by Philip A. Stohr, Attorney at Law, O'Rourke and Company, by Thomas J. O'Rourke, Attorney at Law, Office of Assemblywoman Gwen Moore, by William Julian Orrick, Herrington & Sutcliffe, by Kathryn Doi, Attorney at Law, Stoel Rives Foley Jones Grey, by James C. Paine, Attorney at Law, James Hodges, Senator Ralph Dills, Patrick J. Power and James Salo, Attorneys at Law, for themselves.

Division of Ratepayer Advocates: James Rood, Attorney at Law, and Linda Gustafson.

Commission Advisory and Compliance Division: Julian Ajello, Kenneth Henderson, Paul Clanon, and Nola Barnett.

(END OF ATTACHMENT A)