

ORIGINAL

Decision 82 03 026 MAR 2 - 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY
for authority to increase rates
charged by it for electric service.

Application 61138
(Filed December 18, 1981)

RULING ON REQUEST FOR
FINDING OF ELIGIBILITY FOR COMPENSATION

On February 2, 1982 Toward Utility Rate Normalization (TURN) filed a petition in this application for a Commission order finding TURN eligible for Public Utility Regulatory Policies Act of 1978 (PURPA) compensation under Article 18.5 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure (Rules). TURN offered information as required by Rule 76.03, paragraphs (a) through (c). It indicated that it would address the following PURPA issues: electric marginal cost, revenue allocation and rate design, advertising, and information to consumers.

As provided for by Rule 76.04, the Commission's staff (staff) and applicant, Southern California Edison Company (Edison), filed their respective statements and comments on TURN's request.

Rule 76.05 requires the Commission, at its first regularly scheduled conference after the staff statement has been filed, to issue a ruling on whether or not the consumer, i.e., TURN, has shown significant financial hardship, and on certain other matters which in this case do not apply.

Two questions are before us then at this time, whether TURN has shown financial hardship and whether TURN has met the threshold test to become eligible for compensation.

In its statement the staff maintains it will take positions different from TURN on some issues, and is unable to state if its

position on other issues will be different from TURN's because TURN's request does not indicate its position on those issues.

Edison, in its statement, contends that TURN's request does not warrant a finding of eligibility. In Edison's opinion:

1. The estimated budgets submitted by TURN appear to be excessive.
2. The cost of service issues raised by TURN will be addressed by the Commission staff and Edison.
3. TURN has cited no basis on which to assume that Edison has engaged in political advertising.
4. PURPA does not require the information to consumers that would be sought by TURN.

By its filing of February 2, 1982 TURN is convincing that, but for the ability to receive compensation under the Commission's

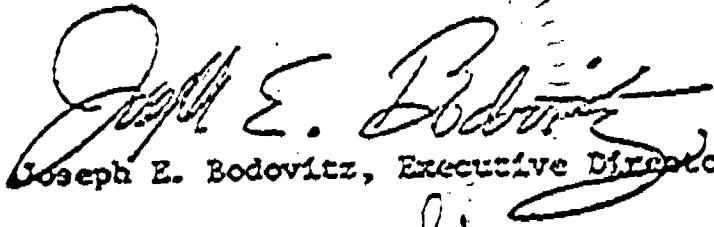
rules, participation in this proceeding would be a significant financial hardship for TURN, and we so rule. We also rule that TURN is eligible for compensation for the PURPA issues set forth in its petition; whether compensation will be paid, and if it is, the amount, will be determined as provided by Rules 76.06 and 76.07.

Since March 2, 1982 is the first conference after the staff has filed its comments under Rule 76.05, we are acting on this matter on an emergency basis without listing the matter on the public agenda of Commission business.

Dated MAR 2 1982, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. ZYSON
President
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE
LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.
VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA C. GREW
Commissioners

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


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director