

ORIGINALDecision 82 07 025 JUL 21 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's
own motion into the tariff schedules,
rates, rules, charges, operations,
practices, contracts, service, and
aesthetics and economics of
facilities of all electric and
communication public utilities in
the State of California..

Case 8209
(Filed June 22, 1965;
reopened May 22, 1979)

ORDER DENYING MODIFICATION
OF DECISION 82-01-18

On January 5, 1982 the Commission issued Decision (D.) 82-01-18. That decision changed the existing underground conversion program to require the utilities to install the first 100 feet of underground facilities from the street distribution line to the point of connection with the customer's wiring upon request of the local governmental entity.

On February 3, 1982 Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Edison Company (SCE) filed petitions for modification and/or rehearing of D.82-01-18. Neither petition specified an allegation of legal error within the meaning of Public Utilities Code § 1732; consequently, the Docket Office retitled both pleadings solely as petitions for modification.

The City of San Diego filed a response opposing SCE's petition on February 8, 1982. Thomas E. Farris, a Berkeley resident, filed a response opposing PG&E's petition on February 20, 1982. In addition, a letter dated March 1, 1982, stating Temple City's opposition to SCE's petition, has been received.

PG&E and SCE claim that the Commission did not fully consider the financial consequences of the previously discussed change to the underground conversion program. PG&E asserts that the change will result in increased allocations and spending under Rule 20A and therefore that the Commission should weigh the financial impact on PG&E of this change.

SCE argues that the change will unjustly enrich those property owners who will benefit from subsidized underground conversions from the street to their residences. SCE further argues that the change will use up more of the undergrounding funds and will result in fewer underground conversions.

SCE's arguments were considered and rejected in D.82-01-18. We clearly stated in the decision that the City of San Diego's proposal for service conversions was reasonable and was adopted. (See pp. 11-12, 18-19.) Therefore, since the issuance of D.82-01-18, the utilities are expected to bear all costs of converting overhead facilities to underground service for the first 100 feet from the street to the customer's residence, at the request of the local governmental entity. SCE's petition, which suggests a different interpretation of D.82-01-18 holding the utilities responsible only for the cost of the underground conductor, is incorrect.

PG&E understands the meaning of D.82-01-18 and asks us to reconsider this change by way of rehearing D.82-01-18 or examining the issue in Application (A.) 60809. We decline to do either. As stated before, we found merit in the City of San Diego's proposal and we find no cause in either petition to alter our decision on this matter. The impact of this change on the utilities' overall underground budgets will be considered in A.60809, a proceeding in which the level of annual underground conversion budgets will be set. However, the issue of cost responsibility for underground service conversion has been decided by D.82-01-18 and will not be relitigated in A.60809.

We note that the election by the local governmental entity to have utilities install the first 100 feet of underground facilities does not necessarily mean additional overall cost to utilities. It means less total undergrounding under the annual conversion program budget might be done as utilities may be paying for work which once would have had to be borne by residents or the governmental entity. Whether the rule change affects annual conversion budgets will be addressed in A.60809, which covers the three largest electric utilities.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Petition for Modification of D.82-01-18 is denied.
2. Southern California Edison Company's Petition for Modification of D.82-01-18 is denied.

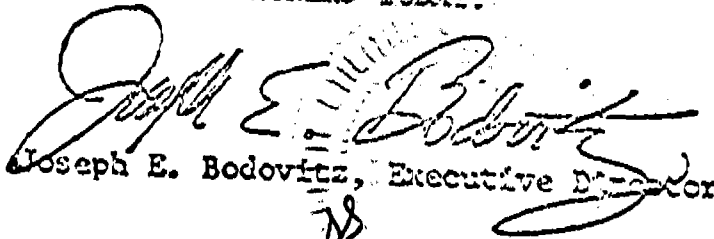
This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated JUL 21 1982, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. BRYSON
President
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE
VICTOR CALVO
PRISCILLA C. GREW
Commissioners

Commissioner Leonard M. Grimes, Jr.,
being necessarily absent, did not
participate.

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


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director
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