

ORIGINAL

Decision 82 10 052 OCT 20 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's )  
own motion into the feasibility of )  
establishing various methods of )  
providing low-interest, long-term )  
financing of solar energy systems )  
for utility customers. )

OII 42  
(Filed April 24, 1979)

ORDER FOR CONTINUED FUNDING  
OF THE SOLAR ADVISORY COMMITTEE

Background

Decision (D.) 91272 called for the formation of an advisory panel to report on a variety of matters some six months prior to the termination of the demonstration. The appointed advisory panel includes representatives of the solar industry, the regulated utilities, the financial community, consumer and environmental groups, realtors, apartment house owners, contractors, labor, and government agencies at the local, state, and national levels.

The balanced composition of the advisory panel creates an ideal forum for the different interests concerned with the demonstration to meet and discuss specific problems that arise during the demonstration. Recommendations of the panel have been very helpful to the Commission in resolving the multitude of detail problems certain to arise in this large pioneering undertaking.

To avoid duplication of administrative personnel, the Executive Office of the SolarCal Council (Council) was asked to administer the advisory panel on behalf of the Commission. By Commission D.92251 and D.93682, we entered into an interagency agreement with the Council which established a budget for the panel and clarified the mutual responsibilities of the Commission and the Council. A budget for the panel not exceeding \$20,000 a year for the duration of the demonstration was established. The current interagency agreement expires on October 31, 1982.

Mr. Howard Kraye, the Chairman of the SolarCal Council, in his letter, dated June 28, 1982 to Commissioner Leonard Grimes, Jr., gave notice to terminate the interagency agreement effective July 31, 1982. The SolarCal Council stated that due to budgetary constraints and other priorities assigned to Mr. Robert King, the Secretary of the Solar Advisory Committee, the Council could not continue administering the advisory panel.

Under the terms of the agreement, Mr. King's services were terminated on July 31, 1982. Since then, Ron Lipton of the Commission staff has been responsible for administering the Advisory Committee for the remaining period of the interagency agreement. Absent further Commission action, funding for the advisory committee will expire on October 31, 1982.

Committee's Request

The Advisory Committee (Committee) has been very active in dealing with many problems that were not resolved in earlier decisions. Several technical and non-technical subcommittees were formed to examine these problems and present their recommendations to the Committee. The majority of these recommendations, along with those of the technical staff, were presented and adopted by the Commission.

The major problems, dealing with lease-purchases, options, micro-utility concepts, low-income grants, multi-family sizing, change in rebate amounts, partial rebates, eligibility of dormitories and long-term health-care facilities, are practically resolved. However, the Committee believes that additional issues are likely to surface as we progress more fully into the multi-family, and low-income grant programs. The Committee wishes to continue to advise the Commission as these issues arise. Thus, the Committee requests that the Commission continue its present funding of \$20,000, for the third year.

Discussion

The Commission recognizes the Committee's valuable contribution and expects that the Committee will continue to provide advice and information to the Commission. Since many of

the major issues are now resolved, we expect that the Committee will turn its attention to multi-family and low-income grant programs, both of which are underway.

The Commission believes that \$20,000 should be more than sufficient to meet the Committee's expenses. Secretarial help for the Advisory Committee in taking the minutes of meetings, and for typing and mailing letters will continue to be provided by the Public Utilities Commission Solar Monitoring Unit based in Sacramento. It appears that the Advisory Committee may be able to reduce its activity due to fewer issues for the committee to consider.

The Commission believes that the Committee should continue to be funded up to the \$20,000 level to cover contingencies. This level of funding should continue to be provided by the participating utilities. The Commission's Solar Monitoring Unit will be responsible for administering the Committee's functions and coordinating the billing for the Committee through this Commission. The billing should be processed by the Director of the Utilities Division as it is currently done for the solar monitoring consultant BBW.

Findings of Fact

1. The Advisory Committee has provided valuable input to the Commission in resolving many issues arising in the solar demonstration program.

2. The current contract between the SolarCal Council and this Commission to operate and administer the Committee expires on October 31, 1982.

3. To carry out expected Advisory Committee activity, a budget up to \$20,000 is appropriate. This amount should be proportionately included in the participating utilities' expenses for the Demonstration Solar Financing Program.

Conclusions of Law

1. The Commission concludes that the Advisory Committee should continue its activities for the coming 12 months.

2. The current contract between SolarCal Council and the Public Utilities Commission has been cancelled effective July 31, 1982.

3. A budget of no more than \$20,000 for the 12-month period from November 1, 1982 to October 31, 1983 is appropriate to carry out the Advisory Committee activities.

4. The following order should be made effective the date of signature in order to reimburse reasonable costs incurred by the Advisory Committee beginning November 1, 1982.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Solar Advisory Committee should continue its functions for the next 12 months at the current funding level of no more than \$20,000 per year.

2. The respondent utilities are authorized to incur reasonable expenses as may occur by the Advisory Committee not exceeding \$20,000 for the period of November 1, 1982 to October 31, 1983.

3. The Director of the Utilities Division of this Commission is authorized to process the billing of the Advisory Committee, in a similar manner that is done presently with BBW, the consultant of the solar monitoring program.

4. The Commission staff will coordinate the billing for the Solar Advisory Committee through this Commission.

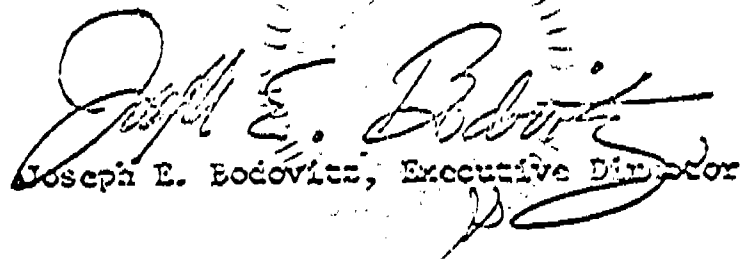
This order is effective today.

Dated OCT 20 1982, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. BRYSON  
President  
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE  
LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.  
VICTOR CALVO  
Commissioners

Commissioner Priscilla C. Crow,  
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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