

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 86506

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Edwin J. Wiegel,  
for exemption from the provisions  
of the rules providing for mandatory  
undergrounding of electric lines,  
Lucerne Valley.

} Application No. 56407  
(Filed April 15, 1976;  
amended June 7, 1976)

O P I N I O N

Applicant Edwin J. Wiegel seeks authority to deviate from mandatory undergrounding requirements of Southern California Edison Company's (Edison) Rule 15 and Continental Telephone Company of California's (Continental) Rule 15, in the development known as Lu-Valley Farms (Tract 5776), Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County, California.

The tract is located in a relatively remote desert area ten miles north of the unincorporated community of Lucerne Valley. It consists of 107 lots varying in size from approximately 1.70 acres to 5.83 acres. The final map was recorded in the office of the County Recorder on January 10, 1958. To date nine relatively small, moderately valued houses have been built in the tract, of which two now receive overhead electric service. The few other electric customers in the surrounding area are also served from overhead electric and/or communication lines.

Attached to the application as Tab 3 is a copy of a letter dated March 29, 1976 to applicant from the Environmental Improvement Agency of San Bernardino County stating that inasmuch as the subdivision was approved and recorded prior to the date when the requirement for underground utilities was adopted by the

Board of Supervisors (May 4, 1970), it would not object to whatever action may be taken by this Commission in its review of the project.

Edison, in a letter to applicant dated March 3, 1976 (Tab 2), stated its position that either overhead or underground facilities could be installed to serve the project depending on our action in this matter.

Continental, in a letter to applicant dated March 1, 1976 (Tab 4), stated that the subdivision is outside its filed exchange boundaries at the present time but that it is checking into the possibility of filing for permission to provide service in the area.

Edison, in a letter to applicant dated January 27, 1976 (Tab 1), stated that the estimated cost of underground facilities, exclusive of service cable and trenching on the individual lots, to serve the seven existing houses requesting service would be approximately \$28,800 as compared to \$12,500 for overhead service. The nonrefundable advance required for underground service would be approximately \$12,245. In contrast, for overhead service, if each of the seven prospective applicants will agree to install lights, a refrigerator, an electric range, and a 2.5-ton electric air conditioner, the excess footage deposit, subject to refund for new load, would be \$481.63. Applicant states that the seven prospective applicants consider the underground costs set forth above as being economically unfeasible.

A Commission staff engineer prepared a report dated May 13, 1976 setting forth his conclusions and recommendations on the matter. This report, received as Exhibit 1, states that after a review of the application and an on-site inspection of the subdivision the staff engineer recommends an ex parte grant of the requested deviations to the mandatory undergrounding requirements of Edison and Continental.

Findings

1. The subdivision is located in a relatively remote desert area ten miles north of the unincorporated community of Lucerne Valley.

2. The subdivision was approved and the final map recorded on January 10, 1958 substantially prior to the adoption of mandatory utility undergrounding requirements by San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors on May 4, 1970. Consequently, the County does not require underground utilities for this subdivision.

3. There are presently nine houses completed in the 107-lot subdivision and two of these are presently receiving overhead electric service.

4. The few other electric customers in the area are receiving overhead electric service.

5. Edison does not object to providing overhead electric service and the subdivision is close to, but outside of, Continental's filed exchange boundaries.

6. A nonrefundable advance of approximately \$12,245 would be required for underground service as compared to a refundable advance that could be as little as \$481.63 for overhead electric service.

7. Edison and Continental (should it serve the subdivision) should be authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirements of their extension rules so as to provide overhead electric and telephone service to Lu-Valley Farms subdivision (Tract 5776), Lucerne Valley, California.

8. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

9. A public hearing is not required.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted as provided in the order which follows.

O R D E R


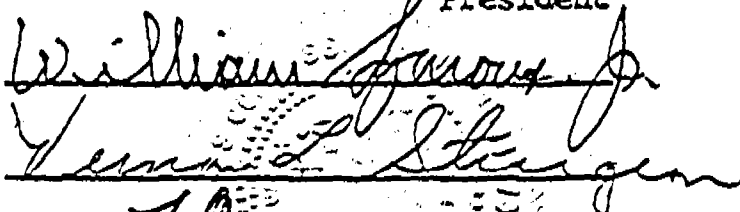
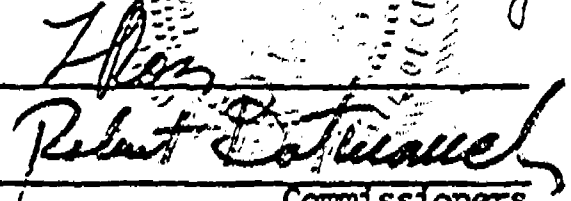
IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Edison Company is authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirement of its electric line extension rule of its tariff in order to provide overhead electric service to the Lu-Valley Farms subdivision, Tract No. 5776.

2. Continental Telephone Company of California is authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirement of its telephone line extension rule of its tariffs in order to provide overhead telephone service to the Lu-Valley Farms subdivision, Tract No. 5776.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California,  
this 13th day of OCTOBER, 1976.

  
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President  
  
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Vernon L. Sturgeon  
  
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Robert C. Cavanaugh  
Commissioners