

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 86543

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's own motion into electric utility rate structures and the changes, if any, that should be made in presently constituted rate structures to encourage conservation of electricity in the State of California.

Case No. 9804  
Petition for Modification  
of Decision No. 85559  
(Filed June 14, 1976 - PG&E)  
(Filed October 19,  
1976 - Edison)

ORDER GRANTING PETITION FOR MODIFICATION  
OF DECISION NO. 85559 TO PERMIT DEVELOPMENT  
OF NEW METERING FOR COST-EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION

Ordering Paragraph 2 of Decision No. 85559 issued March 16, 1976 provides:

"2. Within one year after the date of this order the PG&E, SDG&E, Edison, California-Pacific Utilities Company, Pacific Power and Light Company, and Sierra Pacific Power Company, respondent electric utilities, shall install additional metering for customers with demands greater than 500 kw to permit the use of time-of-day schedules with respect to such customers."

In its petition PG&E has requested that said Ordering Paragraph 2 be modified to read substantially as follows:

2.a. Within one year after the date of the March 16, 1976 order in Case No. 9804, PG&E shall install additional metering for customers with demands greater than 1,000 kw to permit the use of time-of-day schedules with respect to such customers and 60 days thereafter shall file specific time-of-day tariffs for review.

b. PG&E shall continue its study of alternative metering systems for time-of-day measurement of demand and energy with the objective of maximizing the simplicity of data and minimizing the costs of time-of-day metering and shall file semiannual reports on the progress of its study.

c. Within two years of the date of the March 16, 1976 order in Case No. 9804, PG&E shall install additional metering for customers with demands greater than 500 kw to permit the use of time-of-day schedules with respect to such customers and 60 days thereafter shall file specific time-of-day tariffs for review.

Edison's petition for relief is essentially the same as PG&E's; however, unlike PG&E's, it does not mention any specific language modification of Ordering Paragraph 2.

In its petition, PG&E sets forth the following table summarizing data furnished regarding the number of customers, meters available, and meters needed at various load levels.

<u>Load Level</u>	<u>Number of Customers</u>	<u>Number of Meters Available</u>	<u>Number of Meters Needed</u>
Above 4,000 kw	130	130	-
4,000 - 1,000 kw	700	250	450
1,000 - 500 kw	1,300	-	1,300

PG&E and Edison point out that to design properly and implement a time-of-day rate, load studies must be made to establish time-of-day usage patterns characterizing the class of service to be affected. Within the time limits of the present Ordering Paragraph 2, only magnetic tape recording is available due to the lead time for ordering the large number of meters required.

Magnetic tape recording technology has many problems when expanded for purposes of billing large numbers of customers. Use of large numbers of magnetic tapes would require storage space for the tapes, transportation, translation of each tape, and validation and verification of the data. Edison's existing data conversion translator has a limited capability, and Edison contends that if the original time schedule specified in Decision No. 85559 remains in effect, the company will have to purchase a new translator at a cost of \$250,000.

The solid state metering which PG&E is investigating would read directly the demand and energy by time periods, thus eliminating the translation requirements. However, the reliability of such metering cannot be confirmed by PG&E within the time limits of the decision.

PG&E and Edison contend that the phased approach to implementation of Decision No. 85559 is the most efficient approach. Extending the time to install metering for the 1,000 to 500 kw group could result in savings, greater customer understanding, and encouragement of new metering technology which would redound to the benefit of ratepayers and the utilities.

The Commission staff counsel submitted a letter dated August 17, 1976 to Examiner Cline in which he stated that the Commission staff recommends approval of PG&E's request provided that the reports are expanded to include data on the number of meters which would be needed for load levels between 100 kw and 500 kw in 100 kw steps, together with recommendations for extending the use of alternative metering systems within these ranges, and that the progress reports under proposed Ordering Paragraph 2.b be required to be filed on a quarterly basis rather than on a semiannual basis. The letter has been received in evidence as Exhibit AN-1. No other party has filed any comments regarding PG&E's proposal or the recommendations of the Commission staff. PG&E has filed no comments regarding the recommendations of the Commission staff. On October 19, 1976 Edison filed a petition for modification similar to PG&E's.

We find that PG&E's and Edison's requests for modification of Decision No. 85559 should be granted. We also find that the above-mentioned modification should be granted to all other respondent electric utilities, as provided in the following order.

IT IS ORDERED that Ordering Paragraph 2 of Decision No. 85559, issued herein on March 16, 1976, is revised to read as follows:

2.a. Within one year after March 16, 1976, PG&E, SDG&E, Edison, California-Pacific Utilities Company, Pacific Power and Light Company, and Sierra Pacific Power Company, respondent electric utilities, shall install additional metering for customers with demands greater than 1,000 kw to permit the use of time-of-day schedules with respect to such customers and 60 days thereafter shall file specific time-of-day tariffs for review.

b. The respondent utilities shall continue their studies of alternative metering systems for time-of-day measurement of demand and energy with the objective of maximizing the simplicity of data and minimizing costs of time-of-day metering and shall file quarterly reports on the progress of their studies on or before the last day of the month following the end of each calendar quarter through the last quarter of the calendar year 1977. These quarterly reports shall also include data on the number of meters which would be required by the utilities for load levels between 100 kw and 500 kw in 100 kw steps, together with recommendations for extending the use of alternative metering systems within such load level ranges.

c. Within two years after March 16, 1976, the respondent utilities shall install additional metering for customers with demands greater than 500 kw to permit the use of time-of-day schedules with respect to such customers and 60 days thereafter shall file specific time-of-day tariffs for review.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 26th day of OCTOBER, 1976.

[Signature]  
President  
William J. [Signature]  
[Signature]  
Robert [Signature]  
Robert Bateman  
Commissioners