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Decision No. 87964 OCT 12 1977

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY
for an Order amending General Order
No. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric
Line Construction," to Amend a Certain
Rule with Respect to the Marking of
Crossarms by Adding an Exception
thereto.

Application No. 56497
(Filed May 24, 1976)

O P I N I O N

Southern California Edison Company (Edison) seeks an order amending General Order No. 95, to provide an alternative to the high voltage marking of crossarms.

General Order No. 95 contains rules for the identification of high voltage conductors used in overhead construction. For aesthetic reasons, Edison would like to amend the order to allow metal poles with crossarms and wood or metal poles with metal crossarms to be marked for high voltage in the same manner as poles supporting high voltage conductors not on crossarms. In cooperation with major California electric utilities, the Commission staff and other interested parties, a proposed modification and amendment has been developed by Edison to establish appropriate standards for the marking of crossarms in keeping with the purpose, scope, and intent of the General Order. The proposed amendment to Rule 52.4E of Section V of General Order No. 95 appears in the Appendix attached hereto.

This proposed amendment would allow certain poles supporting crossarms to be marked for high voltage in accordance with Rule 51.6A. This rule requires poles, where conductors are not on crossarms, to be marked with either a bright yellow band not less than one foot in width or a "High Voltage" sign with letters not

less than three inches in height. The top of the band or sign should be between two and one-half and three feet below the lowest conductor of each circuit of more than 750 volts. Presently, as provided in Rule 52.4A, when crossarms are supporting high voltage conductors they are required to be either painted a bright yellow or have "High Voltage" signs with letters not less than three inches placed on the front and back of such crossarms.

Edison is concerned, specifically, with the marking of crossarms on metal poles supporting conductors of more than 22,500 volts which were designed primarily to enhance the aesthetic values of overhead line construction. Edison believes that marking of these poles for high voltage in accordance with Rule 51.6A rather than the marking of the crossarms themselves, as specified in Rule 52.4A, would result in better looking construction.

The proposed modification to General Order No. 95 set forth in the Appendix has been submitted to and reviewed by:

Pacific Gas and Electric Company
Pacific Power & Light Company
San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Department of Water and Power, City of Los Angeles
Sacramento Municipal Utility District
The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company
General Telephone Company of California
Continental Telephone Company of California
International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers

Each of the above has advised Edison that it concurs in and endorses the proposed modification to the General Order.

The Commission finds that the proposed amendment would enhance aesthetic qualities of overhead electric line construction without compromising safety of persons engaged in the construction, maintenance, and operation of facilities in proximity to energized high voltage conductors, and concludes that General Order No. 95 should be amended to the extent set forth in the Appendix.

A public hearing is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that General Order No. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction", is hereby amended to the extent set forth in the Appendix attached hereto.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the Secretary shall cause a copy of this order and its Appendix to be served upon each electric and telephone utility subject to the jurisdiction of this Commission, State Division of Industrial Safety, and, further, to cause a suitable number of copies to be made available for distribution to such other agencies furnishing utility service, and the general public as may request the same.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this
17th day of OCTOBER, 1977.

Robert Batimand
President
William Symons
Verizon L. Sturgeon
Paul D. Howell
Lois L. Adrial
Commissioners

APPENDIX

The Commission's General Order No. 95 shall be amended as follows:

1. Rule 52.4 (Marking), Subsection E will be amended by adding exceptions thereto and shall read as follows:

"E. EXCEPTIONS

(1) DOUBLE ARMS: Where high voltage signs are used as the method of marking, they are not required on the inside faces of double arms.

(2) BRACKETS: Where extension brackets or clearance brackets are used to extend or supplement crossarms, and support conductors of more than 750 volts, such supplementary supports are not required to be marked as high voltage.

(3) METAL POLES: Metal poles with crossarms supporting conductors of more than 750 volts and which are not easily climbed except by qualified persons, may, in lieu of marking crossarms, be marked in accordance with the provisions of Rule 51.6A.

(4) METAL CROSSARMS: Where metal crossarms supporting conductors of more than 750 volts are attached to wood or steel poles, the poles may be marked in accordance with the provisions of Rule 51.6A."