

Decision No. 87968 OCT 12 1977

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

RONALD BARBE SULLIVAN, dba)
 ASHLAND HAIR CARE CENTER,)
)
 Complainant,)
)
 vs.)
)
 PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC)
 COMPANY, a corporation,)
)
 Defendant.)

Case No. 10248
(Filed January 27, 1977)

Ronald Barbe Sullivan, for himself, complainant.
Kermit R. Kubitz, Attorney at Law, for defendant.

O P I N I O N

The complaint alleges that defendant's meters are inaccurate and that bills presented to the complainant are not correct. The latter deposited \$351.50 with the Commission as the amount in dispute. No other payments were made prior to the date of hearing and complainant's service was terminated for 24 hours on July 21, 1977, which prompted a further deposit of \$463.97.

Public hearing was held before Administrative Law Judge Fraser at San Francisco on July 29, 1977 and the matter was submitted. Evidence was presented by the complainant and by defendant's Supervisor of Commercial Customer Services.

Complainant testified he wanted his three meters tested and calibrated. He also asserted that no one in defendant's local office will take the time to explain how his rates are formulated. Defendant's witness testified that complainant first requested that his three meter readings be combined on a single bill. This action

was authorized, but complainant was not available when a representative arrived to discuss the procedure. Defendant's witness and counsel agreed to authorize a Commission staff engineer or any other knowledgeable person to test or check complainant's meters. It was agreed by the parties that the Commission staff would test complainant's meters and report to the Commission within 45 days. Complainant thereupon authorized the Commission to turn all of his deposits over to defendant and the latter received checks for \$351.50 and \$463.97. (An additional deposit of \$169.59 was made on September 1, 1977.) Defendant's witness explained how complainant's rate was computed and promised the latter to spend additional time with him, if necessary.

The report from the Commission engineer was received on September 1, 1977. Copies were mailed to the complainant and to the counsel for defendant. The report stated that the meters were within the accuracy requirements promulgated by the Public Utilities Commission.

Findings

1. Complainant requested that the meters installed by defendant at his business establishment be checked for accuracy.
2. The meters were tested by engineers of defendant and the Public Utilities Commission and certified as being within the range of accuracy required by law.
3. Defendant's representatives have satisfied complainant's request for information on how his business rates are computed.
4. The request for relief should be denied and all monies on deposit should be forwarded to the defendant.

The Commission concludes that the relief requested should be denied.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the relief requested in the complaint is denied.

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

Dated at San Francisco California, this 12th day of OCTOBER, 1977.

Pellegrino B. Batistich
President
William J. Lyons
Vernon L. Sturgeon
Richard D. Cavale
Clair T. Delrieu
Commissioners