

Decision No. 88007 OCT 18 1977

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of GENERAL TELEPHONE
COMPANY OF CALIFORNIA for
modification of Decision No. 80864
re relocation of aerial facilities
in proximity to a state scenic
highway.

Application No. 57566
(Filed September 14, 1977)

O P I N I O N

In Application No. 57566, General Telephone Company of California (General) seeks a deviation from Decision No. 80864 for the relocation of aerial facilities that are in proximity to State Scenic Highway 160.

General's present facilities include open wire lines mounted on a pole line that extends along State Scenic Highway 160 for approximately 12,000 feet. The existing pole line is in close proximity to an existing Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) electrical transmission line which can be used to support General's aerial plant. General proposes to remove approximately 40 poles with associated crossarms and telephone wires and replace them with a single one-inch cable mounted on PG&E's pole line.

General stated it considered the feasibility and desirability of undergrounding the existing facilities, but concluded that this approach was impractical due to anticipated problems with the terrain concerned including a high water table, water seepage, oil and gas pockets and unfavorable soil conditions existing in the Sacramento Delta Region.

In a letter attached to the application, the County of Sacramento, Highways and Bridges Division, indicates its approval of General's proposal.

The Commission finds that:

1. The relocation of General's telephone facilities to PG&E's pole line will reduce the visual impact of its facilities along State Scenic Highway 160.
2. Undergrounding is impractical due to poor soil conditions.
3. A deviation from Decision No. 80864 is justified.
4. This approach does not foreclose the possibility of undergrounding both electrical and telephone facilities at some future time when such action becomes feasible and necessary.
5. A public hearing on this matter is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that General Telephone and Telegraph Company of California is authorized to deviate from the requirements of Decision No. 80864 for the relocation of its present telephone lines in the vicinity of State Scenic Highway 160 as described in its Application No. 57566.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this
18th day of OCTOBER, 1977.

Robert Batistich
President
William J. Quinn
Vernon L. Sturgeon
Charles J. Thorne
Clare L. DeWick
Commissioners