

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 88260 DEC 20 1977

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Okla and Mary Armstrong	)	
to deviate from mandatory requirements	)	
for underground utilities extension in	)	Application No. 57504
Tract 8222 in San Bernardino County,	)	(Filed August 5, 1977)
California.	)	
	)	

O P I N I O N

Applicants, Okla and Mary Armstrong, seek authority to deviate from mandatory undergrounding requirements of Southern California Edison Company (Edison) Rule 15 and Continental Telephone Company of California (Continental) Rule 15, in Tract 8222, Lucerne Valley, San Bernardino County, California.

The tract is located in a sparsely populated desert area nine miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Lucerne Valley. The tract consists of 80 acres subdivided into 31 lots of approximately 2.5 acres each. The tract map was filed with the county on February 11, 1970. To date there has been no development other than grading of four roads and drilling of a well. A few residents in the general area receive electric service from overhead lines. The remaining few residents do not have electric service.

Attached to the application is a copy of a letter, dated April 13, 1972, to applicants from the County of San Bernardino Planning Department stating that utilities would not have to be installed underground as the tract was approved prior to adoption of the County's Underground Utility Ordinance.

Edison, in a letter to applicants on July 12, 1977, stated its position that either overhead or underground facilities could be installed to serve the tract depending on the Commission's decision on the matter.

In the same letter as above, Edison stated that the estimated cost of underground facilities, including trenching, to serve the tract would be approximately \$75,960 as compared to \$20,460 for overhead service. The nonrefundable advance required for underground service would be approximately \$39,960. In contrast the approximate present value of the whole tract is \$37,200.

At further request, Edison estimated the individual cost to the applicant to be \$29,650 at the present time for underground service, versus a maximum of \$600 for overhead service (depending on connected load). A portion of the undergrounding advance is refundable if other property owners in the tract request service.

A Commission staff engineer prepared a report dated September 15, 1977, which was received as Exhibit 1.

The application should be denied because a deviation from the undergrounding requirement of Rule No. 15.1 would be in conflict with Commission policy regarding new residential subdivisions and developments.

#### Findings

1. Tract 8222 is located in a relatively remote and sparsely populated desert area nine miles southeast of the unincorporated community of Lucerne Valley.
2. The subdivision map was filed on February 11, 1970, prior to the adoption of mandatory utility undergrounding requirements by the County of San Bernardino. Consequently, the County does not require underground utilities for this subdivision.
3. The few electric customers in the area adjacent to Tract 8222 are receiving service from overhead facilities.
4. Edison does not object to providing either overhead or underground electric service to the subdivision.
5. A nonrefundable advance of approximately \$39,960 would be required for underground service as compared to a refundable advance of \$20,460 for overhead electric service. On an individual basis, the applicant must advance \$29,650 to obtain underground electric service, which is partially refundable as compared to a maximum of \$600 for overhead electric service.

6. Edison and Continental (should service be requested from the latter) should not be authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirements of their extension rules in Tract 8222, Lucerne Valley, California.

Conclusions

1. A public hearing is not required.
2. The application should be denied as provided in the order which follows.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Edison Company is not authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirement of its electric line extension rule of its tariff in Tract 8222 in Lucerne Valley.

2. Continental Telephone Company of California is not authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirement of its telephone line extension rule of its tariffs in Tract 8222 in Lucerne Valley.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of DECEMBER, 1977.

*I dissent*  
*William Symons, Jr.*

*Robert Batimich*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
President

*Joseph L. Stanger*  
\_\_\_\_\_  
*Richard D. Howell*  
\_\_\_\_\_

Commissioners

Commissioner Claire T. Dedrick, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.