

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 88644 MAR 21 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
SIERRA PACIFIC POWER COMPANY for)
General Rate Relief and for Authority) Application No. 57076
to Increase Its Electric Rates and)
Charges for Electric Service and to)
Impose Certain Tariff Revisions.)

ORDER DENYING REHEARING AND STAY

On January 31, 1978, Sierra Pacific Power Company (Sierra) filed its petition for rehearing and reconsideration of Decision No. 88337 and on February 2, 1978, Sierra filed its petition for stay of ordering paragraph No. 2 of Decision No. 88337 and postponement of hearings scheduled for March 23, 1978. The Commission has considered each and every contention raised by Sierra in each of its pleadings and is of the opinion that none of the relief requested should be granted.

Further hearings will provide the evidence from which the Commission can quantify the impact of its holdings in Decision No. 87838 upon the rate increase granted by Decision No. 88337. Once this impact is quantified the rate increase will be substantially released from the "subject to refund" provision of ordering paragraph No. 2 of Decision No. 88337. This does not mean that we would concurrently order rate reductions and refunds. It would be appropriate at such time as a decision in Phase II is issued to suspend any ordering paragraphs reducing rates or requiring refunds due to tax recalculations during the pendency of the appeal of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company of Decision No. 87838.

NOW THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The petition for rehearing of Decision No. 88337 is denied;
2. The petition for stay of ordering paragraph No. 2 of Decision No. 88337 is denied; and,

3. The petition for postponement of the March 23, 1978 hearing date is granted in part and hearings are hereby continued until May 5, 1978.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 21st day of MARCH, 1978.

LaBretton
William J. Lyons, Jr.

Robert Bateman
President

Vermon L. Stringer
Richard D. Sharpe
Clair T. Smith
Commissioners