

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 88707 APR 18 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MARIE DELAHUNTE,

Complainant,

vs.

SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC CO.,

Defendant.

Case No. 10484
(Filed January 10, 1978)

OPINION

Complainant disputes an electric bill rendered for 981 kilowatt-hours (kwh) estimated by defendant to have been used during the three-month billing periods from June through August 1977, during which time the electric meter was jammed. Complainant requests an order cancelling the charges made for the estimated usage or, in the alternative, an order reducing the charges to correspond to 528 kwh, estimated at the rate of 264 kwh per month for two months, on the basis of average usage in the subsequent three-month period. This matter was heard under the Expedited Complaint Procedure March 7, 1978 by Administrative Law Judge Main, pursuant to Rule 13.2 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure.

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Defendant's tariff Rule 18 provides:

"If, ...the meter...is found not to register ...an average bill, or a bill for the energy consumed, but not covered by the bills previously rendered for a period of not to exceed three months, may be rendered to the customer by the utility, subject to review by the Public Utilities Commission."

It was established at the hearing that complainant had made only limited occupancy of her apartment prior to the July billing period and that for the July and August billing periods an estimated average monthly use of 264 kwh was tenable. Complainant's alternative request for relief thus appeared to be reasonably indicated and not unfair. Defendant expressed concurrence with that evaluation.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that defendant reduce its billing for 981 kwh estimated to have been used by complainant to 528 kwh in an appropriate manner consistent with the foregoing opinion.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 18th day of A PRIL 1, 1978.

Robert Bateman
President
William J. Quinn
Vernon L. Sturgeon

Commissioners

Commissioner Richard D. Gravelle, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

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