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ORIGINAL

Decision No. 89125 JUL 25 1978

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY for an order or orders amending General Order No. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction", and to amend Rule 54.11 to provide for use of pin type insulators. (Electric)	Application No. 57630 (Filed October 14, 1977)

O P I N I O N

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) seeks an order of the Commission modifying G.O. 95 by amending Rule 54.11 to provide for use of pin type insulators attached to poles supporting conductors of more than 750 volts in a triangular configuration.

Rule 54.11 of G.O. 95 presently requires post insulators to support conductors of more than 750 volts, so does not permit such use of pin type insulators. PG&E estimates an annual saving of $400,000 through the use of available surplus pin type insulators and through continuing savings from the lesser cost of pin type insulators as opposed to post type insulators.

Discussion

PG&E submitted this proposal to Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Sacramento Municipal Utility District, Sierra Pacific Power Company, Pacific Power & Light Company and the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers, AFL-CIO. No objections to the proposed modification were received.

G.O. 95 has consistently been interpreted to exclude construction not provided for in the general order, so that armless construction, with pin type insulators, in a triangular configuration, is not permitted; primarily because pin type insulators had been overlooked and not previously requested for such service. Where pin type insulators' performance for leakage, strength and voltage breakdown equal or exceed requirements of post type insulators, they are now considered appropriate for armless construction in a triangular configuration and should equally satisfy aesthetics, service and safety for such construction.

Findings of Fact

1. The public interest, including safety to workmen and the public generally, will not be adversely affected by the use of pin type insulators, in a triangular configuration, for crossarmless construction.

2. The proposed revision will be subject to all provisions of Rule 54.11 and G.O. 95 not herein modified, including strength requirements.

3. Significant economies in construction are estimated to be obtained from pin type insulators in such construction.

4. The proposed revision was submitted by PG&E to other large electric utilities in California and to the representatives of the workers so affected. No objections to the proposed modification were received.

Conclusions of Law

1. It is reasonable to modify the existing rules of G.O. 95, to provide for the use of pin type insulators, in a triangular configuration, in crossarmless construction.

2. It is reasonable to incorporate into Rule 54.11 of G.O. 95, a sub-rule as set forth in Appendix A, and as discussed in this opinion.

The Commission concludes that the application herein should be granted as set forth in the following order and that a public hearing is not necessary.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The Commission's General Order No. 95 "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction" is hereby amended to allow pin type insulators in triangular configuration at more than 750 volts as set forth in Appendix A attached to this order.

2. The Executive Director shall cause a copy of this order and its appendix to be served upon each electric and telephone utility operating within California and the State Division of Industrial Safety.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 25th day of JULY, 1978.

Robert Batinovich
President
William Symons, Jr.
Vernon L. Sturgeon
Leonard M. Grimes, Jr.
Claire T. Dedrick
Commissioners

APPENDIX A

The Commission's General Order No. 95, "Rules for Overhead Electric Line Construction", is amended to incorporate into Rule 54.11, a sub-rule to read:

"Rule 54.11-H - Triangular Configuration with Pin Type Insulators

"Pin type insulators supporting conductors of more than 750 volts may be attached to poles in triangular configuration. Where pin type insulators in triangular configuration are employed, all provisions of Rule 54.11 not herein modified shall be applicable."