

Decision No. 89264 AUG 22 1978

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Raymond R. Meeks,
 Floyd C. Williams and
 Richard K. Parry to deviate
 from mandatory requirement for
 underground utilities extension
 for Tract No. 117, Inyo County,
 California.

Application No. 57575
 (Filed September 14, 1977)

O P I N I O N

Applicants, Raymond R. Meeks, Floyd C. Williams, and Richard K. Parry, seek authority to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirement of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) Rule 15 for Tract 117, Inyo County, California.

Tract 117 consists of 180 acres subdivided into 49 lots ranging in size from 2.6 acres to 5.3 acres with 61% of the lots being 3 acres and larger. The tract map was recorded with Inyo County on December 19, 1974. The tract is located in a sparsely populated high desert valley on the California side of the California-Nevada border, 1 mile north of State Highway 178 between Shoshone, California and Pahrump, Nevada. A section of the tract is surrounded by land owned by U. S. Bureau of Land Management which precludes any future development.

According to discussion with a staff planner of the Department of Planning and Recreation of Inyo County, the Inyo County Subdivision Ordinance requires that utility service extensions for tentative and existing subdivisions be constructed underground unless such requirements are waived by the County Planning Commission. Waiver from this ordinance has not yet been requested for Tract 117.

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The staff planner also stated that State Highway 178 is not a designated scenic highway.

SCE does not have any source of electric supply in the area. The nearest source of supply for electric service is approximately 1/4 mile east in Nevada and belongs to Valley Electric Association who would extend an overhead line to the California-Nevada border, at which point SCE would connect for distribution to Tract 117.

Attached to the application are letters from SCE and Valley Electric Association.

In its letter to one of the applicants, SCE has not stated its position relative to overhead versus underground extension to the tract. The estimated cash advances would be \$24,380 for overhead versus \$55,500 for undergrounding. According to SCE, the total advance would be refundable for overhead, whereas \$46,825 would be refundable for undergrounding.

In its letter to SCE, Valley Electric Company estimated the cost of installing overhead facilities from its nearest existing source of supply to the California-Nevada border would be \$6,566. This cost would be required of the applicants in advance whether the Commission decides on overhead or undergrounding and would not be refundable. In case the Commission decides on undergrounding, the applicants would be required to perform the necessary trenching which would amount to approximately \$8,000. The total initial costs to the applicants for electric service would be \$30,946 for overhead and \$70,066 for undergrounding.

The application should be denied because it does not state sufficient justification for granting a deviation from the undergrounding requirement of Rule 15 of SCE.

Findings

1. Tract 117 is located in the sparsely populated high desert valley, on the California side of California-Nevada border, 1 mile north of State Highway 178, between Shoshone, California and Pahrump, Nevada.

2. The tract map was filed on December 19, 1974, with Inyo County, California.

3. State Highway 178 is not a designated scenic highway.

4. Waiver from the Inyo County Subdivision Ordinance underground requirements has not yet been granted for Tract 117.

5. There are no plans for future subdividing of parcels and all surrounding land belongs to the Bureau of Land Management.

6. SCE has not stated its position relative to overhead versus underground extension to the tract.

7. The total costs of providing electric service to all lots in the tract would be approximately \$30,946 for overhead versus \$70,066 for undergrounding with \$24,380 refundable for overhead versus \$46,825 for undergrounding from SCE.

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 Southern California Edison Company is not authorized to deviate from mandatory undergrounding requirement of its electric line extension rule of its tariff in Tract 117, Inyo County, California.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22nd day of AUGUST, 1978.

Robert Bateman
President

William J. Quinn

Thomas 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.