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Decision No. 89567

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 under-)
ground utilities extension for)
Tract No. 117, Inyo County,)
California.)

Application No. 57575

ORDER GRANTING REHEARING
OF DECISION NO. 89264

On August 22, 1978, the Commission issued Decision No. 89264, denying the application of Raymond R. Meeks, Floyd C. Williams, and Richard K. Parry (Petitioners) for deviation from mandatory undergrounding pursuant to Rule 15 of Southern California Edison Company's tariff schedule. Petitioners thereafter filed a petition for rehearing of Decision No. 89264. The Commission has considered the allegations contained therein and is of the opinion that good cause for granting the requested relief has been shown; therefore;

IT IS ORDERED that rehearing of Decision No. 89264 be granted.

The effective date of this order is the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of OCTOBER, 1978.

President
William J. Quinn

Vernon L. Sturgeon

Stephen A. Hinkle

Clare J. DeBiele
Commissioners

Commissioner Robert Batinovich, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

FILED
PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

SEP 18 1978

SAN FRANCISCO OFFICE
Application No. 57575

Application of RAYMOND R. MEEKS,
FLOYD C. WILLIAMS and
RICHARD K. PARRY to deviate from
mandatory requirement for under-
ground utilities extension for
Tract No. 117, Layo County,
California.

APPLICATION REHEARING OF DECISION NO. 89264 BY APPLICANTS

SEP 18 9 53 AM '78

September 15, 1978

ELECTRIC BOARD

SEP 18 1978

Public Utilities Commission
350 McEllister Ave.
San Francisco, Calif. 94102

Gentlemen,

89264. 102

This letter is being written as per a recent phone call with Mr. Stalder of your office. We would like to request a rehearing from your order of August 22, 1978 to put our power service underground instead of overhead (decision 29624) on our subdivision tract 117 in Inyo County. (Refer to application #57575, filed September 14, 1977).

Our request is based on the original reasons presented to you and in addition we are enclosing a letter from Southern California Edison Company, recently sent to us stating a number of serious problems that they would encounter by having to install and serve an underground power supply.

Mr. William Brown of Southern California Edison Co. has discussed the matter with me and in his opinion we could encounter serious delays in restoring power due to equipment failure if we were to have underground wiring. This would arise from the fact that SCE does not stock the equipment necessary to carry the power supply delivered from Nevada's Valley Electric Co., who would be the main source of our power supply.

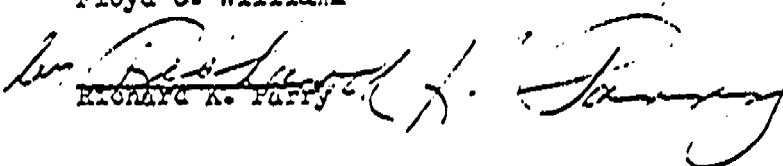
We sincerely ask that we be given a rehearing and also sincerely request that we be allowed to be present at this hearing.

This matter is of utmost importance to us and we feel that it is impossible for you gentlemen to grasp the entire situation and it's impact upon us without our presence.

Most sincerely,

Raymond R. Weeks,
Floyd C. Williams

Richard A. Parry



Mr. Richard K. Parry
September 12, 1978
Page 2


3. Soil conditions at subdivision. Customer indicates apparent caliche conditions in subdivision. This will result in longer repair times in future, should our crews have to hand dig to find cable faults and to make repairs.
4. Availability of materials and equipment.

It is not the intent of Southern California Edison Company to circumvent the mandatory requirements for underground utilities for Tariff Rule 15.1. However, should there be mutual advantages for all parties concerned, customers, developer and the utility company, it would be appropriate to pursue all alternatives.

Let it be known by this letter that the Southern California Edison Company stands ready to provide service per PUC Decision 89264. We will await further correspondence from you in regard to your service requirements for your subdivision.

Should you have any questions, please contact me at the Barstow Business Office.

Sincerely yours,



W. R. Brown
Area Manager

WRB:hm

Southern California Edison Company



30553 Rimrock Road
Barstow, California 92311

September 12, 1978

Mr. Richard K. Parry
2855 Canonita Drive
Fallbrook, California 92028

Subject: Stewart Valley Properties
Tract 117, Inyo County
PUC Decision 89264

Dear Mr. Parry:

This letter is in regard to our discussions concerning the recent PUC Decision requiring the installation of underground electrical facilities to serve your new subdivision.

According to the decision, the Southern California Edison Company did not state its position relative to overhead versus underground extension to the tract. However, in several verbal discussions with the representatives from the PUC, our basic position was stated with the preference of overhead extension, if possible. This preference was stated in regard to material and equipment problems that will be involved since the service voltage (14.4 KV) is not a normal service voltage in the Southern California Edison Company system.

This problem then is compounded when outages occur, which we can expect regardless if the system is overhead or underground. We can expect outages of longer duration and involving more customers if the system is installed underground. This increase of outage time is inherent with underground systems, as opposed to overhead systems.

Many other factors are also included in our preference of overhead system for this particular tract, and they are:

1. Remoteness of Subdivision.
2. Existing overhead facilities recently constructed by Valley Electric Association, which skirts the north-east corner of the tract and extends several miles north on the Nevada side of the border.

89264

AUG 22 1978

Decision No. _____

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 BATINOVICH
President
WILLIAM SYMONS, JR.
VERNON L. STURGEON
Commissioners

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

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