

es/dz

Decision No. 89666 NOV 28 1978

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MARJORIE WRIGHT ROBINSON AND ANTHONY WRIGHT,

Complainants,

vs.

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY,

Defendant.

(ECP)  
Case No. 10635  
(Filed July 24, 1978)

Marjorie W. Robinson, for herself,  
complainant.  
R. B. Puckett, for defendant.

OPINION AND ORDER

This is an Expedited Complaint Procedure pursuant to Rule 13.2 of the Rules of Practice and Procedure and Section 1702.1 of the Public Utilities Code. A public hearing was held before Administrative Law Judge Main in Los Angeles on October 16, 1978, and the matter was submitted. Complainant testified on her own behalf. Testimony on behalf of defendant was presented by R. B. Puckett, Shirley Staten, and Cameron Davis.

Complainant contends that her bills for gas service during the period November 1977-March 1978 were excessive and seeks an adjustment of those bills. Defendant alleges that the meter involved was tested and found to be operating within the limits of accuracy prescribed by the Commission and that the bills were based on actual meter readings and correctly computed.

During the period of October 18, 1977 through March 22, 1978, the evidence shows that defendant billed complainant as follows:

| <u>Billing Period</u> | <u>Thermal Units<br/>Used</u> | <u>Amount of<br/>Bill</u> |
|-----------------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------|
| 10-18-77 to 11-17-77  | 145                           | \$23.92                   |
| 11-17-77 to 12-19-77  | 217                           | 35.88                     |
| 12-19-77 to 1-20-78   | 476                           | 83.15                     |
| 1-20-78 to 2-21-78    | 308                           | 51.49                     |
| 2-21-78 to 3-22-78    | 178                           | 29.25                     |

Complainant's residence is a 4-bedroom home in which gas is used for space heating (forced air unit, rated at 80,000 Btu/hr), water heating (40-gallon capacity, rated at 43,000 Btu/hr), and clothes drying (rated at 30,000 Btu/hr). Complainant testified that her forced air central heating unit was completely inoperative from November 7, 1977 to December 15, 1977; that from December 15, 1977 to January 31, 1978 that unit could only be, and was, operated manually; that thereafter she discontinued its use because it was emitting excessive fumes; and that gas space heating was not resumed until the heating unit was replaced on February 15, 1978.

The evidence is clear that complainant's connected gas load could account for the consumption registered by the meter. The evidence also shows that the meter at complainant's premises was not in error, that it was properly read, and that the bills in dispute were correctly computed.

In these circumstances, we conclude that the high use complained of occurred. It is the duty of defendant to charge and collect for all gas used as provided in its filed tariff.

IT IS ORDERED that the relief requested is denied.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of NOVEMBER, 1978.

Robert Bateman  
President

William S. Jones Jr.

Richard D. Gable

Clair T. Delish  
Commissioners

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.