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Decision No. 90375 JUN 5 1979

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Mildred Gaver for deviation from the undergrounding requirements to build two overhead power lines in proximity to California Scenic Highway 156.

Application No. 58499
(Filed December 1, 1978)

O P I N I O N

Applicant, Mildred Gaver, seeks authority to deviate from Ordering Paragraph No. 1 in Decision No. 80864 to permit construction of two overhead power lines in the vicinity of California Scenic Highway No. 156. The lines will serve wells which will supply water for strawberry crops on 345 acres of Applicant's farm. ✓

This farm is located south of Highway 156 about three miles east of Castroville in northern Monterey County. The County restricts the use of land for agricultural and farming purposes under a Land Conservation Contract.

The Commission staff prepared a report dated March 5, 1979. This report states that, after a review of the application and on-site inspection of the farm, the staff engineer recommends granting the requested deviation from Ordering Paragraph No. 1 in Decision No. 80864.

According to the staff's investigation, the pole lines will extend from a power line 1,900 feet south of Highway 156 to the wells located approximately 900 feet and 400 feet south of the highway. These poles will be visible only from short stretches of the highway.

Applicant has installed water lines along the boundary of the farm adjacent to the highway and will plant trees to screen the poles from the highway view. Water lines will also be installed elsewhere on the farm for irrigation. Applicant alleges that underground electric installation would interfere with or may represent a hazard to plowing.

It is the stated policy of the California Department of Transportation that it does not act on permits for overhead lines but relies on the Planning Department of each County to decide whether power lines in the vicinity of a scenic highway should be constructed underground or overhead. Applicant has secured permits for overhead construction from the Monterey County Planning Department and the California Central Coastal Regional Commission.

Pacific Gas and Electric Company estimates that an advance payment of \$80,000 will have to be paid by Applicant for underground lines. For an overhead installation, on the other hand, no advance payment will be required.

Findings

1. Applicant's farm is located south of Scenic Highway 156 in Monterey County, approximately three miles east of Castroville.
2. The two poles nearest to Highway 156 will be located approximately 900 ft. and 400 ft. from it, respectively.
3. Because of the hilly features of the terrain, the poles will be visible only from short stretches of the highway.
4. Applicant will plant trees along Highway 156 which will screen the poles.
5. Applicant has already installed a 2-inch pipe to supply water to these trees.
6. Applicant's farm is located in an agricultural land use contract zone, where no other development is permitted.
7. Water lines will be installed elsewhere on the farm at a depth of three feet.

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8. The Monterey County Planning Department and the Coastal Commission have approved installation of overhead electric power lines on this farm.

9. An estimated advance payment of \$80,000 would be required from Applicant for underground facilities, while no advance payment would be required for overhead installation.

Conclusions


1. A public hearing is not required.
2. The Commission concludes that the application should be granted as provided in the order which follows.

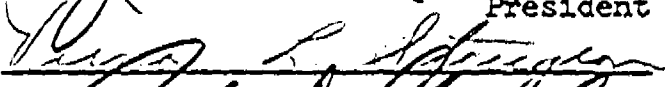
O R D E R


IT IS ORDERED that Pacific Gas and Electric Company is authorized to deviate from the underground requirement for lines in the vicinity of the designated Scenic Highway 156 per map attached to the application and to construct an overhead extension to serve two water wells on the farm owned by Mildred Gaver located in Monterey County, California.


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

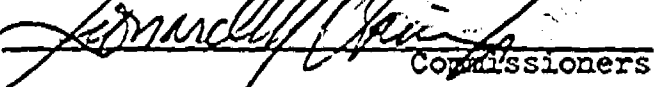
Dated at San Francisco, California, this 5th day of JUNE, 1979.



President








Commissioners