

ORIGINALDecision No. 90489 JUL 3 1979

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the Department of
Transportation of the State of
California for deviation from mandatory
requirements for underground utilities
at the intersection of State Highway 62
and Dillon Road, Riverside County.

Application No. 58280
(Filed August 7, 1978)

O P I N I O N

Applicant, State of California, Department of Transportation, seeks authority to deviate from the undergrounding requirements of Southern California Edison Company's (SCE) Rule 15, for installation of two luminaires at the intersection of State Highway 62 and Dillon Road in Riverside County.

That portion of Route 62 is a designated state scenic highway pursuant to Section 263.1 of the Streets and Highways Code, under which the applicant is required to locate new facilities underground in compliance with Decision No. 80864 implementing Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

The applicant requests a deviation to allow extension of about 800 feet of new overhead electrical line along five new wooden poles to the luminaire sites from an existing pole located 600 feet from the intersection of Highway 62 and Dillon Road.

The applicant has submitted letters of concurrence from the State Scenic Highway Advisory Committee and the Riverside County Planning Commission, as well as a design map of the proposed installation and photographs of the intersection. Southern California Edison Company has taken a neutral position relative to this deviation request. The subject area is already very cluttered visually by transmission lines.

The Scenic Highway Advisory Committee letter indicates that undergrounding is not required for aesthetic purposes, due to the existence of "... 90 miles of wooden pole line and six miles of steel tower line." in the scenic viewshed. It further states that northbound motorists on Route 62 will only see the pole line briefly due to its being obscured by Whitewater Hill. The southbound motorists' view of the proposed line would be somewhat obscured by the existing taller double pole and steel tower transmission lines in the vicinity and overshadowed in the background by Whitewater Hill.

The Riverside County Planning Department concurs with the deviation request because previous invasion of overhead electrical facilities in the vicinity of the subject area renders the proposed overhead facilities' effect on the area's aesthetics insignificant.

SCE estimated its cost of overhead service to the proposed installation at \$3,275 with no charge to the applicant, compared to applicant's estimate of \$13,000 for underground service to luminaires located on SCE-owned wood poles, with no refundable costs applicable in either instance. Decision No. 80865 states that deviation from undergrounding requirements may be considered where "the visual impact of overhead facilities would be so infinitesimal as to render undergrounding unwarranted and wasteful." This application appears to comply with that intent, since undergrounding would offer no noticeable aesthetic improvement despite substantially higher service costs.

Authorization to deviate from the undergrounding requirements of Rule No. 15 of SCE at the intersection of Route 62 and Dillon Road should be granted.

Findings

1. The application is for the proposed installation of five new poles and 800 feet of overhead line to serve new luminaires at the intersection of State Highway 62 and Dillon Road in Riverside County, California.

2. The Scenic Highway Advisory Committee in a letter indicated that undergrounding is not necessary for aesthetic purposes.

3. The Riverside County Planning Department in a letter concurred that overhead facilities would not significantly affect the area's aesthetics.

4. SCE estimated the costs to the company for overhead service at \$3,275 with no cost to the applicant.

5. The applicant estimated the costs for overhead service at \$13,000 for underground service to SCE-owned wood poles, with no refundable costs applicable.

Conclusions


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

O R D E R


IT IS ORDERED that Southern California Edison Company is authorized to deviate from the mandatory undergrounding requirements of its electric line extension tariff rule at the intersection of State Highway 62 and Dillon Road in Riverside County, California.

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


Dated at San Francisco, California, this 3rd day of JULY, 1979.




President



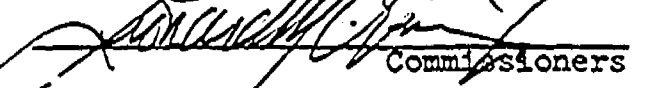
Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioner



Commissioners