

U/kn

Decision No. 92357

OCT 22 1980

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY for  
an Order Granting a Deviation from  
Rule 54.7 of General Order No. 95,  
"Rules for Overhead Electric Line  
Construction," thereby Allowing a  
Reduction of Required Minimum Climbing  
Space Dimensions, for Y-Shaped  
Transmission Towers Planned to be  
Used for the Proposed Gates-Gregg  
500 KV Line Section.

Application No. 59747  
(Filed June 19, 1980)

O P I N I O N

Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) seeks an ex parte order of the Commission approving a deviation from the climbing space dimensions required by Rule 54.7-A2 of General Order No. 95, this request to be limited to the new style Y-shaped towers planned for part of the proposed Gates-Gregg 500 kV transmission line.

Discussion

This deviation of the rule would authorize reduced climbing space clearances for approximately 100 of the 212 total towers required for the proposed 51.5-mile long transmission line. It will thus enable the Y-shaped towers to remain within an overall design size and dimension judged practical and economical. These Y-shaped towers, according to PG&E, provide an improved appearance over the traditional steel lattice style and require less land use due to their single vertical support. PG&E proposes to use these towers in order to meet criticisms voiced in previous hearings for the Gates-Gregg transmission line section concerning transmission tower visual impact and excessive farm land use and intrusion.

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The Commission staff's opinion is that the requested reduction of climbing space dimension, from the rule required 22 feet to a 14-foot clearance between the slanted support arm and the middle conductor, is reasonable.

This application for reduced climbing space clearance has been specifically approved by the union which represents PG&E's linemen, based upon the condition that there will be no work performed from the pipe platform which will reduce the clear live line tool distance <sup>the Division of Occupational Safety and Health's Electric Safety</sup> below the 11-foot minimum required by <sup>Order No. 1</sup> Section 2940.2 of Title 8 of the California Administrative Code. <sup>contained in</sup>

Finding and Conclusion

The reduced climbing space clearance between the Y-tower slanted arms and the middle conductor presents no undue hazard to linemen.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted as set forth in the following order, and that a public hearing is not necessary.

O R D E R

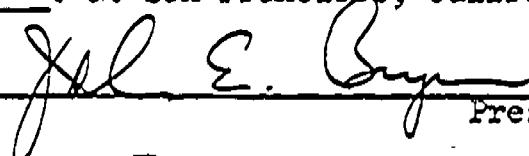
IT IS ORDERED that:

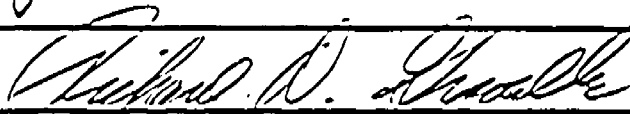
1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company's request for a deviation of the climbing space dimensions required by Rule 54.7-A2 of General Order No. 95 for 500 kV conductors supported by Y-shaped transmission towers is approved.

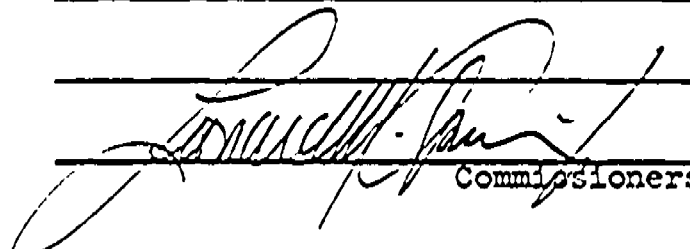
2. This approval is restricted to Y-shaped towers that will be used for a portion of the Gates-Gregg 500 kV transmission line, if and when such line might be authorized.

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

Dated OCT 22 1980 at San Francisco, California.

  
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President

  
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Commissioners

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, 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.