

Decision 93639 OCT 20 1981

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's)
own motion into adoption of)
procedures for termination of)
electric and gas service.)

OII 49
(Petitions for Modification
filed October 13 and 15, 1981)

ORDER EXTENDING TIME

By petitions filed October 13 and 15, 1981, Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) and Southern California Gas Company (SoCal) seek extensions of time for complying with Decision (D.) 93533. They allege that the extensive changes wrought by D.93533 in their billing and termination procedures make it impossible to comply within the time required.

D.93533 was signed September 15, 1981, and was effective on October 15, 1981. Tariff sheets reflecting the changes ordered by D.93533 are to be filed within five days after the effective date of the decision, or by October 20, 1981. D.93533 also requires that during the first full billing cycle after the effective date of the decision, or beginning October 16, 1981, in SoCal's case, utility customers are to be informed of the option available to the elderly and handicapped to name a third party to receive termination notices.

SoCal's Petition

SoCal requests that its time to give notice to its customers of their option to name a third party to receive termination notices be extended from October 16, 1981 to November 2, 1981. It also requests that its time to file and make effective tariff sheets reflecting the changes ordered in D.93533 be extended to January 13, 1982. Finally, SoCal requests that the statement on page 10 of

D.93533, "that utilities should give 24-hour notice to all customers without discrimination as a final step before termination," be clarified to restrict it to residential customers, consistent with the scope of Order Instituting Investigation 49.

These requests are reasonable and will be granted.

PG&E's Petition

PG&E, citing many of the same factors as SoCal that make compliance with D.93533 impossible in the time allowed, requests that the effective date of D.93533 be extended to January 15, 1982 and that the time for filing and making effective tariffs be extended to January 20, 1982. We will not extend the effective date of D.93533 but we will extend PG&E's time to file and make effective tariff sheets reflecting the changes ordered by D.93533 to January 20, 1982.

Findings of Fact

1. It will be extremely difficult, if not impossible, for PG&E and SoCal to implement the changes in their billing, collection, and termination procedures made by D.93533 within the time allowed by that decision.

2. The extensions of time sought by PG&E and SoCal are reasonable and should be granted.

Conclusions of Law

1. SoCal's time to begin giving notice to its customers of their right to name a third party to receive a termination notice should be extended to November 2, 1981.

2. SoCal's and PG&E's requests that their times to file and make effective the tariff sheets reflecting the changes made by D.93533 be extended to January 13 and 20, 1982 should be granted.

3. The statement on page 10 of D.93533 should be modified to read: "that utilities should give 24-hour notice to all residential customers without discrimination..."

4. The time within which to file and make effective the tariff sheets required by D.93533 should be extended to January 20, 1982 for all other gas and electric corporations subject to D.93533 to avoid piecemeal requests for extensions of time and further orders responding to those requests.

5. Because the date in D.93533 for filing tariffs is today, this order should be effective today.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Gas Company's time to begin giving notice to its customers of their right to name a third party to receive a termination notice is extended to November 2, 1981.

2. Southern California Gas Company's and Pacific Gas and Electric Company's times to file and make effective the tariff sheets reflecting the changes made by D.93533 are extended to January 13 and 20, 1982, respectively.

3. Other gas and electric corporations subject to D.93533 may file and make effective the tariff sheets reflecting the changes made by D.93533 on or before January 20, 1982.

4. The statement on page 10 of D.93533 is modified to read:

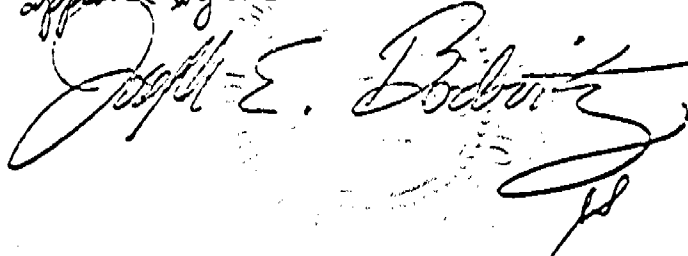
"that utilities should give 24-hour notice to all residential customers without discrimination as a final step before termination."

This order is effective today.

Dated OCT 20 1981, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. BRYSON
President
RICHARD D. CRAVELLE
LEONARD M. GRIMES, JR.
VICTOR GALVO
PRISCILLA C. GREW
Commissioners

I certify that this decision was approved by the above Commissioners today.



Joseph E. Bobovitch