

U/TB/FS/WPSC

**ORIGINAL**Decision 93797 DEC - 1981

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of WOODWORTH HOME BUILDERS for exemption from certain requirements of Decision Nos. 92251, 92501 and 92769. )

Application 60955  
(Filed October 1, 1981)

O P I N I O N

On September 16, 1980, we issued Decision (D.) 92251 establishing demonstration solar financing programs for Pacific Gas and Electric Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, and Southern California Gas Company. We subsequently modified this decision by D.92501, December 5, 1980, and D.92769, March 3, 1981. In these decisions we specified a checklist of requirements for domestic solar water heaters. Solar water heaters must meet all checklist requirements to be eligible for the solar financing programs that became effective March 1, 1981.

By letter dated February 18, 1981, to the Energy Conservation Branch (ECB), which was docketed as Application 60955 on October 1, 1981, Woodworth Home Builders (Woodworth) requested exemption from the Order Instituting Investigation (OII) 42 requirement to use efficiency data published under the Testing and Inspection Program for Solar Equipment (TIPSE) as a means of determining the number of collectors needed for eligibility in the utility programs.

Discussion

In D.92251 we specifically directed the staff to evaluate under a monitoring program "the extent to which solar water heating can be relied upon to provide adequate and reliable supplies of energy". We then adopted, in D.92501, a checklist by which the installer of each system must certify that the system will deliver a net 60% solar fraction. We also required the staff to evaluate applications for exemptions to the rules.

Solar domestic water heating systems monitored in California prior to our sizing requirements have yielded solar fractions well under 60% as installed under uncoordinated industry methods. These units appear to be too small to produce worthwhile savings for their users and for ratepayers. ECB staff does not favor reductions to the present sizing requirements until such time as results of direct monitoring warrant them.

Under TIPSE the thermal performance of flat-plate glazed solar collectors is tested. The TIPSE-published efficiency data is used to determine system sizing requirements.

To date no application for exemption from the required TIPSE-rated efficiency has been granted.

The Commission recognizes that collectors vary and has adopted the TIPSE results to quantify these differences. The Commission does not believe that Woodworth's TIPSE data should be treated differently than that of all others.

Conclusion of Law

The exemption requested by Woodworth for its TIPSE-published efficiency data is inconsistent with program goals for energy savings and should not be granted.

O R D E R

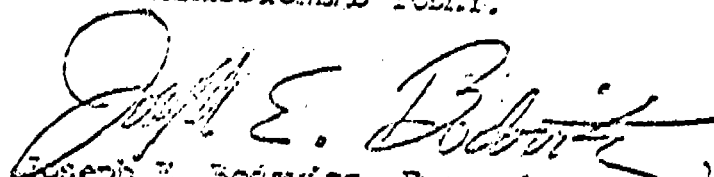
Woodworth Home Builders (Woodworth) is denied the requested exemption to meet TIPSE published efficiency data as a means of determining the number of collectors needed for eligibility in the OII 42 programs.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated DEC 1 1981, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. BRYSON  
President  
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE  
LEONARD M. CRIMES, JR.  
VICTOR CALVO  
PRISCILLA C. CREW  
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION  
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE  
COMMISSIONERS TODAY.

  
Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director