

SEP 11 1995

Decision 95-09-006 September 7, 1995

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

William D. Fitzgerald,)
)
 Complainant,)
)
 vs.)
)
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY)
 (U 904 G),)
)
 Defendant.)

(ECP)
 Case 95-03-010
 (Filed March 15, 1995)

ORIGINAL

William D. Fitzgerald, for himself.
Connie Christensen, for defendant.

O P I N I O N

Complainant seeks a refund of 20% of his gas bill over the past three years because of a leak found in his gas meter in July 1994. Defendant states that it gave complainant a credit of \$33.45 upon discovery of the leak and that no further reparations are due. Public hearing was held June 30, 1995.

Complainant testified that in 1985 defendant changed his gas meter and his gas bills increased significantly. He also noticed a faint smell of gas shortly after the meter change. By 1994 the gas smell increased substantially and he called the gas company. The company found a gas leak in July 1994 and fixed it; thereafter his gas bills went down. He requests a substantial refund because the leak, over the years, caused his gas consumption to exceed the baseline amount with the consequent higher payment.

Defendant testified that it was first notified of a gas leak in July 1994. It investigated, found the leak, and credited complainant with \$33.45. In October 1994 the company made a complete field investigation of the meter, gas lines, and

complainant's appliances and found all to be working without problems.

Appendix A shows complainant's usage since 1983. It appears to us that there are no gross discrepancies in usage which would support a claim for reparations. The usage is consistent over the years, allowing for normal fluctuations due to weather and family living needs.

Our records show that complainant has deposited \$63.62 with the Commission. Complainant says that he deposited an additional \$181.41 with the Commission. We find no record of this deposit. If complainant will provide us with his canceled check or receipt, we will conduct a further search.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the relief request in the complaint is denied. The \$63.62 on deposit in this docket shall be paid to defendant Southern California Gas Company and credited to the account of complainant William D. Fitzgerald.

This order is effective today.

Dated September 7, 1995, at Los Angeles, California.

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
President
P. GREGORY CONLON
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.
HENRY M. DUQUE
Commissioners

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

Wesley Franklin
Acting Executive Director