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Decision 95-11-042 November 21, 1995

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Betty Augusta Orme,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Gas Company
(U 904 G),

Defendant.

(ECP)
Case 95-08-016
(Filed August 24, 1995)

ORIGINAL

Betty A. Orme, for herself, complainant.
C. Christensen, for Southern California Gas Company,
defendant.

O P I N I O N

Betty Orme (complainant) seeks to have 1) her gas service restored and 2) a finding that she owes only \$9.15 as a past due bill. Southern California Gas Company (defendant) alleges that complainant's service was terminated for nonpayment of bills and that the amount due is \$304.37. Public hearing was held September 15, 1995.

Complainant testified that she had paid all of her gas bills except for \$9.15. She has \$49.35 on deposit with the Commission. She testified that she never used all the gas for which she was billed and, therefore, her bills are too high. She presented copies of many of her bills and receipts for payment.

A witness for defendant testified that as of the date of hearing, complainant owed \$304.37. She presented an exhibit setting forth complainant's gas usage since December 1, 1993 to August 1, 1995, and payments made by complainant, showing a balance due of \$304.37.

We have examined the bills and payment record offered by complainant. All of complainant's receipts were shown on defendant's exhibit. Complainant had no receipts that were not credited by defendant. Complainant owes defendant \$304.37.

Complainant is entitled to the benefits of defendant's low income rate (California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE)). Defendant should recompute complainant's past bills from her Corning Street address and her present address as if she were on the low income rate. Defendant should reconnect complainant's service if complainant pays \$25.00 against her past due recomputed bill and agrees to pay \$25.00 a month toward the balance due. In addition, complainant must pay her current gas bill when due.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the relief requested in the complaint is denied. Money on deposit in this docket shall be disbursed to Southern California Gas Company and credited to Betty Orme's account.

This order is effective today.

Dated November 21, 1995, at San Francisco, California.

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