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Decision 96-06-046 June 19, 1996

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Larry De Ray Richesin,)
 Complainant,)
 vs.)
 Southern California Edison)
 Company,)
 Defendant.)

ORIGINAL

(ECP)
Case 96-03-062
(Filed March 29, 1996)

Larry D. Richesin, for himself,
 complainant.
Kathy L. Muto, for Southern California
 Edison Company, defendant.

O P I N I O N

Larry D. Richesin (complainant) seeks a refund of \$20 per month for three years because of alleged high electric bills. Southern California Edison Company (defendant) denies the allegations. Public hearing was held on April 26, 1996.

Complainant testified that in talking to his neighbors he discovered that his electric bills averaged at least \$20 a month more than his neighbors, and have done so for at least three years. He said that he and his wife live in a 1,620 square foot home; no one else lives with them. They both work and are out of the house at least 10 hours a day every working day. They have a gas water heater, clothes dryer, and furnace. He knows no reason why his electric bill is so high.

Defendant's witness testified that complainant's electric meter was tested three times in the past three years and was found to be accurate on all three occasions. An inspection of complainant's home showed more than enough connected load to cause

the kilowatt hour (kWh) usage complained of. In addition to the usual electric appliances found in a home, complainant had an electric spa with a 6,000-watt heater and a 1.5 horsepower pump and a second refrigerator. The spa alone can add 50% to a residential electric bill and a second refrigerator can add about 100 kWh a month to an electric bill.

Complainant's high bills are not due to an inaccurate meter, but may be due to his use of a spa and a second refrigerator. The connected load in his home is more than adequate to consume the kWh billed.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that the relief requested in the complaint is denied.

This order is effective today.

Dated June 19, 1996, at San Francisco, California.

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