

Decision 97-05-051 May 21, 1997

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Ruby Patterson,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Edison Co.,

(U 33SE)

Defendant.

ORIGINAL

(ECP)

Case 96-11-045

(Filed November 17, 1996)

Ruby Patterson, for herself, complainant.
Debby Dokter, for Southern California Edison
Company, defendant.

O P I N I O N

Complainant seeks a reduction in her electric bill of \$1200 on the ground that defendant's electric meter was defective, causing high bills for the past year. Defendant states that its meter was accurate and no reduction is warranted.

Public hearing was held March 28, 1997.

Complainant testified that she moved into her home in August 1995 and had high electric bills from the beginning. She had expected monthly bills in the range of \$70 to \$80, but instead had bills over \$200. She said the prior owner had bills of about \$140. She lives in a 2400 sq. ft. home with air conditioning, plus the usual electric appliances. At the time of her high bills, only three people lived in the house. Today, six people live in the house and the bills are lower. Her meter was replaced in December 1996.

Defendant's meter tester testified that he checked complainant's meter three times in the past year and each time the meter tested accurately. The meter was

changed last December at the insistence of complainant; it was not defective. In May 1996, a connected load evaluation was performed by Southern California Edison Company (Edison) which confirmed that the connected load at the house was sufficient to have used the kilowatts billed. The connected load included a central air conditioning unit, 25 cubic foot refrigerator, five 100-watt fans, five television sets, and two computers. A burned socket was found on complainant's panel box near the meter, but it had no effect on consumption or the meter. The panel box is the responsibility of the customer, not Edison.

In this case, the meter was accurate and complainant's connected load had the potential to have used the amounts billed. There was no defect in the meter.

O R D E R

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

This order is effective today.

Dated May 21, 1997, at Sacramento, California.

P. GREGORY CONLON
President
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, JR.
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
RICHARD A. BILAS
Commissioners