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Decision 98-02-006 February 4, 1998

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to revise the time schedules for the Rate Case Plan and fuel offset proceedings.

Rulemaking 87-11-012
(Filed November 13, 1987)

OPINION

ORIGINAL

Background

On April 30, 1997, Southern California Edison Company (Edison) filed this petition to modify the Rate Case Plan adopted in Decision (D.) 89-01-040. The Petition seeks Commission authority to terminate the requirement for Edison to include a Forecast of Operations Report and associated requests in its annual Energy Cost Adjustment Clause (ECAC) applications. Edison also seeks deferral of the forecast report in its 1998 ECAC filing, which was due May 30, 1997.

Edison also requested from the Executive Director a two-month extension of time for filing the forecast from the date of decision on this petition. If the Commission approves the petition, the forecast report would not be needed. If the petition is denied, Edison would serve the forecast report within two months following the Commission's decision on the petition. The Executive Director granted this request by letter dated May 7, 1997.

The basis of the request is that due to enactment of Assembly Bill 1890, the Commission implementation of a restructured electric utility industry in California, and Commission adoption of Performance-Based Ratemaking (PBR) for Edison, the issues normally resolved through ECAC proceedings will now be resolved through other mechanisms and other proceedings. The forecast phase of the ECAC proceeding should therefore be eliminated, Edison contends. The other phases of the ECAC proceeding, which do not involve the reasonableness of fuel and purchased power costs, are not at issue in this Petition.

No protests or responses to the petition have been received.

Discussion

Subsequent to Edison's filing, the Commission issued two decisions relevant to the petition.

D.97-08-056 dated August 1, 1997, in A.96-12-019, adopted an unbundled revenue requirement for 1998 and ordered Edison to file tariffs to effect the revenue requirement, which will implement the rate freeze for residential and small commercial customers and 10% discount mandated by the PU Code.

D.97-10-057 dated October 22, 1997, in Rulemaking 94-04-031 and Investigation 94-04-032, eliminated ECAC forecasts for Edison, and ordered it to modify its tariffs to eliminate its ECAC mechanism effective January 1, 1998. Balances in the accounts as of December 31, 1997 are to be entered into the interim Transition Cost Balancing Account pending reasonableness reviews of those costs in final ECAC proceedings.

As result of those decisions, the request in the petition has been handled. The petition is now moot, and should be dismissed.

Findings of Fact

1. Edison's petition seeks Commission authority not to file the forecast of operations portion of its 1998 ECAC application.
2. Setting of rates normally affected by the forecast phase will be resolved through other proceedings and mechanisms.
3. D.97-08-056 unbundled Edison's authorized revenue requirement into several functional components.
4. Edison's ECAC has been ordered to be eliminated effective January 1, 1998 by D.97-10-057.
5. The petition of Edison is now moot.

Conclusion of Law

This petition of Edison should be dismissed.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the petition of Southern California Edison Company (Edison) to modify Decision 89-01-040 to authorize Edison not to file a forecast of operations report in its 1998 Energy Cost Adjustment Clause (ECAC) application, and in subsequent annual ECAC applications, is dismissed.

This order is effective today.

Dated February 4, 1998, at San Francisco, California.

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