

ALJ/JBW/avs \*

Decision 98-12-063 December 17, 1998

Mailed 12/17/98  
**ORIGINAL**

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

ERIC DIESEL,

Complainant,

vs.

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY,

Defendant.

Case 98-01-032  
(Filed January 2, 1998)

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

Public Utilities (PU) Code § 1701.2(d) provides that adjudication cases shall be resolved within 12 months of initiation unless the Commission makes findings why that deadline cannot be met and issue an Order extending that deadline. In this proceeding, the 12-month deadline for resolving this matter is January 1, 1999.

The complaint contained 260 representations asserting actions or lack of actions by Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) which constitute the body of the complaint. The issues are complex, and involved seven days of evidentiary hearing and a field investigation trip, with 82 exhibits introduced. Final briefing was submitted September 18, 1998, when the proceeding was submitted.

There is insufficient time for the Presiding Officer to complete a Proposed Decision, and for the Commission to correct, amend, or alter the Presiding Officer's Decision in the Diesel case after review or in response to any appeals before the statutory deadline runs.

**Findings of Fact**

1. This proceeding was initiated on January 2, 1998.
2. Based upon the 12-month statutory deadline, this proceeding must be resolved on or before January 1, 1999, unless this date is extended.
3. The Administrative Law Judge's workload precludes completion of the Presiding Officer's Decision within the deadline period, and the current schedule allows no time to review the Presiding Officer's Decision or consider any appeal before the 12-month statutory deadline runs.

**Conclusion of Law**

The 12-month statutory deadline imposed by Public Utilities Code § 1701.2(d) should be extended until further order.

**IT IS ORDERED** that the 12-month statutory deadline in Case 98-01-032, January 1, 1999, is extended until further order.

This order is effective today.

Dated December 17, 1998, at San Francisco, California.

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