

ALJ/RAB/avs

Mailed 2/4/99

Decision 99-02-026 February 4, 1999

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

C. Muhammad,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Edison Co., (U338-E)

Defendant.

(ECP)

Case 98-07-060

(Filed July 29, 1998)

C. Muhammad, for himself, complainant,
Debby Dokter, for Southern California
Edison, Co. (SCE), defendant.

O P I N I O N

This Complaint was filed pursuant to the Commission's Expedited Complaint Procedure (Public Code (PU) § 1702.1). Complainant alleges SCE installed two new fraudulent meters in September of 1996, with identifying meter numbers of D724-13989 for Suite 200 and D724-13970 for Suite 100 on the ground floor of 5327 E. Beverly Boulevard, Los Angeles, California 90022. SCE denies that the meters were fraudulent. Public hearing was held September 4, 1998 and the case was submitted on December 28, 1998, after receipt of an independent meter testing laboratory report.

Complainant testified that he is an engineer. In November 1997, he stated that he discovered the meters gave false and excessive reads. He said that the

meters were incorrect since installation in September 1996. He requests \$4,193 in reparations for overcharges from September 1996 through December 1997. SCE's witness testified SCE installed the correct meters for three-phase service at the complainant's service address in compliance with Edison's electrical service requirements. SCE has billed complainant monthly from accurate reads. A meter test was performed on both meters by SCE. Meter number D724-13989 was tested on December 3, 1997. Meter number D724-13970 was tested on December 10, 1997. The results of the meter tests showed the meters to be registering accurately as defined in SCE's tariff Rule 17.B Adjustment of Bill and Meter Tests.

At the hearing it was agreed that a third party would retest one of the meters. If the results showed the meter was accurate, complainant would pay for the meter test and the complaint would be dismissed. If the meter proved inaccurate, then Edison would pay for the meter test and recalculate complainant's bills and refund the overcharge.

Applied Metering Technologies, Inc., a qualified meter service provider, tested meter D724-13989 on September 21, 1998 and reported that the meter registered accurately as defined in Rule 17.B (Exhibit 1). The bill for the test is \$185.00. Complainant was served with a copy of the test results and has not contested them.

Based on the agreement at the hearing, the test results are accepted and the complaint is dismissed. Complainant shall pay the \$185.00 cost of the test.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that the complaint is dismissed.

This order is effective today.

Dated February 4, 1999, at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS
President
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEPPER
Commissioners