

Decision 00-01-044 January 20, 2000

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

Application of Pacific Gas and Electric Company to Restructure and Establish Natural Gas Rates; Modify its Core Aggregation and Core Subscription Programs; Obtain Approval of the Principles of a Post-1997 Core Gas Procurement Incentive Mechanism; and Obtain Approval of Principles for Disposition of its Gas Gathering Facilities.

Application 96-08-043  
(Filed August 21, 1996)

**ORDER CLOSING THE PROCEEDING**

In October 1996, this proceeding was consolidated with 19 related matters, all of which were resolved by the agreement known as the Gas Accord. The Gas Accord was approved, with modifications, in Decision (D.) 97-08-055, denominated the Sixth Interim Opinion. It appears that the Commission expected to issue other decisions in the instant docket but with the exception of compensation decisions, this has not occurred. Instead, the Commission has launched a multi-phased investigation of options for restructuring the natural gas industry, including the recently closed Rulemaking (R.) 98-01-011 and the recently opened Investigation (I.) 99-07-003. Meanwhile, this proceeding was not closed.

The only recent activity occurring in this docket has been Enron's Emergency Motion Requesting Disclosure of Open Season Results and responses thereto and rulings thereon. That motion has been finally disposed by D.99-11-053 issued on November 18, 1999, and the Commission has indicated that no mid-term review of the Gas Accord will take place within this docket.

Many of the matters of concern to parties raised during the investigation of the Open Season undertaken within this docket can be effectively handled through I.99-07-003 or any global settlement pre-empting that Investigation. However, that decision did not close the proceeding.

On November 19, 1999, the Administrative Law Judge issued a Ruling Requesting Comment on Closing of Docket. The time for comment ran on December 6, 1999. No comments were received.

The Legislature has evinced a desire for the Commission to close its dockets in a timely way and the Commission wishes to do so. Since there appears to be no other business that must be transacted within this proceeding, this proceeding should be closed.

This is an uncontested matter in which the decision grants the relief requested. Accordingly, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 311(g)(2), the otherwise applicable 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. This proceeding was one of the related proceedings that were resolved by the settlement known as the Gas Accord.
2. The most recent activity in this proceeding on a post-settlement motion did not result in an order closing the proceeding.
3. No party has opposed the closing of this proceeding at this time.

### **Conclusion of Law**

Since all issues raised in this proceeding have been resolved or otherwise disposed of, this proceeding should be closed.

A.96-08-043 ALJ/ALB/sid

**IT IS ORDERED** that Application 96-08-043 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated January 20, 2000, at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS

President

HENRY M. DUQUE

JOSIAH L. NEEPER

CARL W. WOOD

LORETTA M. LYNCH

Commissioners