

Decision 00-02-005 February 3, 2000

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Joint Application of Southern California Edison Company (U 338-E), and Southern California Water Company (U 133-E), for an Order Modifying the Boundary Line Separating Their Respective Service Areas.

Application 99-11-023
(Filed November 10, 1999)

OPINION

1. Summary

This decision grants the joint request of Southern California Edison Company (SCE) and Southern California Water Company (SCWC), for an order effectuating a minor realignment to the boundary between the electric service areas of SCE and SCWC in the County of San Bernardino, California. Realignment of the boundary line will serve to maximize the economic efficiency of serving new customers locating in a geographically-remote area.

2. Procedural Status

The application was filed on November 10, 1999, and notice of the filing appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on November 22, 1999. Pursuant to Resolution ALJ 176-3028, issued on December 2, 1999, the application was preliminarily categorized as a ratesetting matter for which no hearings would be required. No protests have been received. Given these developments, public hearing is not necessary, and it is not necessary to alter the preliminary determinations made in Resolution ALJ 176-3028.

3. Background

SCE is a utility engaged in the business of generating and transmitting electric energy in Arizona, California, Nevada, and New Mexico, and is presently directly interconnected, pursuant to interconnection agreements, with certain utilities in the Western United States. SCE is further engaged in the business of distributing electric energy in the central and southern portions of California, including the County of San Bernardino, in accordance with the Commission's rules and regulations.

SCWC owns and operates an electric utility distribution system, Bear Valley Electric, which serves the electric load in a portion of the County of San Bernardino surrounding Big Bear Lake. SCWC purchases electric power to serve its loads from other wholesale suppliers and resells this power to those customers located within Bear Valley Electric's service territory in accordance with the Commission's rules and regulations. SCWC obtains transmission service over the Independent System Operator Grid for these power purchases through an existing transmission service agreement with SCE.

SCE and SCWC jointly filed Application (A.) 47855, on August 31, 1965, requesting an order establishing a service area boundary line between their respective service areas. The Commission established the boundary separating the service territories of SCE and SCWC in Decision (D.) 70100, dated December 21, 1965.

Subsequently, SCE and SCWC jointly filed A.97-05-010, on May 2, 1997, requesting an order effectuating three minor realignments to portions of the boundary line between the two utilities' service areas. The Commission approved this request in D.98-02-019, dated February 4, 1998.

4. Need for Service Area Boundary Line Realignment

SCE and SCWC state that new retail loads are locating in the Big Bear area of SCE's service territory at Section 22, T2N, R2E, S.B.M. At the present time, SCE does not have the necessary facilities to cost-effectively serve loads in this area since the nearest SCE-owned distribution facilities are approximately 10 miles away. SCWC has distribution facilities approximately 300 feet from the property line of the first potential new retail customer and is willing to install the necessary line extensions, service drops, and meters and to provide electric service to any new loads locating in this area pursuant to its tariffs on file with the Commission. Realignment of the service territory boundary such that these potential loads are located within SCWC's service territory would be in the customers' best interest. Serving these potential loads from SCWC's facilities is the most cost-effective method of providing service since the new loads would not have to pay SCE to construct a 10-mile long distribution facility.

A legal description of the revised service territory boundary line between SCE and SCWC is set forth in Exhibit A, attached to the application. A map showing the existing and new service territory boundary realignment is attached to the application as Exhibit B.

No facilities will be affected by the boundary realignment. SCWC will install any new distribution facilities required to serve customers locating in this area. SCWC is not requesting any change in its rates.

5. Discussion

This application is solely to make a minor adjustment to the SCE and SCWC service territory boundary line. Based on the facts stated above, it is in the public interest that the application be granted. Realignment of the boundary

line will serve to maximize the economic efficiency of serving new customers locating in this geographically-remote area.

The application should be granted ex parte.

6. Section 311(g)(2) – Uncontested decision grants relief requested

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. The boundary line separating the service territories of SCE and SCWC in a portion of the County of San Bernardino surrounding Big Bear Lake was established in D.70100, dated December 21, 1965.

2. In the area of the proposed boundary line relocation, SCE does not have facilities to cost effectively serve anticipated new load.

3. SCE and SCWC jointly request that their common boundary line be relocated because SCWC has distribution facilities approximately 300 feet from the property line of the first new retail customer, thereby avoiding the construction of a new 10-mile long line by SCE, which would otherwise be required to serve such customers.

Conclusions of Law

1. It is in the public interest that the joint request of SCE and SCWC to relocate their common boundary line be granted.

2. No public hearing is necessary.

3. The application should be approved.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The realignment of service territory boundaries between Southern California Edison Company (SCE) and Southern California Water Company (SCWC) described in the application is approved.

2. Within 90 days after the effective date of this order, SCE and SCWC shall file with the Commission revised tariff schedules and revised tariff service area maps in accordance with the requirements of General Order 96-A. Such revised schedules and maps shall become effective on the date filed.

3. Application 99-11-023 is closed.

This order is effective today.

Dated February 3, 2000, at San Francisco, California.

RICHARD A. BILAS
President
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
CARL W. WOOD
LORETTA M. LYNCH
Commissioners