

Decision 00-03-045 March 16, 2000

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

Order Instituting Investigation into the operations and practices of the Southern California Gas Company, concerning the accuracy of information supplied to the Commission in connection with its Montebello Gas Storage Facility.

Investigation 99-04-022  
(Filed April 22, 1999)

**ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**

Pub. Util. Code § 1701.2(d) provides that adjudicatory cases shall be resolved within 12 months of initiation unless the Commission makes findings why that deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending that deadline. In this proceeding, the 12-month deadline for resolving this matter is April 21, 2000. Southern California Gas Company and the Commission's Consumer Services Division have moved to adopt a proposed settlement, which settlement is opposed by the Office of Ratepayer Advocates and The Utility Reform Network. The Assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued a February 1, 2000 ruling requesting further briefing on the proposed settlement. Because this briefing will be completed on March 7, 2000, the Commission will require more time beyond April 21, 2000 to review the settlement and issue a decision thereon. Therefore, it is necessary to extend the statutory deadline to provide an opportunity for the Commission to fully consider the settlement.

Due to the statutory deadline, there is a need to act on this matter immediately, and this constitutes an unforeseen emergency situation for purposes of Pub. Util. Code § 311(g)(2) (See Rule 81 (g) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure). Accordingly, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code

§ 311(g)(2), the otherwise 30-day period for public review and comment is being waived.

### **Findings of Fact**

1. This proceeding was initiated on April 22, 1999.
2. Based upon the 12-month statutory deadline, this proceeding must be resolved on or before April 21, 2000, unless this date is extended.
3. The briefing on the proposed settlement will be completed on March 7, 2000.
4. The Commission will require more time beyond April 21, 2000 to review the settlement and issue a decision thereon.

### **Conclusion of Law**

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

**IT IS ORDERED** that the 12-month statutory deadline in this proceeding, April 21, 2000, is extended until further order.

This order is effective today.

Dated March 16, 2000, at San Francisco, California.

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