

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

EVALUATION AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION  
Service and Safety BranchRESOLUTION E-3051  
August 26, 1987R E S O L U T I O N

ORDER AUTHORIZING MR. AND MRS. WILLIAM MCFARLAND TO DEVIATE FROM SECTION 320 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE OF THE CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, UNDERGROUNDING OF ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATIONS FACILITIES ALONG STATE SCENIC HIGHWAYS.

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SUMMARY

By letter request dated June 9, 1987, Mr. and Mrs. William McFarland applied to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) to deviate from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code. Section 320 relates to the undergrounding of all future electric and communication distribution facilities which are proposed to be erected in proximity to any designated state scenic highway. The Service and Safety Branch staff recommends the approval of the resolution which will allow Mr. and Mrs. William McFarland to relocate a utility pole and part of a PG&E distribution line, located at Crystal View Station.

BACKGROUND

By letter request dated June 9, 1987, Mr. Earl McGuire, P.E., consulting Civil Engineer for Mr. and Mrs. William McFarland applied to the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC) for deviation from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

The McFarlands are planning to remodel and add to the existing store and delicatessen. Part of the existing building is located under a high voltage (21kV) power line, which may create a safety hazard. To mitigate the situation and also to provide more usable land for their proposed addition, they wish to relocate an existing service pole. Moving the pole requires relocating part of the distribution line. The McFarlands will pay the entire cost of this relocation work. The site is located approximately 12 miles east of Placerville on Highway 50. It should be noted that the highway in that area is a freeway, where pedestrians are not allowed. The existing pole line is within 1,000 feet of U.S. Highway 50, which has been declared a scenic corridor by the State of California.

## DISCUSSION

At present, only one pole is visible from the freeway. All other poles on the McFarland property are not visible due to obstruction by the existing development, trees and graded terrain. The pole that is visible from the freeway will be removed by the developer, resulting in the poles no longer being visible under normal circumstances from Scenic Highway 50. The new proposed distribution line to be located on the McFarland's property will be much less visible from the Scenic Highway than the original facilities. If replacement of existing facilities were to be constructed in accordance with Section 320, a short stretch of undergrounding would be required to connect the existing overhead poles. Such piecemeal underground construction would be wasteful and would not provide significant benefits to the public. The proposed relocation of the PG&E line will be a betterment of the present configuration and will result in an improved environment. In view of the above, the staff of Service and Safety Branch recommends that McFarlands be granted a deviation from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

## FINDINGS

We find that the proposed relocation of the PG&E pole and part of the distribution line does not have a significant visual impact on the scenic corridor comprising US Highway 50. Overall public safety will be enhanced. Therefore undergrounding of the relocated line in accordance with Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code is not necessary, therefore,

### IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Deviation of Section 320 of Public Utilities Code be granted to Mr. & Mrs. William McFarland for the construction and relocation of the utility pole and part of PG&E distribution line, located at Crystal View Station, in accordance with PG&E drawing no. W0113803E.
2. Mr. and Mrs. William McFarland will pay for the entire cost of relocating the electrical facilities.

This order is effective today.

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on August 26, 1987. The following Commissioner(s) approved it.



Executive Director

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President

DONALD VIAL  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
G. MITCHELL WILK  
JOHN R. OHANIAN  
Commissioners

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