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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION  
Service and Safety Branch

RESOLUTION NO. E-3108  
October 14, 1988

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION NO. E-3108, ORDER AUTHORIZING MR. WILLIAM E. FROMM 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.

SUMMARY

1. On March 1, 1988, Mr. William E. Fromm applied to the California Public Utilities Commission to deviate from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code. Section 320 requires electric and communication distribution facilities to be installed underground, if they are within 1000 feet and visible from a scenic highway. The Service and Safety Branch staff recommends the approval of this resolution which will allow Mr. Fromm to move an existing overhead electric line from the middle of his lot to the lot line. The new poles and lines will be within 1000 feet of U.S. Highway 50, a state scenic highway, but will have no significant visual impact on this scenic corridor.

DISCUSSION

1. On March 1, 1988, the County of El Dorado, on behalf of Mr. William E. Fromm, requested a deviation from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code. Mr. Fromm's property is located at 3086 Carson Road, Placerville -- approximately 300 feet north of U.S. Highway 50, a state scenic highway.

2. At present, there is a 12kV overhead line which extends diagonally across Mr. Fromm's lot and serves an existing home south of the lot. A service tap from this line also serves a home located adjacent to the lot. Mr. Fromm proposes removing the 12kV overhead line crossing his lot and replacing it with a 600V overhead secondary line along his lot line -- to provide more usable land for his proposed new home and to improve the aesthetics of his property.

3. The 600V secondary overhead line will extend from the existing overhead 12kV line along Carson Road. The connection will be at Mr. Fromm's lot line and will require moving one 45 foot pole, in the 12 kV line, approximately 30 feet east along Carson Road. The 600V secondary overhead line will be placed on two, 35 foot poles along Mr. Fromm's lot line. There will be three service taps from this line -- two for the existing homes and one for Mr. Fromm's proposed new home. The existing 12kV overhead line, placed on two 45 foot poles across Mr. Fromm's lot, will be removed.

4. A Service and Safety staff engineer met with two PG&E representatives at Mr. Fromm's lot on July 18, 1988. The staff engineer found that the existing 12kV line is currently visible from U.S. Highway 50. The proposed new 600V secondary line will be approximately 10 feet lower than the 12kV line. Also, the proposed line will be located down grade from U.S. Highway 50 and will be separated from the highway by a heavy grove of trees. It is unlikely that the proposed line will be seen by passing vehicles. Therefore, the proposed replacement will actually improve the visual impact on the U.S. Highway 50 scenic corridor.

5. The cost of undergrounding the proposed line, according to PG&E, is approximately \$10,000, whereas an overhead line will cost \$2500.

6. A short stretch of a 600V underground line of approximately 430 feet is considered by the staff to be piecemeal underground construction that is wasteful and without significant public benefits.

7. In addition, the proposed replacement and relocation of the PG&E line will provide a better configuration to serve the existing two homes and Mr. Fromm's proposed home.

8. Accordingly, the Commission staff recommends that Mr. William E. Fromm be granted a deviation from Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

#### FINDINGS

1. We find that the proposed 600V overhead secondary line will have a negligible visual impact on the U.S. Highway 50 scenic corridor.

2. Undergrounding of the 600V secondary line in accordance with Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code in this instance is not necessary. Therefore,

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. A deviation of Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code be granted to Mr. William E. Fromm for construction of a 600V overhead secondary line on his lot located at 3086 Carson Road, Placerville, California.
2. Mr. William E. Fromm 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 October 14, 1988. The following Commissioner(s) approved it.

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President  
DONALD VIAL  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
G. MITCHELL WILK  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
Commissioners

  
Executive Director

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