

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY
AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Energy Branch

RESOLUTION E-3201
November 9, 1990

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION E-3201. REQUEST BY R. D. HUNT SURVEYING AND FORESTRY CO. OF ARCATA TO DEVIATE FROM UNDERGROUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN THE VICINITY OF FIELDBROOK, CA.

REQUEST MADE BY LETTER DATED AUGUST 9, 1990.

SUMMARY

1. R. D. Hunt Surveying & Forestry (Hunt) of Arcata, CA requests overhead electric service to a residential subdivision near Fieldbrook in Humboldt County. Two of the fourteen parcels in the subdivision are less than three acres and thus overhead service would constitute a deviation from the undergrounding requirements of Pacific Gas & Electric (PG&E) Company's Electric Line Extension Rule (Rule 15.C.1.b.3.). Hunt's request was made at the advice of PG&E.
2. This resolution grants Hunt's request.

BACKGROUND

1. The relevant portion of PG&E's Electric Line Extension Rule states that the minimum parcel size for overhead extensions to serve subdivisions or developments is three acres (Rule 15.C.1.b.3). If the parcel size is less than three acres, underground service is required.
2. Hunt's proposed subdivision is approximately 71 acres of land in 14 parcels for single family residential units. The lots vary in size from 2.5 acres to 8.8 acres and average 5.1 acres per lot. Two of the 14 lots are 2.5 and 2.8 acres, respectively.

NOTICE

1. As the appropriate authority, the County of Humboldt has been notified by letter of Hunt's request for a deviation from PG&E's Tariff Rule 15 requiring undergrounding of electrical service. Hunt has worked closely with the County Planning Commission and no objections have been raised to this project as currently designed.

PROTESTS

1. No protests have been received.

DISCUSSION

1. Hunt contends that the lots were designed around tested leachfields, roads and natural terrain. To re-design the lots to enlarge the two small lots to 3.0 acres each would create poorly designed, oddly shaped lots while making no change in the total number of lots, average lot size for the subdivision, or the amount of lot frontage on the main access road.
2. Current zoning provisions of the County prohibit further subdivision of the lots, thereby ensuring that the average lot size of 5.1 acres will remain intact. The cost to underground the system is considerably higher than the cost to install the system on conventional power poles and would impact upon the ultimate cost of the lots to the consumers. Hunt requests Commission authorization for PG&E to deviate from the provisions of PG&E's Electric Rule 15, Section C.l.b., in order to allow for overhead electric service without increasing the size of the two smallest lots.
3. The Commission Advisory and Compliance Division (CACD) has reviewed this matter and conducted an on-site field inspection of the proposed subdivision. It concludes that the request for a deviation from the requirements of PG&E's filed tariff rules is reasonable.

FINDINGS

1. The request by Hunt to deviate from PG&E's filed tariff rules is reasonable and should be granted to allow for overhead electric service based on the reasonable design of the subdivision and maintaining an average lot size for the development in excess of 5.0 acres per lot.
2. No change in number of lots, lot density or frontage area would occur by re-designing the subdivision to increase the size of the two smallest lots.
3. This deviation, if granted, would apply only to this specific case and in no way would be construed as a precedent or a blanket endorsement for deviations in other similar cases. Any further requests for deviations will have to be considered on a case by case basis.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Authority is granted for Pacific Gas & Electric Company to deviate from the provisions of its filed Electric Tariff Rule 15.C.1.b. in order to provide overhead electric service to the residential subdivision currently being developed by R.D. Hunt Surveying & Forestry Company near Fieldbrook, Humboldt County.
2. This authorization is for this specific case only and in no way constitutes a precedent nor a blanket endorsement of any request for a deviation under similar conditions.
3. This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting of November 9, 1990. The following Commissioners approved it:

G. MITCHELL WILK
President
FREDERICK R. DUDA
JOHN B. OHANIAN
PATRICIA M. ECKERT


Neal J. Shulman
Executive Director

Commissioner Stanley W. Hulett,
being necessarily absent, did
not participate.