

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ENERGY DIVISION

RESOLUTION E-3491
JUNE 11, 1997

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION E-3491. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY REQUESTS APPROVAL TO DEVIATE FROM SCHEDULE GS-1 IN A CONTRACT WITH METRICOM, INC. GRANTED WITH CLARIFICATION.

BY ADVICE LETTER 1188-E, FILED ON OCTOBER 9, 1996.

SUMMARY

1. By Advice Letter (AL) 1188-E, Southern California Edison Company (Edison) requests to file an exemplary contract with the Commission and to revise Edison's list of Contracts and Deviations to reflect the contract as a deviation from Schedule GS-1, General Service Non-Demand. The contract provides for Edison to charge Metricom, Inc. (Metricom) for unmetered, but limited, electric service to radio repeaters (radios) that support wireless telecommunications services.
2. No protests were received.
3. This Resolution authorizes the deviation, requires all installation and hook-up costs be recovered from a license/lease agreement and clarifies the content of the contract.

BACKGROUND

1. By AL 1188-E, Edison seeks a deviation to Schedule GS-1 for unmetered service to Metricom. The proposed contract form fixes usage at 7 kWh per month per radio and lowers the Customer Charge to \$5.33 per month per service account. Edison cannot determine the number of radios involved but estimates 2,000 to 8,000 in the next three years.
2. Edison plans on completing individual contracts for groups of radios installed, based on Edison's geographic area codes. Parts of the proposed contract are not specifically designed for Metricom's proposed unmetered service, and it is not clear what information will be provided on the contract.
3. Metricom plans to place radios on Edison light poles and has signed a Non-Exclusive Pole Attachment License/Lease Agreement (Agreement) with Edison. Edison and Metricom plan to convert the license agreement into a lease agreement by filing an

application with the Commission under Public Utilities Code Section 851. The parties believe they need approval of the proposed rate before moving forward with the application.

4. Edison's current Customer Charge for Schedule GS-1 is \$.48 per meter per day (\$14.40 per meter per month). In its workpapers, Edison shows that eliminating the hook-up and meter reading cost supports decreasing the Customer Charge to \$5.33 per month.

5. Edison supports the 7 kWh per month usage with a Metricom Power Consumption Report showing a high data rate of .0095 kW/hr or approximately 6.9 kWh per month. The radios are not anticipated to be working continuously at the high data setting.

NOTICE

1. Notice of AL 1188-E was made by publication in the Commission's Calendar on October 21, 1996, and by mailing copies of the filing to adjacent utilities and interested parties.

PROTESTS

1. No protest were filed.

DISCUSSION

1. AL 1188-E requests approval for three things, 1) unmetered service to a large number of radios, not specifically identified; 2) deviation from Schedule GS-1 to charge \$5.33 per service account per month as a customer charge and a fixed energy usage of 7 kWh per radio per month; and 3) a draft contract to be filed with each group of radios to initiate service.

2. The large number of radios spread over a large area and the low use of electrical energy per radio makes metering individual radios unreasonably costly. The proposed method of a single charge per radio and using radios as a billing determinate is reasonable in this case.

3. The proposed charges are adequate for operations and maintenance (O&M) and energy expenses. The Non-exclusive Pole Attachment License/Lease Agreement appears to include charges to cover any cost associated with installing or hooking-up the radios. This is not stated explicitly in the advice letter, but is clearly the intent. This issue should be discussed in the application for lease approval under Public Utilities Code Section 851.

4. The proposed contract has many blanks that appear inappropriate for the proposed service. It is unclear from the contract form what information will be included on the contracts to initiate service. At a minimum these contracts should include the current text plus Edison's geographic area code, date signed, the model and type of radio being installed, the approximate number of radios to be installed in the geographic

area, all terms and conditions of the contract, and signatures of Edison's and Metricom's representatives.

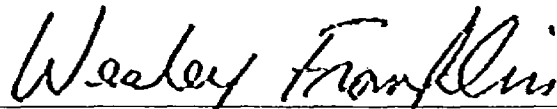
FINDINGS

1. Edison filed Advice Letter 1188-E, on October 9, 1996, requesting a deviation from Schedule GS-1 for Metricom.
2. AL 1188-E requests unmetered service to Metricom's radio repeaters and a \$5.33 per service account per month customer charge since no meter installation or meter reading will be required.
3. Edison reports the high usage for the radios is 6.9 kWh per month and requests a 7 kWh per radio per month fixed energy usage.
4. AL 1188-E does not account for any installation or hook-up costs.
5. Edison's proposed contract does not clearly show what information will be included when complete.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Advice Letter 1188-E is authorized with the following clarification. The contract for service shall include, at minimum, the following information: the current text, Edison's geographic area code, date signed, the model and type of radio being installed, the approximate number of radios to be installed in the geographic area, all terms and conditions of the contract, and signatures of Edison's and Metricom's representatives. Edison shall maintain copies of the completed contracts on file at their offices.
2. This resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on June 11, 1997. The following Commissioners approved it:



WESLEY FRANKLIN
Executive Director

P. Gregory Conlon, President
Jessie J. Knight, Jr.
Henry M. Duque
Josiah L. Neeper
Richard A. Bilas
Commissioners