

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

**ENERGY DIVISION**

**RESOLUTION E-3543  
JULY 2, 1998**

**RESOLUTION**

**RESOLUTION E-3543. PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY  
REQUESTS DEVIATION FROM SCHEDULE A-1--AGREEMENT WITH  
METRICOM, INC FOR UNMETERED ELECTRIC SERVICE.  
APPROVED.**

**BY ADVICE LETTER 1722-E, FILED ON DECEMBER 22, 1997.**

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**SUMMARY**

1. By Advice Letter 1722-E, filed on December 22, 1997, Pacific Gas and Electric (PG&E) requests approval of deviation from Schedule A-1—Small General Service Agreement with Metricom, Inc. for unmetered electric service.
2. This resolution adopts PG&E's Advice Letter 1722-E and authorizes the deviation from Schedule A-1—Small General Service Agreement.

**BACKGROUND**

1. By Advice Letter 1722-E, PG&E seeks deviation to Schedule A-1 for unmetered service to Metricom, Inc.
2. The proposed contract with Metricom fixes energy usage at 3.9 kWh per month per installation and lowers the Customer Charge to \$0.284 per month for each installation receiving service through streetlight photocell electrical wiring and \$0.783 per month for each radio installation receiving service through an electrical service line from PG&E's secondary electrical distribution facility.
3. There are currently 5,265 installations and PG&E expects approximately 200-250 new installations annually.
4. AL 1722-E requests approval of two things, 1) unmetered service to approximately 5,300 radio installations; 2) deviation from Schedule A-1 to charge less than \$1.00

per month per radio installation as a customer charge and a fixed energy usage of 3.9 kWh per radio per month.

5. Metricom provides wireless communication services through radio transmitter that have load of less than 7 Watts. The low energy usage of each radio installation makes metering individual radios unreasonably costly.
6. Metricom's customer charges will be based on marginal cost calculations and to a large extent represent the service component charges of the LS-2A Rates (Customer-Owned Street & Highway Lighting). PG&E states in its agreement with Metricom §1b,

The customer charge shall be \$0.284 per month for each radio installation receiving service through streetlight photocell electrical wiring. The customer service charge for each Customer installation receiving electrical service directly through an electrical service line from PG&E's secondary electrical distribution facilities to the Customer installation shall be \$0.783 per month.

7. Metricom, Inc. has a similar agreement with Southern California Edison Company (Edison) where Edison will provide unmetered electrical service for Metricom's radio installations based on a similar tariff schedule. In addition, Edison's agreement also calls for reducing the customer charge to reflect the elimination of the hook-up and meter reading costs. Edison's request was approved by Resolution E-3491, June 11, 1997.

#### NOTICE

1. In accordance with Section III, Paragraph G, of General Order No. 96-A, PG&E mailed copies of this advice letter to other utilities and interested parties. Public notice of this filing has been made by publication in the Commission's calendar.

#### PROTESTS

1. No protests were filed.

#### DISCUSSION

1. Metricom's agreement with PG&E calls for unmetered electrical service to all of its radio installations. The unique nature of Metricom's service makes it unreasonably expensive and not very cost effective to meter each installation and to charge the full customer charge.

2. It is appropriate to base electric consumption on a fixed, calculated usage of 3.9 kWh/month per installation and to charge a reduced customer charge to reflect the lack of meter.
3. Energy Division recommends approving PG&E's AL 1722-E, permitting PG&E to provide unmetered electric service for Metricom, Inc and to deviate from Schedule A-1.

**FINDINGS**

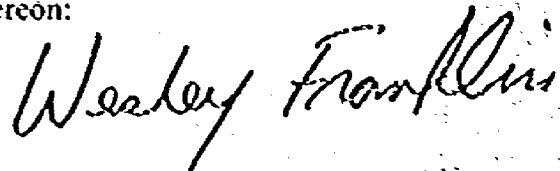
1. PG&E filed Advice Letter 1722-E on December 22, 1997, requesting approval for deviation from Schedule A-1 with Metricom, Inc. for unmetered electric service.
2. AL 1722-E requests unmetered service to Metricom's radio installations and reduced customer charge from Schedule A-1.
3. PG&E's energy and customer charges are reasonable given the unique circumstance of the radio transmitters.
4. PG&E's Advice Letter 1722-E should be granted.

July 2, 1998

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:**

1. PG&E's Advice Letter 1722-E is approved.
2. This resolution is effective today.

I certify that the foregoing resolution was duly introduced, passed, and adopted at a conference of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California held on July 2, 1998, the following Commissioners voting favorably thereon:



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WESLEY M. FRANKLIN  
Executive Director

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