

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY  
AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION  
Energy Branch

RESOLUTION G-2927  
December 6, 1990

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION G-2927. SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY  
(SDG&E) REQUEST TO REVISE ITS GAS METER PERFORMANCE CONTROL  
PROGRAM.

LETTER DATED AUGUST 16, 1990.

---

SUMMARY

1. San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) requests authority to revise its Gas Meter Performance Control Program (Program) by changing the accuracy setting for meters being placed in service.
2. This Resolution approves SDG&E's request.

BACKGROUND

1. General Order 58-A, Section 24(a) (G.O. 58-A), effective July 1, 1932, as amended by Decision 44108 of May 2, 1950, required that no gas meter remain in service for more than ten years without being retested and, if necessary, readjusted to conform with the accuracy standards prescribed in the General Order.
2. Resolution G-1426, of December 10, 1968, authorized SDG&E to deviate from the above provision of the General Order insofar as the requirement of testing every meter at ten year intervals was concerned. Instead, the accuracy of the meters was to be monitored by a Gas Meter Performance Control Program which resulted in equivalent or better meter accuracy control. The present version of the Program is published as Item 5 in the Report: "Gas Meter Performance Control Results, 1989" submitted annually by SDG&E.

The present General Order 58-A, Section 13 (a), in effect since April 12, 1989, prescribes a service period of 10 years at a given location between testing for accuracy.

3. The Program authorized by Resolution G-1426 implemented a statistical sampling and quality control program for small domestic gas meters measuring up to 300 cubic feet of gas per hour. By Resolution G-2907, dated March 14, 1990, SDG&E was authorized to expand the scope of the Program to include commercial gas meters measuring volumes of up to 500 cubic feet per hour.

4. SDG&E stated that it found in the course of using its Program that meters slow down over a period of years. Review of the Program reports on file shows that the number of meters that run slower is substantially greater than the number that run faster. The proposed change of accuracy setting makes use of this finding and would result in an improved accuracy of consumption measurement.

5. At present the Program requires a meter to be adjusted to register 0.25% on the slow side at the check flow rate and within 0.25% from the check flow rate when operating at open flow. The check flow rate is the flow rate at 20 to 30% of the rated meter capacity. The open flow rate is the flow rate at 100% of rated meter capacity. The requested changes to the Program provide that meters placed in service be adjusted to register zero at the check flow rate and within 0.3% of the check flow rate when operating at open flow. These settings are an adjustment of the previous settings found to be necessary to achieve greater accuracy.

#### DISCUSSION

1. The Commission Advisory and Compliance Division (CACD) reviewed SDG&E's proposed changes and concluded that they will result in more accurate gas meter measurement. SDG&E claims that unaccounted for gas will decrease by approximately 97,300 therms, or 0.62% of total unaccounted for gas each year for fifteen years based on the fiscal year ending in 1989. There also will be an estimated annual revenue increase of approximately \$51,000 each year as old meters are replaced over a fifteen year period, or 0.02% of total operating revenues based on the year ending in 1989. This revenue effect is considered to be minimal.

2. CACD recommends adoption of the proposed changes.

#### FINDINGS

1. The requested changes of SDG&E's gas meter set points will improve gas meter accuracy and will result in more accurate measurement of consumed gas.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

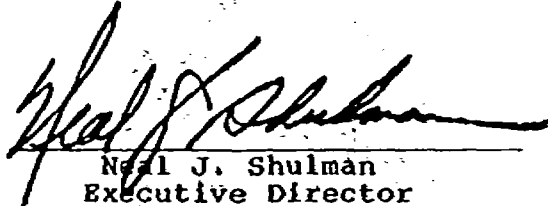
1. San Diego Gas & Electric Company is authorized to change its Gas meter Performance Control Program, as follows:

- A. The meter set point at the check flow rate shall be zero.
- B. The meter set point at the open flow rate shall be within 0.30% of the check flow rate.

2. This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on December 6, 1990. The following Commissioners approved it:

G. MITCHELL WALK  
President  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
STANLEY W. HULETT  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
PATRICIA M. ECKERT  
Commissioners

  
Neal J. Shulman  
Executive Director