

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND
COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Energy Branch

RESOLUTION G-3188
June 6, 1996

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION G-3188. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
REQUESTS EXTENSION OF THE EXPIRATION DATE FOR ITS PILOT
SEISMIC SERVICES PROGRAM FOR AN ADDITIONAL FOUR MONTHS,
TO OCTOBER 14, 1996.

BY ADVICE LETTER 2499, FILED ON MAY 6, 1996.

SUMMARY

1. By Resolution G-3167, Southern California Gas Company [SoCalGas] received authorization to start a pilot program for seismic services.
2. The 12-month pilot program is due to expire on June 14, 1995.
3. SoCalGas filed Advice Letter [AL] 2499 on May 6, 1996 asking the Commission to extend the effective date of its pilot program by an additional four months, to October 14, 1996. All other terms of the pilot program remain unchanged.
4. AL 2499 had no protests. This resolution grants an extension until June 14, 1997. This approval is conditioned upon SoCalGas' filing an application for a permanent seismic service by October 14, 1996. Otherwise, the pilot program will be terminated on October 14, 1996.

BACKGROUND

1. On August 12, 1994, SoCalGas filed AL 2343, requesting authority to test seismic services on a pilot basis.
2. In the seismic services program, SoCalGas provides a valve that shuts off gas services in the event of an earthquake of greater than a specified magnitude, as well as other earthquake preparedness training and equipment.
3. On April 5, 1995, the Commission issued Resolution G-3167, authorizing the request with certain modifications. Acting on the Resolution, SoCalGas filed AL 2343-A on April 25, 1995, submitting tariff revisions which became effective on June 14, 1995.

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4. The Commission limited the pilot program to a maximum of 20,000 customers for a period of one year. The one year limit expires on June 14, 1996.
5. SoCalGas filed an interim report on February 20, 1996, as ordered. A final report is due after the expiration of the pilot program.
6. Within the past year SoCalGas has extended its seismic services to single-family residential customers in areas selected by SoCalGas in its service territory.
7. SoCalGas has learned that there is a need to develop alternative approaches that will reduce the cost of providing and installing automatic shut-off valves and will give customers options that are more attractive than those currently in the marketplace.
8. SoCalGas wants to continue the seismic services program on a permanent basis after the pilot program's expiration date. SoCalGas, however, needs time to file an application for that purpose, as ordered in Resolution G-3167 (Ordering Paragraph 4).

NOTICE

1. SoCalGas served notice of AL 2499 by mailing copies to other utilities, government agencies, and all parties that requested such information. AL 2499 was noticed in the Commission Calendar.

PROTESTS

1. The Commission received no protests for AL 2499.

DISCUSSION

1. Ordering Paragraph 4 of Resolution 3167 states

If SoCalGas decides to continue the Seismic Program beyond the 12 month pilot program period, it shall ...submit...an application to the Commission.

Thus, the Resolution limited the pilot program to 12 months and required an application for its continuation.

2. SoCalGas states that there is need for further study to develop ways to reduce costs of providing seismic services. SoCalGas estimates an additional 4 months for this purpose.

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3. SoCalGas has not filed its application for a permanent seismic services program. Because it may take longer than four months to process the application, the Commission Advisory and Compliance Division (CACD) recommends that the Commission extend the pilot program for one year instead of four months. This recommendation is conditioned upon SoCalGas' filing of its application before October 14, 1996. If SoCalGas does not file its application before October 14, 1996, the pilot program should be terminated on that date.

FINDINGS

1. SoCalGas filed AL 2499 on May 6, 1996, requesting an extension of the expiration date of its pilot seismic services program for an additional 4 months to October 14, 1996.
2. All other terms of the pilot program would remain unchanged.
3. It is reasonable to extend the requested extension date for 12 months, until June 14, 1997, provided that SoCalGas files an application before October 14, 1996, for a permanent seismic service program.
4. If SoCalGas does not file its application before October 14, 1996, the pilot program should terminate on that date.

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THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Gas Company's request for a four-month extension of its pilot seismic services program is granted for an additional eight months, to June 14, 1997, provided that SoCalGas files an application for a permanent seismic services program before October 14, 1996.

2. If SoCalGas does not file such an application by the prescribed date, authority for the pilot program shall terminate and SoCalGas shall discontinue its pilot program on October 14, 1996.

3. This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on June 6, 1996. The following Commissioners approved it:


WESLEY M. FRANKLIN
Executive Director

P. GREGORY CONLON
President
JESSIE J. KNIGHT, Jr.
HENRY M. DUQUE
JOSIAH L. NEEPER
Commissioners

Commissioner Daniel Wm. Fessler,
being necessarily absent,
did not participate.