

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION  
Telecommunications BranchRESOLUTION NO. T-12082  
May 11, 1988R E S O L U T I O N

ORDER AUTHORIZING GTE CALIFORNIA INCORPORATED TO ACCEPT PAYMENT FOR EXCHANGE AND TOLL SERVICES IN LAWFUL MONEY OF THE UNITED STATES OR CHECKS DRAWN FROM DOMESTIC FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS ONLY. RESOLUTION T-12082.

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SUMMARY

GTE California Incorporated (GTEC) filed Advice Letter 5126 on March 21, 1988, requesting authority to accept payment for exchange and toll services in lawful United States money or checks drawn on domestic financial institutions only. GTEC currently accepts customer checks issued from foreign financial institutions for payment. Processing costs of these checks are borne by the utility's general ratepayers. Several months ago, the processing fee was raised to approximately \$25 per check, which no longer makes it prudent to accept these checks. Therefore, this resolution authorizes GTEC to accept payment for services only in United States money or checks drawn from domestic financial institutions.

BACKGROUND

GTEC currently accepts checks drawn on foreign bank accounts as payment for service. Previously processing charges were minimal. A few months ago when a \$25 per check processing fee was initiated by the banking industry. The average telephone bill for those accounts paid by checks drawn on foreign banks is \$50.00. An average of three checks are received daily. The high processing fee should not be borne by the general ratepayers and in light of the average bill, the cost is also prohibitive to the cost-causer.

GTEC inserted a notice in their October 1987 statements that they would no longer accept checks drawn on foreign banks. A customer in Southern California contacted the Consumer Affairs Branch in Los Angeles objecting to this new practice. After discussion with Commission staff, GTEC has continued to accept checks drawn on financial institutions pending Commission authorization to revise their tariff to limit payment in lawful United States money or checks only.

The customer questioning the bill insert was sent a copy of this advice letter filing and to date, no protest has been received.

Tariffs for other California telephone companies state payment for exchange and toll services is accepted in lawful money of the United States only.

FINDINGS

1. Payment for exchange and toll service shall be in lawful United States money or checks drawn from domestic financial institutions.

IT IS ORDERED that:

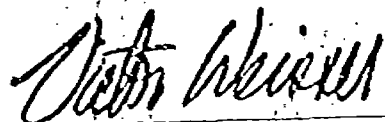
(1) Authority is granted to make the above tariff revisions effective May 13, 1988.

(2) All tariff sheets filed under Advice Letter 5126 shall be marked to show that they have been authorized by Resolution of the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California T-12082.

(3) The effective date of this resolution is today.

I certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on May 11, 1988. The following Commissioners approved it:

STANLEY W. HULETT  
President  
DONALD VIAL  
FREDERICK R. DUDA  
G. MITCHELL WILK  
JOHN B. OHANIAN  
Commissioners

  
Executive Director