

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Telecommunications BranchRESOLUTION NO. T-12089
June 8, 1988R E S O L U T I O N

PACIFIC BELL. ORDER AUTHORIZING THE REVISION OF THE TARIFF SCHEDULE TO ENSURE THAT SUBSCRIBERS ARE IN COMPLIANCE WITH THE COMPANY'S HIGH VOLTAGE PROTECTION REQUIREMENTS.

SUMMARY

This Resolution authorizes Pacific Bell to revise Tariff Schedules Cal. P.U.C. No. A2 (General Regulations) and No. A15 (Special Assemblies). By this revision, Pacific clarifies the subscribers' (most subscribers in this situation are electric utilities) responsibility of notification and/ or exchange of information as it pertains to compliance with the High Voltage Protection Device requirement and establishes a penalty for non-compliance.

BACKGROUND

Pacific has perceived the High Voltage Protective Device (HVPD) requirement as a compliance problem for some time. A HVPD is used to isolate or neutralize the environmental hazards experienced when ground potentials (voltages) rise due to faults in the electrical power system. During the third quarter of 1987 Pacific determined that there existed a potential safety/liability problem associated with non-compliance to the HVPD requirement that warranted an immediate solution.

During this same time period an electric utility did not comply with the tariff. In addition, strict cost controls in both industries, along with Pacific's inability to enforce the tariff as a result of possibly ambiguous wording may have caused some locations which required protection to be ignored or inadequately protected.

Consequently, there may be electric power plants (e.g., electric substations) which present a safety hazard, such as an electrical shock from inadequate grounding, for Pacific employees and customers as well as employees and customers of the power utility.

Discussion

Pacific's current tariff does not clearly identify the subscribers' responsibilities regarding HVPD notification or exchange of information. The tariff has no enforcement provisions for non-compliance by the subscriber.

The revised tariff submitted under Advise Letter No. 15398 dated May 18, 1988 includes a requirement that subscribers in a high voltage environment will provide Pacific certain technical information to determine if special protection is required. It also adds a stipulation that if the customer fails to establish or re-establish sufficient protection, Pacific will disconnect service 120 days after written notice.

Notice of the proposed revisions was sent to customers in September 1987. A follow-up meeting was held with the electric utilities on May 5, 1988 to discuss the proposed changes. To date no protest has been filed.

FINDINGS OF FACT

1. The current tariff does not clearly identify the subscribers' responsibilities regarding HVPD notification or exchange of information nor the consequences for non-compliance.
2. There are safety/liability issues which can not be addressed adequately under the current tariff.

IT IS ORDERED that:

(1) Authority is granted to make the above revisions on June 9, 1988.

(2) Schedule Cal P.U.C. No. A2 2nd Revised Sheet 40, 1st revised Sheet 77 and Schedule Cal P.U.C. No. A15 original Sheet 19 shall be marked to show that these sheets were authorized by Resolution of the Public Utilities Commission No. T-12089.

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 June 8, 1988. The following Commissioners approved it:

STANLEY W. HULETT
President

DONALD VIAL
FREDERICK R. DUDA
G. MITCHELL WILK
JOHN B. OHANIAN
Commissioners



Executive Director

Executive Director

