



A  Sempra Energy utility®

Rasha Prince
Director
Regulatory Affairs

555 W. Fifth Street, GT14D6
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011
Tel: 213.244.5141
Fax: 213.244.4957
RPrince@semprautilities.com

April 30, 2014

Advice No. 4639
(U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Revision of the Income-Eligibility Guidelines for the CARE Program and Related Application Instructions and Forms

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) hereby submits for filing with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) revisions to its Schedule No. G-CARE, California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program, and the associated tariff forms, applicable throughout its service territory, as shown on Attachment A.

Purpose

This filing revises SoCalGas' Schedule No. G-CARE and application instructions and forms to reflect the increased income-eligibility guidelines and approved updated list of the categorical programs used to qualify individuals or households for the CARE program. This filing is made in compliance with Public Utilities (PU) Code Section 739.1(b)(1)¹ and Ordering Paragraph (OP) 3 of Resolution (Res.) E-3524, adopted February 19, 1998.²

Background

The Energy Division (ED) determined that, pursuant to Res. E-3524 and to the requirements of PU Code Section 739.1(b)(1), effective beginning with the 2012-2013 income guidelines update, it would use the Federal Poverty Guideline values and corresponding household

¹ PU Code Section 739.1(b)(1) states: The Commission shall establish a program of assistance to low-income electric and gas customers with annual household incomes that are no greater than 200 percent of the federal poverty guideline levels, the cost of which shall not be borne solely by any single class of customer. The program shall be referred to as the California Alternate Rates for Energy or CARE program. The Commission shall ensure that the level of discount for low-income electric and gas customers correctly reflects the level of need.

² Res. E-3524 authorizes the energy utilities to change the income-eligibility guidelines for the CARE program pursuant to a communication issued by the Director of the Energy Division by May 1st of each year, with tariff revisions to be filed and become effective June 1st of each year.

size to determine and update the annual CARE and Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Programs' income limits in its income guidelines letter.

Pursuant to Assembly Bill (AB) 327 and as approved in SoCalGas' Advice No. (AL) 4572, the income limits for households with 1-2 persons for CARE are no longer listed separately, but are consolidated. Income limits are otherwise displayed separately for household sizes of 3-8 persons.

Pursuant to the letter dated April 1, 2014 from the Director of the ED, SoCalGas was provided with the new CARE and ESA Programs' income-eligibility levels to be effective from June 1, 2014 through May 31, 2015, as follows:³

<i>Household Size</i>	<i>Income Eligibility Upper Limit</i>
1 - 2	\$31,460
3	\$39,580
4	\$47,700
5	\$55,820
6	\$63,940
7	\$72,060
8	\$80,180
<i>Each Additional Person</i>	\$8,120

Appendix A of the letter also included the approved updated list of the categorical programs, as follows:

<i>List of Categorical Eligible Programs</i>
Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
CalWORKs/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
Head Start Income Eligible (Tribal Only)
Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
Medicaid/Medi-Cal for Families A & B
National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
Tribal TANF
Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

³ The ED letter, dated April 1, 2014, also clarifies that although AB 327 did not address the income eligibility guidelines for ESA, the Commission aligns thresholds for both CARE and the ESA Programs to minimize confusion and maximize efficiency. SDG&E filed a motion seeking clarification of the ESA Program's eligibility guidelines on behalf of SoCalGas and Southern California Edison on December 19, 2013 regarding alignment with the CARE guidelines. If that motion is not addressed prior to June 1, 2014, SoCalGas will implement the new guidelines as instructed by the ED letter in accordance with the effective date.

The letter further directs the energy utilities to file revised tariffs with the ED reflecting the new income levels by May 1, 2014. Because the CARE application instructions and forms are part of the tariffs, revised versions are provided in Attachment A.

Tariff Revisions

This filing updates Schedule No. G-CARE and the CARE application instructions and forms to reflect the revised income-eligibility guidelines and approved updated list of the categorical programs, as follows:

<i>Schedule Revisions</i>
Schedule No. G-CARE

<i>Application Form Revisions</i>
Qualified Agricultural Employee Housing (Form 6632) - English
Qualified Non-Profit Group Living Facilities (Form 6571) - English
General Purpose, Direct Mail (Form 6491-DM) - English and Spanish
Individually Metered Residential Self Certification (Form 6491-E) - English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, Vietnamese, Arabic, Armenian, Farsi, Hmong, Khmer, Russian, Tagalog, and Thai
Individually Metered Residential Self Recertification (Form 6674-E) - English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese
Capitation Program (Form 6491-2E) - English and Spanish
Individually Metered Residential Post-Enrollment Verification (Form 6675-E) - English, Spanish, Chinese, Korean, and Vietnamese
Sub-Metered Residential Post-Enrollment Verification (Form 6675-ES) - English and Spanish
Sub-Metered Residential Self-Certification (Form 6677-E) - English and Spanish
Sub-Metered Residential Self-Recertification (Form 6678-E) - English and Spanish
Bill Insert (Form 6491-BI) - English and Spanish

Protest

Anyone may protest this AL to the Commission. The protest must state the grounds upon which it is based, including such items as financial and service impact, and should be submitted expeditiously. The protest must be made in writing and received within 20 days of the date of this AL, which is May 20, 2014. There is no restriction on who may file a protest. The address for mailing or delivering a protest to the Commission is:

CPUC Energy Division
Attention: Tariff Unit
505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

A copy of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the attention of the ED Tariff Unit (EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov). **A copy of the protest should also be sent via both e-mail and facsimile to the address shown below on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission.**

Attn: Sid Newsom
Tariff Manager - GT14D6
555 West Fifth Street
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011
Facsimile No. (213) 244-4957
E-mail: snewsom@SempraUtilities.com

Effective Date

SoCalGas believes that this filing is subject to ED disposition and should be classified as Tier 1 (effective pending disposition) pursuant to GO 96-B. In compliance with OP 3 of Res. E-3524, adopted February 19, 1998; PU Code Section 739.1(b)(1), and the April 1, 2014 notice from the ED, the tariff sheets filed herein are to be effective for service on and after June 1, 2014.

Notice

A copy of this AL is being sent to SoCalGas' GO 96-B service list and the Commission's service lists in A.11-05-018, ESA Program, and R.08-07-011, Energy Efficiency Strategic Plan. Address change requests to the GO 96-B should be directed by electronic mail to tariffs@socalgas.com or call 213-244-3387. **For changes to all other service lists, please contact the Commission's Process Office at 415-703-2021 or by electronic mail at Process_Office@cpuc.ca.gov.**

Rasha Prince
Director – Regulatory Affairs

Attachments