

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Petition of the General Order 95/128
Rules Committee to Adopt, Amend, or
Repeal a Regulation Pursuant to
Pub. Util. Code Section 1708.5

P.14-02-010
(Filed February 27, 2014)

**CONSUMER FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA
MOTION FOR PARTY STATUS**

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I. Introduction

Pursuant to California Public Utilities Commission Rules of Practice and Procedure Rule 1.4, the Consumer Federation of California (CFC) respectfully files this Motion for Party Status in the above captioned matter.

II. Discussion

Founded in 1960, as the Association of California Consumers,¹ CFC (an affiliate of the Consumer Federation of America²), has been advocating for consumers for over 50 years. The central purpose of this organization has been, and continues to be, defending and advocating for the interests of consumers. CFC is also dedicated to educating the public regarding consumer issues³ and advocating for laws and regulations that protect consumers. In advocating for

¹ The organization's name was changed to Consumer Federation of California in 1972.

² The Consumer Federation of America (CFA) is an association of non-profit consumer organizations that was established in 1968 to advance the consumer interest through research, advocacy, and education. Today, nearly 300 consumer interest groups participate in the federation and govern it through their representatives on the organization's Board of Directors.

³ As to its advocacy and education functions, CFC sponsors the Consumer Federation of California Education Foundation, a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit California corporation.

consumers CFC promotes consumer interests in the state legislature, in front of various governmental agencies, in administrative tribunals, and in courts of law. CFC also represents consumers in public campaigns related to ballot initiatives proposing changes in law that may potentially impact consumers.

CFC is a not-for-profit 501(c)(4) federation of individual California consumers and organizations that are comprised of California consumers, senior citizen groups, labor groups, faith based groups, community based groups and other organizations. The CFC takes a broad view of consumer issues, focusing on the impact of public policy on the quality and cost of goods and services, and the impacts of public policy, in general, on consumers of California. CFC is also interested in protecting the rights of consumers interacting with California corporations, and other entities, that provide goods and services to California Consumers.

A. CFC at the CPUC

For the past eight years, CFC has participated as an intervenor in proceedings before the California Public Utilities Commission (CPUC), representing the interests of residential utility ratepayers. CFC has intervened in proceedings dealing with the following subject matters: PG&E's general rate case; reconfiguration of payments for gas utilities public purpose program surcharges; transfer of assets of the state's largest petroleum pipeline utility; development of rules for limited English-speaking telecommunications consumers; water conservation; pricing for investor-owned water utilities; establishment of consumer privacy protections as an element of the deployment

of the smart grid for electricity; development of rules for pricing and infrastructure for electric vehicle charging systems. Most recently CFC has been involved with CPUC matters dealing with electricity rates, time varying rate structures, demand response, energy storage, clean energy and renewable, and telephone service quality.

B. CFC and Telecommunications

CFC often focuses specifically on the business practices and conduct of telecommunications corporations in the state of California because CFC is interested in consumer issues relating to the telecommunications industry. In the recent past the CFC has been engaged in matters focusing, in particular, on issues related to telecommunication service quality, as it relates to the repair and upgrading of telecommunication open wires (R.11-12-001). We believe that there is some “overlap” between R.11-12-001 and this matter in that both are focused on telephone open wires and the rules relating to upkeep and upgrade of these facilities.

CFC seeks involvement in this case as it relates to the health and safety of California telephone and electricity customers and the impact changes to the safety rules might have on telecommunications service quality.

III. SERVICE

In the event our request for party status is granted, service of notices, orders, and other communication and correspondence in this investigation should be directed to the Consumer Federation of California at the email address:

dhilla@consumercal.org

IV. CONCLUSION

The Consumer Federation of California's participation in this matter will not prejudice any party and does not pose the potential of delay. The involvement of the CFC does not broaden the scope of the issues being investigated. Our intent is to aid and facilitate the Commission in its exploration of the reasonableness of the petition.

Therefore, for the reasons stated above, Consumer Federation of California respectfully requests this motion for party status be granted.

Executed and respectfully submitted, May 13, 2014, at San Francisco, California

CONSUMER FEDERATION OF CALIFORNIA

By: _____ //s// _____

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