

Approved

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Service and Safety Branch

RESOLUTION E-3072
January 28, 1988

R E S O L U T I O N

ORDER AUTHORIZING PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY AND
FEDERAL AVIATION ADMINISTRATION TO DEVIATE FROM
SECTION 320 OF THE PUBLIC UTILITIES CODE OF THE
CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION, UNDERGROUNDING
OF ELECTRICAL AND COMMUNICATION FACILITIES AND STATE
SCENIC HIGHWAY

SUMMARY

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) requests a deviation from the undergrounding requirement contained in Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code. The deviation is for electrical service to a Remote Transmitter Receiver (RTR) installed by the Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) at the Monterey Peninsula Airport, Monterey and is in proximity to a scenic highway. The FAA has requested overhead service to avoid possible disruptions to existing vital services if the line were to be undergrounded.
2. Section 320 of Public Utilities Code requires undergrounding of all new electric and communication distribution facilities in proximity to any designated state scenic highway. The Service and Safety Branch staff inspected the location of the proposed installation, and found that the proposed line with a slight modification will not be visible to the motoring public. Undergrounding the major portion of the line could result in major damage to existing power and other essential circuits. The staff after consulting with the Monterey County and the California Department of Transportation, recommends the approval of this resolution which will allow PG&E and FAA to proceed with the installation of an overhead service to the RTR.

BACKGROUND

3. In response to a request of the FAA for overhead electric service by PG&E to its RTR, PG&E on September 30, 1987 applied to the CPUC for a deviation from the undergrounding requirement contained in Section 320 of the PUC Code. To provide this service, an overhead distribution line approximately 1800 feet in length, at 21,000/240/120V single phase will be constructed on the airport property. This line will be located within 1,000 feet of state Highway 68 (Monterey-Salinas Highway) which has been designated a scenic highway.
4. PG&E claims that due to the contiguous terrain and several buildings, the overhead line would not be visible from the highway. The FAA and PG&E requested a deviation to the underground requirement of Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

DISCUSSION

5. PG&E submitted a plan for the general routing of the proposed overhead supply line. The proposed line will be installed adjacent to a fence running generally east and west. Outside the fence and on the south side of the airport, the existing high ground and private buildings will screen most of the proposed line from the motoring public on Highway 68. If the line were to be undergrounded, the most direct routing would be in an existing underground corridor containing both power and signal circuits. Both PG&E and the FAA want to avoid any disruption to vital FAA signal services which would occur if the lines were severed during construction of the new line.
6. Staff from the Service and Safety Branch made an onsite inspection of the proposed routing and concluded that the first 1600 feet of poles and line on the west cannot be seen from the existing highway. However, at the east end of the proposed line the ground rises higher and a short portion of the line would be visible from Highway 68.
7. In order to eliminate this visual impact, both the FAA and PG&E agreed to underground between 100 and 200 feet of the last portion of the supply line. This work can be done without unduly jeopardizing the safety of the existing facilities. This arrangement was also agreed to by the Planning Department of Monterey County and the Scenic Highway Advisory Committee of California Department of Transportation. The Planning Department of Monterey stated that the proposed installation requires no county departmental permit and is not subject to Monterey County Airport Land Use Commission jurisdiction. In view of the above, the staff of the Service and Safety Branch recommends that PG&E be granted a deviation from the underground requirement of Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code.

FINDINGS

1. We find that the proposed overhead line installation requested by PG&E and FAA and with modifications as discussed herein will have no visual impact on the scenic corridor along State Highway 68 (Monterey-Salinas Highway). Overall public safety is not affected. The installation will improve the power supply reliability to the vital RTR equipment. The underground requirement of Section 320 of the Public Utilities Code should not apply, therefore;

IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. Deviation from the underground requirement of Section 320 of Public Utilities Code is granted to Pacific Gas and Electric Company and the Federal Aviation Administration to install a power supply overhead line at Monterey Peninsula Airport in Monterey County, California.

2. The overhead supply line shall be installed in accordance to PG&E Drawing No. 1821E39573, with the last pole at the eastern end eliminated.

3. PG&E and FAA shall jointly ensure that no portion of the overhead line installed in accordance to the proposed plan can be seen from State Highway 68.

This resolution is effective today.

I certify that this resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on January 28, 1988. The following Commissioners approved it:

Executive Director