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PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY
AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION
ENERGY BRANCH

RESOLUTION E-3091
May 25, 1988

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION E-3091. PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY (PG&E). ORDER AUTHORIZING TO CHANGE THE WORDING IN RULE 3--APPLICATION FOR SERVICE, SECTION C, TO EXPAND INDIVIDUAL LIABILITY FOR JOINT SERVICE, BY ADVICE LETTER 1455-G/1196-E, FILED MARCH 17, 1988.

SUMMARY

1. By Advice Letter 1455-G/1196-E, filed March 17, 1988, PG&E requests a revision to its gas and electric tariffs, Rule 3, which will expand Individual Liability for Joint Service and make all adults living at the same residence responsible for paying their PG&E bill.

BACKGROUND

1. In Decision (D.)85-09-060, the Commission expressed its intent to ensure that electric and gas utilities are not subject to the fraudulent scheme of "name switching". A name switcher is a customer who runs up a large bill and then, rather than paying it, reapplies for service under a different name hoping to be treated as a new customer with an unblemished credit history.

2. In D.85-09-060, the Commission advised Southern California Edison Company to include in its tariffs a provision under which all adults living at the same residence would be responsible for back bills issued in another person's name. Thus, when a utility institutes service to a household of unrelated adults, each of the customers served jointly would be responsible for bills incurred for service to the household.

3. The Energy Tariff Committee, whose members consist of representatives from gas and electric utilities and CPUC Staff, have discussed alternative language for revision to Rule 3, regarding the name switching problem. The Committee approved proposals to incorporate tariff language changes in Rule 3, Individual Liability for Joint Service, from both Southern California Edison (SCE) and Southern California Gas (SoCal Gas).

PROTESTS

1. No protests have been filed in this matter.

DISCUSSION

1. The Commission Advisory and Compliance Division (CACD) has reviewed this filing and finds PG&E's request to change its Rule 3 tariff language to be the same as SCE's authorized tariff language.
2. This filing to change wording is consistent with Commission recommendations to SCE in D. 85-01-060.
3. This filing will not increase any other existing rate or charge, conflict with other schedules or rules, or cause the withdrawal of service.
4. PG&E has requested that this filing be made effective on the regular 40 day notice.
5. In accordance with General Order 96-A, Section III, Paragraph G, PG&E has mailed copies of this advice letter and related tariff sheets to other utilities and interested parties.

FINDINGS

1. We find that the conditions as proposed by this change in wording to PG&E's Rule 3, Individual Liability for Joint Service, are just and reasonable;

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Pacific Gas and Electric Company is authorized under General Order 96-A to file a revision to Section C of Rule 3, to expand Individual Liability for Joint Service as proposed.
2. Advice Letter 1455-G/1196-E, and accompanying tariff sheets shall be marked to show that they were authorized by Resolution E-3091 and became effective on and after May 25, 1988.
3. This resolution is effective today.

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I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on May 25, 1988. The following Commissioners approved it:

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



Executive Director