

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY
AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Energy Branch

RESOLUTION E-3200
October 12, 1990

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION E-3200. REQUEST BY KING VIDEOCABLE COMPANY OF DIAMOND SPRINGS TO DEVIATE FROM UNDERGROUNDING REQUIREMENTS IN THE VICINITY OF STRAWBERRY VILLAGE.

AUTHORITY REQUESTED BY LETTER DATED MAY 21, 1990 FROM J.J. BIGGINS, CABLE TV CONSULTANT, ON BEHALF OF KING VIDEOCABLE COMPANY.

SUMMARY

1. King Videocable Company (KVC) proposes to remove the present videocable system and replace it with a new system. The seven existing highway crossings which are attached to trees are to be removed. The proposed system would use existing utility poles and reduce the number of crossings to four. Because no new poles will be required, visibility of the added lines within 1000 feet of Highway 50, a scenic highway will be negligible.

2. This resolution approves the request.

BACKGROUND

1. KVC's system is located in the vicinity of Strawberry Village serving the community of Twin Bridges. The system includes seven overhead lines that cross Highway 50, a scenic highway. All seven crossings are attached to trees, not to utility poles. KVC was granted authority by Commission Resolution E-3197 dated July 6, 1990 to deviate from Public Utilities Code Section 320 on a portion of its system in the vicinity of Camino Heights serving the community of Kyburz. This additional request by KVC addresses similar needs for deviation concerning the rebuilding of existing aerial facilities in the vicinity of State Highway 50 near Strawberry Village, which is also a scenic highway as designated in the State Highways Code.

2. KVC proposes to construct a new system and to remove the old system, including the seven highway crossings. The new system would use existing Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) poles for the highway crossings. This would reduce the number of crossings from seven to four. No new poles would be

required. The bulk of the system would not be seen from the highway and, most of the time, would be over 1,000 feet from the highway.

3. The State of California Department of Transportation (Caltrans) has jurisdiction over the planning for highways. In a letter dated August 2, 1990, Ms. Laura Johnson, Scenic Highway Coordinator, wrote that Caltrans has no objection to the proposed reconstruction on the conditions that:

- A. The crossings of the new four cable lines will only occur in conjunction with existing utility poles, and
- B. the existing seven crossings will be removed.

4. The California Public Utilities Code (Code), Section 320, designates this Commission to administer the undergrounding of electric and communication distribution facilities. This request requires Commission approval.

5. If Pacific Gas & Electric Company elects to underground the existing lines in the future, KVC promises that it will also underground the cable system.

PROTESTS

1. No protest was received regarding the letter from King Videocable.

DISCUSSION

1. The installation or removal of overhead cable lines will affect the visibility of KVC's system in the vicinity of Strawberry Village. The reduction in the number of crossings is a primary consideration for authorizing a deviation from Code Section 320.

2. The visibility of existing power lines from Scenic Highway 50 should be a primary consideration for granting a deviation from undergrounding requirements. The electric system which KVC proposes to use is visible from the highway, primarily at the crossings. Adding the cable line would have a minor negative visual effect. Existing cable now attached to trees would be eliminated.

3. Eventually, the overhead electric systems will have to be replaced. Under Section 320 of the Code, such systems in the vicinity of scenic highways will probably be replaced with underground facilities. KVC has indicated that it will underground its cable system at that time. KVC's commitment should be included as part of this order, to eliminate any uncertainty in the future.

FINDINGS

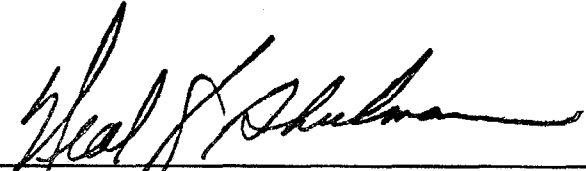
1. The Commission Advisory and Compliance Division recommends that deviation to allow overhead line extensions, as proposed, should be granted based on no significant effect on the environment adjacent to Highway 50 in the vicinity of Strawberry Village.
2. When the existing overhead lines are relocated underground KVC's videocable system should also be undergrounded.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A deviation from Code Section 320 is granted to King Videocable Company for the proposed extensions in the vicinity of Strawberry Village on U.S. Highway 50.
2. King Videocable Company shall underground its system when the existing overhead system of Pacific Gas and Electric Company is relocated underground.
3. The Order is effective five days from today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on October 12, 1990. The following Commissioners approved it:

G. MITCHELL WILK
President
FREDERICK R. DUDA
STANLEY W. HULETT
JOHN B. OHANIAN
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
Commissioners



Neal J. Shulman
Executive Director