

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND
COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Energy Branch

RESOLUTION G-3061
JUNE 23, 1993

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION G-3061. SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC COMPANY REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO MODIFY ITS DEVIATION FROM GENERAL ORDER 58-A, "STANDARDS FOR GAS SERVICE", BY EXPANSION OF ITS EXISTING GAS METER CONTROL PROGRAM.

BY ADVICE LETTER 849-G, FILED ON FEBRUARY 2, 1993

SUMMARY

1. San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) requests authorization to expand its existing Gas Meter Performance Control Program (Program) to include all diaphragm meters rated from 50 to 1,000 cubic feet per hour (cfh). Instead of testing all meters, Program tests statistically significant samples of all groups of gas meters annually to determine whether the meters should be replaced. Expansion of the Program to include larger meters would save SDG&E about \$35,000 per year. Program results filed annually with the Commission indicate there should be no reduction in safety from expanding this Program.
2. The expansion of SDG&E's existing Program is a deviation from General Order 58-A and requires Commission approval.
3. No protests were received.
4. This Resolution approves SDG&E's request.

BACKGROUND

1. General Order (G.O.) 58-A, Section 13. Periodic and Other Required Tests of Gas Meters, Paragraph a., provides that no gas meter installed after April, 1989 shall be allowed to remain in service more than ten (10) years from the date when last tested without being retested.
2. Section 13, Paragraph c. provides that "Under certain conditions utilities may be authorized to deviate from Section 13.a. and use a statistical meter control program based on meter performance as demonstrated by sample testing in lieu of periodic testing of each meter. Applications to deviate shall be based on accepted principles of statistical sampling."
3. The Commission authorized an SDG&E Program in Resolution (R.) G-1426 of December 10, 1968, to include diaphragm-type gas meters rated up to 300 cfh. By R. G-2907 of March 14, 1990 the Commission approved expansion of the Program to include diaphragm-type gas meters with a capacity up to and including 500 cfh.

4. Based on the statistical analysis from Program data, many more customer meters were registering below actual volumes than above actual volumes; and it appeared that meters tend to run slower and register lower as they age. By R. G-2927 of December 6, 1990, the Commission authorized a Program modification to set customer meters at zero percent below actual check flow volumes, rather than at 0.25% below actual check flow volumes, and with customer meters allowed to register no more than 0.3% above actual under full volume flows.

NOTICE:

Notice of the Advice Letter filing was published in the Commission Calendar of February 10, 1993. Copies of the Advice Letter filing were mailed to 88 interested parties on February 2, 1993. Since approval of this Advice Letter will not result in an increase in rates, restriction of service to customers or reduction in safety, individual public notice to customers is not required and was not issued.

PROTESTS:

No protests were received.

DISCUSSION:

1. SDG&E's testing personnel have determined through evaluation of historical records that newer aluminum meters and renovated cast iron meters of up to 1,000 cfh capacity are able to maintain the accuracy standards of the Program for more than ten (10) years.

2. Allowing meters of 500 - 1,000 cfh capacity to remain in place longer than ten years as provided for in General Order 58A, if representative samples of meter groups pass tests, will save SDG&E approximately \$35,000 per year; and the end result will be the same as if meters were tested at the end of ten years.

FINDINGS:

1. A deviation from G.O. 58-A, allowing sampling of certain meters instead of testing all meters after ten years, was authorized by the Commission in 1968.

2. The deviation was modified in 1990 to include larger meters than authorized in 1968.

3. This modification to the existing deviation differs only in the inclusion of a greater range of meters.

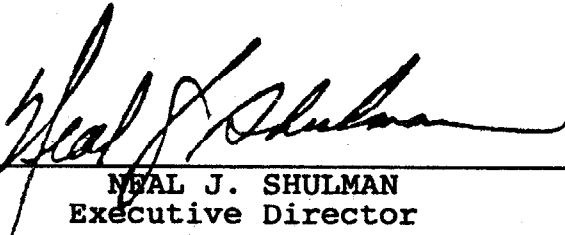
4. This modification to the existing deviation will reduce the expense of meter testing.

5. This modification to the existing deviation is reasonable and should be approved.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. SDG&E is authorized to modify its existing Gas Meter Performance Control Program (Program) to include all diaphragm meters rated from 50 to 1,000 cubic feet per hour.
2. Advice Letter 849-G shall be marked to show that it was approved by Commission Resolution.
- 3 This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on June 23, 1993. The following Commissioners approved it:



NEAL J. SHULMAN
Executive Director

DANIEL Wm. FESSLER
President
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
NORMAN D. SHUMWAY
P. GREGORY CONLON
Commissioners