

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY
AND COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Energy Branch

RESOLUTION G-3063
JUNE 3, 1993

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION G-3063. REQUEST OF SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY TO AMEND TARIFF SCHEDULES TO ALLOW COMBINED BILLING FOR MASTER-METERED CENTRAL FACILITIES.

BY SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY ADVICE LETTER 2149, FILED NOVEMBER 13, 1992.

SUMMARY

1. By Advice Letter 2149, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) would amend its master-metered tariff schedules GM, GT-M, GS, GT-S, GSL and GT-GSL so that metered usage can be combined for billing purposes if a master-metered central facility serves one or more master-meters with baseline eligible residential customers.
2. This Resolution approves the Advice Letter.

BACKGROUND

1. Some customers on SoCalGas' system have central facilities that provide services such as hot water or space heating to one or more master-metered dwellings. These same dwellings have other gas uses that are supplied through a different master-meter(s). The dwelling units are not individually metered and are currently ineligible for baseline allowances.
2. SoCalGas' Rule 17 - Reading of Separate Meters Not Combined, requires separate billing for each meter on a customer's premises unless combined meter reading is specifically provided for in the rate schedule.

NOTICE

1. Public notice was made by publication in the Commission calendars on Friday, November 20, 1992.
2. In addition, the Advice Letter was mailed to interested parties, other utilities and governmental agencies, in accordance with General Order 96-A, Section III, Paragraph G.

PROTESTS

1. A protest to SoCalGas's Advice Letter 2149 was filed by the law firm of Biddle & Hamilton on behalf of the Western Mobilehome Association (WMA) on December 3, 1993. SoCalGas' response to the protest was received on December 17, 1993.
2. The WMA protest claimed that SoCalGas' Advice Letter was inconsistent with the Utility's Rate Schedule GS as it applied to mobilehome parks and unfair to submetered parks. Specifically, WMA cited a circumstance where a mobilehome park was served by two master-meters. Each master-meter served baseline eligible residential dwellings, but there was no conjoint service. In addition, one of the master-meters served all of the mobilehome park's common facilities. WMA sought the amendment of the proposed tariff language to allow the combination of master-meter bills for master-meters in mobilehome parks to gain the baseline allowance for the total number of units served by the common facilities.
3. SoCalGas responded to the WMA protest by indicating the difference between "central facilities" which serve baseline eligible uses and "common facilities" that are not eligible baseline uses. Common facilities, according to SoCalGas, include swimming pools, recreational rooms, saunas, and spas. SoCalGas claimed that there was no reason to combine separate meter readings where there were no central facilities.
4. WMA replied to SoCalGas on December 22, 1992 indicating that any baseline allowance not used by the submetered units is available for use in "common facilities", whether there are "central facilities" involved or not.

DISCUSSION

1. If SoCalGas' master-meter rate schedules are amended as requested, the utility would combine the usage of the various master-meters serving the dwelling facilities in a complex. The combined bill would reflect the total usage of the various master-meters and would also provide baseline allowances for the dwelling units. The net effect of this combination would be lower over-all bills.
2. CACD has reviewed WMA's protest and responses and recommends against the revision sought by WMA. The lower bills anticipated by SoCal Gas for master-metered customers that would be affected by the proposed tariff change is targeted toward combined usage of lifeline eligible uses. The availability of additional baseline quantities for common uses would be an incidental effect under SoCalGas' proposal and it would remedy a loss of baseline quantities now experienced by customers with central facilities.

June 3, 1993

The alternative suggested by WMA would institute a conscious policy aimed at maximizing baseline quantities for common use facilities.

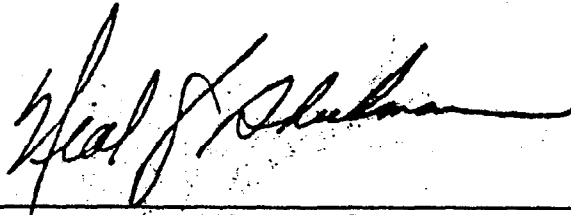
FINDINGS

1. SoCalGas' proposal would provide lower over-all bills to master-metered customers with central facilities, by providing baseline allowances consistent with over-all consumption.
2. WMA's protest is concerned with common use facilities, not central facilities, and should not be adopted.
3. It is reasonable to grant SoCalGas's request.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The protest by Western Mobilehome Association is denied.
2. Southern California Gas Company is authorized to modify its master-metered tariff schedules GM, GT-M, GS, GT-S, GSL and GT-GSL so that metered usage can be combined for billing purposes.
3. Southern California Gas Company's Advice Letter 2149 and accompanying tariff sheets shall all be marked to show that they were approved for for filing by Resolution 3063-G.
4. This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on June 3, 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