

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND
COMPLIANCE DIVISION
Energy Branch

RESOLUTION G-3071
OCTOBER 6, 1993

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION G-3071. WASHINGTON WATER POWER COMPANY REQUESTS AUTHORITY TO DEVIATE FROM GENERAL ORDER 58-A, "STANDARDS FOR GAS SERVICE", BY INSTITUTION OF A STATISTICAL METER CONTROL PROGRAM FOR RESIDENTIAL GAS METERS BASED ON SAMPLE TESTING.

REVISED ADVICE LETTER C-11-G, FILED ON JUNE 10, 1993

SUMMARY

1. Washington Water Power Company (WWP) requests authorization to institute a Meter Test Plan (Plan) for residential gas meters with a capacity of 275 cubic feet per hour (cfh) or less. Instead of testing all meters that have been in service for at least ten years since purchase or last test, the Plan will annually test statistically significant samples of all groups of gas meters older than ten years to determine whether a particular group of meters should be replaced. Plan results will be filed annually with the Commission.
2. This Resolution approves WWP'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 in prior years approved deviations for such meter control programs for Pacific Gas & Electric Company (1960), San Diego Gas & Electric Company (1968) and Southern California Gas Company (1960).
4. WWP presently operates similar programs in Washington and Oregon.

NOTICE:

Notice of the Advice Letter filing was published in the Commission Calendar of March 24, 1993. Copies of the Advice Letter filing were mailed to fifteen other interested parties on March 17, 1993, and copies of the revised Advice Letter filing were mailed to those parties on June 10, 1993. Because 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 by CACD.

DISCUSSION:

1. WWP's engineering personnel have determined through evaluation of historical records in Washington and Oregon that recently manufactured or renovated residential meters of up to 275 cfh capacity are able to maintain the accuracy standards of the Plan for more than ten (10) years.
2. Allowing meters of up to 275 cfh capacity to remain in place longer than ten years as provided for in General Order 58A, if representative samples of meter groups pass quality control tests, will save WWP approximately \$53,000 per year. This would be WWP's avoided cost for removing existing meters, installing other meters and testing the removed meters; and will have the same end result as if all residential meters were tested within ten years of last being tested.
3. WWP submitted a copy of its proposed Meter Test Plan - Residential Meters along with Advice Letter No. C-11-G. Energy Branch staff reviewed the plan and suggested modifications which were made by WWP. The modified Meter Test Plan is acceptable to Energy Branch.

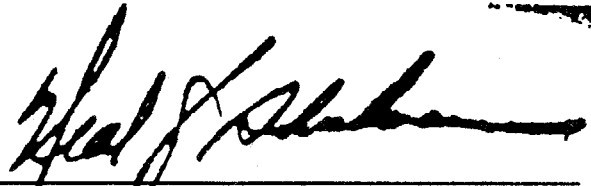
FINDINGS:

1. General Order 58-A, Section 13.c provides for deviations when tests of statistically significant samples of representative groups of gas meters are carried out instead of testing all meters after they have been in service for ten years.
2. Deviations under Section 13.c. have been authorized for PG&E, SDG&E and Southern California Gas.
3. This deviation will reduce the expense of meter removal, testing and reinstallation.
4. Approval of this Deviation for Washington Water Power is reasonable.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. WWP is authorized to institute a Gas Meter Plan (Plan) to include all residential gas meters rated up to 275 cubic feet per hour in accordance with its plan submitted in Advice Letter C-11-G.
2. Advice Letter C-11-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 *October 6, 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

Commissioner Jessie J. Knight, Jr.
present but not participating.