

## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

COMMISSION ADVISORY AND  
COMPLIANCE DIVISION  
Energy Branch

RESOLUTION G-3126  
May 4, 1994

R E S O L U T I O N

RESOLUTION G-3126. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY REQUESTS TO DEVIATE FROM COMMISSION APPROVED WORDING IN ITS STANDARD LINE EXTENSION CONTRACT (FORM 3905A): CONTRACT FOR EXTENSION OF GAS SERVICE LINE FOR MR. BILL BEST.

BY ADVICE LETTER 2273-G, FILED ON FEBRUARY 16, 1994.

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SUMMARY

1. Southern California Gas Company (Gas Co.) requests Commission authorization to deviate from its standard line extension contract, Form 3905A, as established by General Order 96-A, Section X. The Gas Co. is making this filing at the request of its customer, Mr. Bill Best, who does not want the Gas Co. to have easement rights on his property to service an adjoining property.
2. This Resolution grants the request with the modification that Mr. Best contribute to the cost of an alternate pipe routing if necessary as described in this resolution.

BACKGROUND

1. Under General Order 96-A, Section X, Contracts and Services at Other Than Filed Tariff Schedules, no utility may make any contract, arrangement or deviation for providing service at rates or conditions other than as contained in its tariff schedules without first obtaining Commission authorization to carry out the terms of the contract, arrangement or deviation. Where the service is of minor importance or temporary in nature, the utility may file an application and showing of necessity by advice letter.
2. Gas Co. customer, Mr. Best, has requested gas service at his property, which is in a well-developed area where most or all surrounding residences already have gas service.
3. The Gas Co. standard contract for service, Form 3905A, paragraph 1., includes a provision that grants the company easements and rights-of-way at the property, "as may be necessary or convenient to enable the Company to install, operate [etc.]...meters, gauges, pipelines [etc.] ...which the Company may

install for the purpose of furnishing service to the aforementioned premises or adjoining premises, ..." (underlining added)

4. Mr. Best does not agree to the term of the contract that allows the company to service an adjoining premise by easement or right-of-way on his property. The customer has requested the omission of "or adjoining premises" in the 7th line of the first paragraph of the Contract Conditions, Form 3905A.

NOTICE:

1. Public notice of this filing has been made by publication in the Commission's calendar on February 24, 1994 and by mailing copies to interested parties specified by General Order 96A.

PROTESTS

1. No protests to this advice letter were received by the Commission Advisory and Compliance Division (CACD).

DISCUSSION

1. The premises to either side of Mr. Best's property is currently serviced by the Gas Co. The omission of "or adjoining premises" would only have an impact on the Gas. Co.'s service if Mr. Best's property is subdivided and gas service is requested on a portion of the property that would not already be serviced.

2. The purpose of a standard form contract is to minimize administrative cost. A deviation may create additional cost for the ratepayers.

3. The Gas Co. and the Commission are concerned with customer satisfaction as well as protecting the ratepayers from avoidable costs.

4. The customer's request can be satisfied and the ratepayers can be protected from higher cost, if the customer agrees to pay for any additional cost incurred by the utility to service an adjoining premise, where the cost of service would have been lowest with an easement or right-of way. If the customer pays the difference between the least-cost means of service and the next least-cost feasible means of service, there will be no impact on the ratepayers.

5. Should the Gas Co. need to provide service to a premise that would have been most cost-efficiently served from Mr. Best's property, the Gas Co. should provide a description and cost estimate of the least-cost and next least-cost options to the customer and to the Commission by letter.

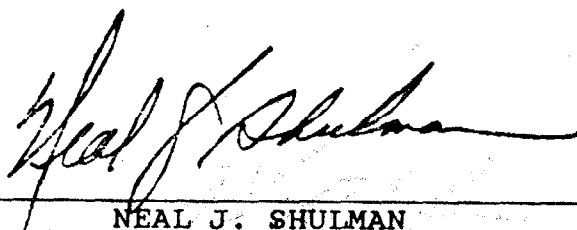
FINDINGS

1. The Gas Co. is requesting a deviation in its standard contract, Form 3905A, to remove the right to easement to service an adjoining premise at a customers request.
2. The customer's request can be met and the ratepayers can be protected from additional cost if the customer pays the difference between the least-cost means of service and the next least-cost means of service, if service at an adjoining property should be requested.

**THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED that:**

1. Southern California Gas Company shall modify its standard form contract 3905A to meet the customer's request.
2. The customer, Mr. Bill Best, shall pay the difference between the least-cost means of service and the next least-cost means of service if an adjoining premise requests gas service.
3. Southern California Gas Company shall provide the customer and the Commission with a description and cost estimate of the least-cost and next least-cost estimate for service to an adjoining property if such service is requested.
3. This Resolution is effective today.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on May 4, 1994. 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.  
being necessarily absent did not  
participate.