San Diego Gas & Electric Company
Response to Questions on 20-50 kW Issues

The following are SDG&E's responses to the questions contained in the Energy Division's Notice of Workshop dated September 10, 1998.

1. WHAT ARE THE COSTS ASSOCIATED WITH HOURLY INTERVAL METERING?

SDG&E Response:

The following metering costs are based on SDG&E's metering options contained in its Schedule DA:

- Real-Time Meter Service Option: SDG&E buys and installs a meter capable of real-time reads. Poly Phase meter installation costs are $197. On-going costs for meter services— the meter, maintenance, testing, and reading— and telecommunication reading services are $39 per month. Telephone installation services are provided at cost.

- Next-Day Meter Service Option: SDG&E buys and installs a meter capable of daily reads. Poly Phase meter installation costs are $236. Ongoing costs for meter services— the meter, maintenance, testing, and reading— are $20 per month. Telephone installation services are provided at cost.

- Basic Meter Service Option: SDG&E buys and installs a meter capable of recording interval data, and the meter is manually read once per month. Poly Phase meter installation costs are $80. Ongoing costs for meter services— the meter, maintenance, testing, and reading— are $13 per month. Telephone installation services are provided at cost.

SDG&E is not aware of the meter costs for all possible providers. However, as an example, if an ESP buys and installs the meter, the cost of a three-phase interval meter is approximately $300. A modem card that fits into that meter costs an additional $250. The charges for telecommunication services are approximately $17 per month plus $200 for installation (Pacific Bell).

2. WHAT IS THE LIKELY COST IMPACT OF IMPOSING THE HOURLY INTERVAL METERING REQUIREMENT ON CUSTOMERS WHOSE MAXIMUM DEMANDS FALL WITHIN THE 20 TO 50 KW RANGE?

SDG&E Response:

The costs will vary greatly based on the metering option provided. SDG&E has approximately 6,270 meters on customers in the 20 to 50 kW range. If hourly meters were imposed on these customers and SDG&E utilized it's least cost meter option (Basic Service), the installation charges would total approximately $500,000, and the on-going charges for UDC meter services— the meter, maintenance, testing, and reading monthly— would be approximately $81,500 per month.

If all meters are changed using SDG&E's Real-Time Meter Service Option, the installation charges would total approximately $1,235,000, and the on-going charges for UDC meter services— the meter, maintenance, testing, and reading— would be approximately $244,500 per month.

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3. HOW MANY CUSTOMERS IN THE 20 TO 50 KW RANGE ARE ON LOAD PROFILES, AND HOW MANY HAVE HOURLY INTERVAL METERS?

SDG&E Response:

At this time, SDG&E has 371 meters signed-up for DA that are load profiled and between 20 to 50 kW. SDG&E has 28 meters signed-up for DA that have hourly meters and are between 20 to 50 kW.

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4. SHOULD THE LOAD PROFILES FOR THESE CUSTOMERS BE EXTENDED OR DISCONTINUED IN LIGHT OF THE METERING SITUATION?

SDG&E Response:

SDG&E believes that the current metering exemption for direct access customers in the 20 to 50 kW range should be extended through 1999.

It is SDG&E's opinion that: (1) the market for competitive energy is too new to accurately quantify the cost effectiveness of interval metering for direct access customers in the 20 to 50 kW range, and (2) it is too late to require meter installations for these customers by early 1999.

5. SHOULD HEARINGS BE HELD TO RESOLVE THIS ISSUE?

SDG&E Response:

SDG&E is not aware of specific 20 to 50 kW issues that will require hearings to resolve. SDG&E believes that workshops addressing load profiling issues have been effective in providing a forum to identify and discuss such complex and technical issues. To the extent there are debatable issues that cannot be resolved through workshops, SDG&E would support hearings.

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6. WHAT ARE THE INCONSISTENCIES BETWEEN THE UDCS IN THE 20 KW LOAD PROFILES THRESHOLD? WHAT DO PARTIES RECOMMEND AS TO HOW THESE INCONSISTENCIES SHOULD BE RESOLVED?

SDG&E Response:

SDG&E is not aware of any inconsistencies between the UDCs regarding 20 kW load profile thresholds. To the extent that such inconsistencies are discovered, such inconsistencies can be addressed in workshops.

SDG&E's criteria for determining the 20 kW load profile threshold is as follows:

The customer is determined to be less than 20 kW if demand is less than 20 kW for 9 out of the preceding 12 months. If demand metering is not in place, the criteria is based on monthly usage being less than 12,000 kWh for 9 out of the preceding 12 months.