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BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of PacifiCorp for Approval of the 2012-2014 California Alternate Rates for Energy and Energy Savings Assistance Programs and Budgets. (U901E)

Application 11-06-016
(Filed June 15, 2011)

In the Matter of the Application of Golden State Water Company on Behalf of its Bear Valley Electric Service Division (U913E) for an Order Approving Its Energy Savings Assistance Program and California Alternate Rates for Energy Plans and Budgets for Program Years 2012-2014.

Application 11-06-018
(Filed June 15, 2011)

In the Matter of the Application of Southwest Gas Corporation (U905G) for Approval of Low-Income Programs and Budgets for Program Years 2012-2014.

Application 11-06-019
(Filed June 15, 2011)

Application of California Pacific Electric Company, LLC (U933E) for Approval of Low-Income Assistance Programs and Budgets for Program Years 2012-2014.

Application 11-06-020
(Filed June 15, 2011)

In the Matter of the Application of West Coast Gas Company (U910G) For Approval of Program Years 2012-2014 Low-Income Assistance Program Budgets.

Application 11-06-021
(Filed June 15, 2011)

In the Matter of the Application of Alpine Natural Gas Operating Company No. 1 LLC (U909G) for Approval of Low-Income Assistance Programs and Budgets for Program Years 2012-2014.

Application 11-07-015
(Filed July 21, 2011)

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING CONSOLIDATING RELATED PROCEEDINGS AND SETTING A JOINT PREHEARING CONFERENCE

The above-captioned proceedings relate to the 2012-2014 Energy Savings Assistance Program (ESAP), formerly known as the Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) Program) and California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Program budget applications of Alpine Natural Gas Operating Company, PacifiCorp, Golden State Water Company on behalf of Bear Valley Electric, Southwest Gas Corporation, California Pacific Electric Company, LLC (formerly Sierra Pacific Power Company), and West Coast Gas Company (collectively, small multijurisdictional utilities or SMJUs).

This ruling consolidates the above-captioned proceedings, sets a date and time for a joint prehearing conference and sets a preliminary proceeding scope and schedule of the consolidated proceeding (Consolidated Proceeding). The purpose of the joint prehearing conference is not to delve into the merits of any substantive issues raised in the Consolidated Proceeding but is to review the herein preliminary scope and schedule of the Consolidated Proceeding and to address any other issues, including pending protests and filings, relating to the scope and schedule of the Consolidated Proceeding with the goal of thoughtfully and efficiently resolving the 2012-2014 California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Program applications of the SMJUs.

We will also be establishing the service list and addressing other procedural matters.

1. Prehearing Conference

October 6, 2011, 10:00 a.m.
Commission Hearing Room
505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102

2. Prehearing Conference Statement

Parties should each prepare, file and serve a brief prehearing conference statement no later than October 1, 2011. Any person or entity that intends to seek party status should also file and serve a prehearing conference statement no later than October 1, 2011. All prehearing conference statements should address the party's (person's or entity's) respective position on the following issues:

- A. The preliminary scope of the Consolidated Proceeding set forth in this ruling;
- B. The preliminary schedule of the Consolidated Proceeding set forth in this ruling; and
- C. Any other issues, including pending protests and filings, relating to the scope and schedule of the Consolidated Proceeding with the goal of thoughtfully and efficiently resolving the 2012-2014 CARE and ESAP Programs applications.

3. Preliminary Scope of Issues in the Consolidated Proceeding

The following is a preliminary list of issues that I deem to be within the scope of the proceeding, in no particular order and should reflect major issues before the Commission for consideration in the Consolidated Proceeding. Be advised that below is an incomplete list and will be finalized in the scoping memo ruling which will be issued after the October 6, 2011 prehearing conference and after further review of the filings to date, including the review and consideration of the prehearing conference statements:

1. Consideration of SMJUs' proposed CARE Program budgets, and underlying assumptions and estimates;
2. Consideration of SMJUs' proposed ESAP budgets, and underlying assumptions and estimates;
3. Review of CARE income eligibility guideline;
4. Review of issues relating to the CARE penetration rate;

5. Any other issues triggering changes to ESAP and CARE Programs; and
6. Any other issue expressly added by the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) or Commissioner in the final scoping memo ruling, to be issued following the herein prehearing conference.

4. Issues Outside Scope

Unless expressly added by the assigned ALJ or Commissioner, any issues not set forth in the final scoping memo ruling will be outside the scope or are issues that will not be addressed in detail in upcoming decision on the SMJUs' 2012-14 ESAP and CARE budgets. The parties are therefore directed to examine the above list and make certain all major issues they wish to have considered in the Consolidated Proceeding are added by way of prehearing statements identifying those issues, with clear cross-references to the exact pages in the applications and other filings in the Consolidated Proceeding. Parties are reminded not to reiterate the contents of their prior filings in detail in the prehearing conference statement; rather the prehearing conference statement should merely capture the issues they wish to be included to the scope that are not reflected above.

5. Preliminary Proceeding Schedule in the Consolidated Proceeding

The below is the preliminary schedule for the Consolidated Proceeding. It envisions some changes that may potentially be in the works and that which could affect the future of ESA and CARE programs. Specifically, Commission is presently reviewing several significant issues in the context of its large investor-owned utilities' (Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison

Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, and Southern California Gas Company or IOUs) 2012-2014 ESAP and CARE budget applications¹ (IOUs' Consolidated Proceeding) which may to some degree inform the Commission and therefore affect the Commission's approach, to the SMJUs' current applications, the herein Consolidated Proceeding.

In order to avoid inefficiency, duplication and inconsistency in the review of the SMJU's applications while some ESA and/or CARE programs changes may potentially be in the works, a bridge funding decision is being considered for the Consolidated Proceeding as noted in the below schedule.

The bridge funding decision in the Consolidated Proceeding will afford the Commission adequate time to review some critical issues affecting the ESAP and CARE programs in the IOUs' Consolidated Proceeding.

It is our plan to issue a proposed bridge funding decision to authorize continued funding for the SMJU's 2012 for ESAP and CARE programs in October 2011 to prevent any disruption in program delivery while the Commission is conducting its review of these issues.

DATE	EVENT
October 1, 2011	Prehearing Conference Statement (served and filed)
October 6, 2011	Prehearing Conference Commission Hearing Room 10 a.m.
October 2011	Scoping Memo Ruling
October/November 2011	Proposed Decision on Bridge Funding
April 2012	Final Proposed Decision

¹ See A.11-05-017, et. al.

The Commission is committed to resolving this Consolidated Proceeding as soon as practicable; we anticipate that the resolution will not exceed 18 months from issuance of the scoping memo that will issue, following the prehearing conference, pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5. The assigned ALJ and Commissioner may alter the schedule for this Consolidated Proceeding as they see fit.

6. Category of Proceeding and Hearings

This proceeding has been categorized as ratesetting. Examination of the filings in the Consolidated Proceeding to date does not demonstrate that hearings are necessary.

7. Communications with Decision Makers (Ex Parte Communication)

Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1701.1, ex parte communications are prohibited in this proceeding except under the following circumstances. Oral ex parte communications may be permitted at any time by any Commissioner if all interested parties are invited and given not less than three days' notice.

Written ex parte communications are permitted by any party provided that copies of the communication are transmitted to all parties on the same day.

Commission Rule 8.1 et seq. explains the ex parte rules in more detail.

The Commission's rules are available on the www.cpuc.ca.gov website at

http://docs.cpuc.ca.gov/published/RULES_PRAC_PROC/70731.htm.

8. Discovery Disputes

If the parties experience discovery disputes they are unable to resolve by meeting and conferring, they shall contact the assigned ALJ Kimberly Kim, to determine whether a written or oral motion is required.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Application (A.) 11-06-015, A.11-06-016, A.11-06-018, A.11-06-019, A.11-06-020 and A.11-06-021 are hereby consolidated for all purposes.
2. Prehearing Conference is set for October 6, 2011, 10:00 a.m., Commission Hearing Room, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, CA 94102.
3. By October 1, 2011, all parties should each prepare, file and serve a prehearing conference statement.
4. By October 1, 2011, all persons or entities that intend to seek party status should also file and serve a prehearing conference statement.
5. All prehearing conference statements shall address the party's (person's or entity's) respective position on the following issues:
 - The preliminary scope of the Consolidated Proceeding set forth in this ruling;
 - The preliminary schedule of the Consolidated Proceeding set forth in this ruling; and
 - Any other issues, including pending protests and filings, relating to the scope and schedule of the Consolidated Proceeding with the goal of thoughtfully and efficiently resolving the 2012-2014 CARE and ESAP Programs applications.
6. Pursuant to Pub. Util. Code § 1701.1, ex parte communications are subject to the reporting requirements set forth in Commission Rule 8.3 et seq.
7. If the parties experience any discover dispute they are unable to resolve by meeting and conferring, they shall contact Administrative Law Judge Kim to determine whether a written or oral motion is required.

Dated September 26, 2011, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ KIMBERLY H. KIM

Kimberly H. Kim

Administrative Law Judge