

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Safety and Enforcement Division
Electric Safety and Reliability Branch

San Francisco, California
Date: June 27, 2013
Resolution ESRB-2

RESOLUTION**RESOLUTION ESRB-2, ORDER GRANTING SAN DIEGO GAS & ELECTRIC'S (SDG&E) REQUEST TO PERMIT SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY (SoCalGas) TO PERMANENTLY ATTACH ADVANCED METERING PROJECT DATA COLLECTION UNITS TO SDG&E-OWNED STREETLIGHTS IN ACCORDANCE WITH GENERAL ORDER 95, RULE 34.****SUMMARY**

1. In a letter dated May 29, 2012, SDG&E petitioned the Commission to allow SoCalGas to permanently attach advanced metering project data collection units (Data Collection Units) to SDG&E owned streetlight poles under General Order (GO) 95, Rule 34.
2. GO 95, Rule 34 requires permanent attachments that are foreign to the purposes of overhead electric line construction be approved by the Commission.
3. This resolution authorizes SDG&E to treat SoCalGas Data Collection Units as permanent attachments to SDG&E owned streetlight poles under GO 95 Rule 34.

BACKGROUND

Currently, authorized third-party attachments to SDG&E's electric distribution streetlight poles are limited in scope to electrical supply and communication systems. SDG&E has received a request from SoCalGas to permanently attach Data Collection Units to SDG&E-owned streetlight poles. SDG&E proposes to authorize such third-party use of its streetlight poles in accordance with all applicable rules of GO 95 and SDG&E's construction standards. This resolution will allow SDG&E to offer SoCalGas the ability to maintain such attachments on SDG&E streetlight poles for periods in excess of one year.

Under GO 95, Rule 34, an attachment is considered permanent when the duration of the attachment is estimated to be one year or more. Also, Rule 34 requires that all permanent attachments be approved by the Commission and the pole owner(s). Furthermore, GO 95 Rule 34 provides that temporary attachments may be authorized by a utility, provided that the installation is restricted to a period of one year or less.

SDG&E expects that the attachment of SoCalGas' Data Collection Units will exceed one year. Therefore, SDG&E requested Commission approval to treat such installations as permanent attachments. This will allow SDG&E to enter into license agreements with SoCalGas authorizing such attachments to SDG&E-owned streetlight poles in accordance with the provisions of GO 69-C. GO 69-C governs easements on utility property. As a condition to any such license, SDG&E will require that the attachments be installed and maintained in accordance with all applicable rules in GO 95. This resolution will allow SDG&E to offer SoCalGas the ability to maintain permanent attachments on SDG&E streetlight poles.

DISCUSSION

The Safety and Enforcement Division's Electric Safety and Reliability Branch (ESRB) evaluated this variance request taking into consideration its impact on public and worker safety. Factors influencing the ESRB's evaluation included the Data Collection Units effect on working space, on the poles, as well as maintenance of the Data Collection Units. SDG&E stated that to minimize the impact on public and worker safety the following safety measures shall be done:

- Prior to the installation of the Data Collection Units, SDG&E will affirm the structural integrity of the streetlight poles supporting the Data Collection Units to ensure that the safety factor of the pole will not be reduced below the required value.
- The Data Collection Units and any dedicated SoCalGas-owned supply equipment will be treated as Communication Equipment and meet all such requirements.
- SDG&E will require that Data Collection Units be installed and maintained in accordance with all applicable rules in GO 95.
- If and when SDG&E becomes aware of any GO 95 violations of Data Collection Units, it will document the violations and notify SoCalGas to correct the violations in accordance with GO 95 Rule 18.

ESRB recommends that SDG&E's request be approved, contingent on the safety measures proposed by SDG&E, as described previously.

COMMENTS ON DRAFT RESOLUTION

The Draft Resolution was mailed to the parties of interest on May 24, 2013, in accordance with Cal. Pub. Util. Code § 311(g). ____ comments were filed.

FINDINGS

1. SDG&E petitioned the Commission by letter on May 29, 2012 to allow Data Collection Units as permanent attachments under GO 95, Rule 34.
2. The requested variance applies only to Data Collection Units installed on streetlight poles (poles supporting street lights only) in which SDG&E is the sole owner.
3. SDG&E proposed the following safety measures shall be done in order to minimize the impact on public and worker safety:
 - Prior to the installation of the Data Collection Units, SDG&E will affirm the structural integrity of the streetlight poles supporting the Data Collection Units to ensure that the safety factor of the pole will not be reduced below the required value.
 - The Data Collection Units and any dedicated SoCalGas-owned supply equipment will be treated as Communication Equipment and meet all such requirements.
 - SDG&E will require that Data Collection Units be installed and maintained in accordance with all applicable rules in GO 95.
 - If and when SDG&E becomes aware of any GO 95 violations of Data Collection Units, it will document the violations and notify SoCalGas to correct the violations in accordance with GO 95 Rule 18.
4. In accordance with the exemption authorization provided in GO 95, Rule 15.1, ESRB recommends that this request should be approved, subject to the safety measures proposed by SDG&E.

THEREFORE, IT IS ORDERED THAT:

1. The San Diego Gas & Electric Company is authorized to allow Southern California Gas Company to permanently attach advanced metering project data collection units as permanent attachments to San Diego Gas & Electric Company-owned streetlight poles only.
2. The San Diego Gas & Electric Company must impose the safety measures described in Finding No. 3, in any license agreement with Southern California Gas Company to permanently attach advanced metering project data collection units.
3. This resolution shall be effective immediately.

I hereby certify that this Resolution was adopted by the California Public Utilities Commission at its regular meeting on June 27, 2013. The following Commissioners approved it:

Paul Clanon
Executive Director