

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) for Approval of the Branch Office Optimization Process.

Application 13-09-010
(Filed September 16, 2013)

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE**Summary**

This decision extends the statutory deadline in this proceeding to September 1, 2016.

1. Background

Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a) provides that ratesetting cases must be resolved within 18 months of the date the scoping memo is issued unless the Commission makes findings why that statutory deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending the 18-month deadline for a period not exceeding 60 days.

The scoping memo for this proceeding was issued on March 7, 2014, and the original deadline for resolving the issues in this proceeding was September 6, 2015. In accordance with Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the Commission has extended the statutory deadline of this proceeding and the most recent Decision (D.) 16-04-043 extended the deadline to July 3, 2016. A proposed decision (PD) resolving this matter was mailed for public review and comments on December 15, 2015, and placed on the January 14, 2016 Commission Agenda as Item 20. On December 22, 2015, Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas),

filed a motion to supplement the record. Utility Workers Union of America (UWUA), and The Utility Reform Network (TURN), filed their responses. On January 14, 2016, Item 20 was withdrawn from the Commission's Agenda to address the latest filings.

On February 9, 2016, the instant Application was reassigned from Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) Julie Halligan to ALJ W. Anthony Colbert. On February 22, 2016, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling setting aside submission, reopening the record and granting the motion to supplement the record. Parties filed comments on the supplemental testimony on March 4, 2016 and reply comments on March 14, 2016.

On May 23, 2016, a proposed decision granting in part the request of SoCal Gas to close certain branch offices was issued for public review and comments. Therefore, an extension of the deadline established in D.16-04-043 is needed to review the comments and to allow the Commission time to deliberate on the proposed decision and issue its final decision. Today's decision further extends the deadline to September 1, 2016.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

Under Rule 14.6(c)(4) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the Commission may reduce or waive the period for public review and comment of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Carla J. Peterman is the assigned Commissioner and W. Anthony Colbert is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The scoping memo for this proceeding was issued on March 7, 2014.
2. The original deadline for resolving this proceeding was September 6, 2015. The Commission has extended the statutory deadline of this proceeding and the most recent D.16-04-043 extended the deadline to July 3, 2016.
3. A PD resolving this matter was mailed for public review and comments on December 15, 2015, and placed on the January 14, 2016 Commission Agenda as Item 20, and it was later withdrawn.
4. On December 22, 2015, SoCal Gas filed a motion to supplement the record. UWUA and TURN filed responses.
5. On February 9, 2016, the instant Application was reassigned from ALJ Julie Halligan to ALJ W. Anthony Colbert.
6. On February 22, 2016, the assigned ALJ issued a ruling setting aside submission, reopening the record and granting the motion to supplement the record.
7. On May 23, 2016, a proposed decision granting in part the request of SoCal Gas to close certain branch offices was issued for public review and comments.
8. An extension of the deadline established in D.16-04-043 is needed to review the comments and to allow the Commission time to deliberate on the proposed decision and issue its final decision. Today's decision further extends the deadline to September 1, 2016.

Conclusions of Law

1. The deadline imposed by Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a) should be extended by 60 days.

2. In accordance with Rule 14.6 (c)(4), the comment period is waived.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline in this proceeding is extended until September 1, 2016.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at San Francisco, California.