



**FILED**

04-01-10

08:44 AM

**BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA**

Order Instituting Rulemaking on the Commission's Own Motion to address the issue of customers' electric and natural gas service disconnection.

Rulemaking 10-02-005  
(Filed February 4, 2010)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING ON ELIGIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL CONSUMER LAW CENTER TO CLAIM INTERVENOR COMPENSATION AND SHOWING OF SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL HARDSHIP**

On March 5, 2010, a Notice of Intent to Claim Compensation (NOI) was filed and served by the National Consumer Law Center (NCLC). No response to this NOI has been received.<sup>1</sup>

**Background**

The Commission's "Intervenor Compensation Program Guide" dated January 2004 identifies the items that must be included in, and provides a template for, an NOI.<sup>2</sup> The necessary items are:

- a. Summary information;
- b. Statement of timely filing;
- c. Statement of customer status;
- d. Explanation of significant financial hardship;<sup>3</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> Since no prehearing conference was held in this proceeding NCLC filed its NOI within 30 days from the issuance of the OIR that initiated the proceeding (February 5, 2010).

<sup>2</sup> For NOIs, see pages 3-7 and 14-16 of the Program Guide, which may be accessed via the following link: <http://www.cpuc.ca.gov/PUBLISHED/REPORT/33691.htm>.

- e. Description of the nature and extent of planned participation;
- f. Itemized estimate of costs of participation; and
- g. Conclusion.

### **Discussion**

NCLC presents the required information. NCLC states that it is an eligible “customer” within the meaning of the Pub. Util. Code § 1802(b),<sup>4</sup> as NCLC is authorized by its Articles of Organization<sup>5</sup> to represent the interests of low-income residential customers.

No facts are presented here, or otherwise known, that would suggest a different conclusion regarding the eligibility of NCLC for purposes of intervenor compensation.

NCLC has provided the required information in a timely filing, including customer status, financial hardship, nature and extent of planned participation, and itemized estimate of costs, and a conclusion.

Thus, after consulting with the assigned Commissioner, this ruling is the “preliminary ruling addressing whether the customer will be eligible for an award of compensation.” (Pub. Util. Code § 1804(b)(1).) NCLC is found eligible.

### **IT IS RULED that:**

1. The National Consumer Law Center (NCLC):
  - a. Is a customer for purposes of intervenor compensation (Category 3);

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<sup>3</sup> Alternatively, this showing may be deferred to the request for an award of compensation.

<sup>4</sup> All references are to the California Public Utilities Codes unless otherwise noted.

<sup>5</sup> NCLC states that its Articles of Organization have been submitted in Rulemaking (R.) 04-12-001 and R.06-05-020, and have not changed since these submissions.



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Dated April 1, 2010, at San Francisco, California.

\_\_\_\_\_  
/s/ JOYCE TOM  
Joyce Tom

**N O T I C E**

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