

Decision 09-12-031 December 17, 2009

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to Develop
Additional Methods to Implement the California
Renewables Portfolio Standard Program.

Rulemaking 06-02-012
(Filed February 16, 2006)

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

1. Summary

The deadline for concluding this proceeding is extended to February 24, 2010, pursuant to Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5(a).

2. Procedural Background

Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5¹ provides that ratesetting proceedings shall be resolved within 18 months of the date the scoping memo is issued, unless the scoping memo sets a later date. The Commission may also, upon making a written determination that the deadline cannot be met, including findings as to the reason, issue an order extending the deadline.

The Second Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling of Assigned Commissioner (February 25, 2008) set a date of December 31, 2008 for the resolution of this proceeding. Decision (D.) 08-12-048 extended the deadline to March 1, 2009. The deadline was further extended to April 30, 2009 by D.09-02-014. The deadline was extended again to June 29, 2009 by D.09-04-015.

¹ Unless otherwise noted, all further references to sections refer to the Public Utilities Code.

D.09-06-033 extended the deadline to August 28, 2009. The deadline was extended to October 27, 2009 by D.09-08-010. Most recently, D.09-10-015 extended the deadline to December 26, 2009.

3. Discussion

As explained in D.08-12-048, the last major issue in this proceeding is whether to authorize the use of tradable renewable energy credits (TRECs) for Renewable Portfolio Standard (RPS) compliance, and, if TRECs are authorized, to set up rules for a TREC market and RPS compliance process.

A proposed decision (PD) on TRECs issues was mailed for comment on October 29, 2008. The October PD was withdrawn on March 26, 2009 and a new PD on TRECs was issued for comment. To allow the Commission to evaluate the parties' comments on the new PD and give the new PD appropriate consideration, an extension of the current December 26, 2009 deadline is needed. The Commission may extend the deadline for another 60 days, to February 24, 2010, in accordance with Section 1701.5(a).

4. Waiver of Comments

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. We waive the period for public review and comment pursuant to this rule.

5. Assignment of Proceeding

Michael R. Peevey is the assigned Commissioner and Burton W. Mattson and Anne E. Simon are the assigned Administrative Law Judges in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The Second Amended Scoping Memo and Ruling of Assigned Commissioner set a date of December 31, 2008 for the resolution of this proceeding.
2. D.08-12-048 extended the deadline for the resolution of this proceeding to March 1, 2009.
3. D.09-02-014 further extended the deadline to April 30, 2009.
4. D.09-04-015 further extended the deadline to June 29, 2009.
5. D.09-06-033 further extended the deadline to August 28, 2009.
6. D.09-08-010 further extended the deadline to October 27, 2009.
7. D.09-10-015 further extended the deadline to December 26, 2009.
8. The PD on the use of TRECs issued in October 2008 has been withdrawn and a new PD on TRECs has been issued for comment.
9. Commission consideration of the new PD and the parties' comments on the PD is unlikely to be completed prior to the current December 26, 2009 deadline for concluding this proceeding.

Conclusions of Law

1. The statutory deadline imposed by Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5(a) and modified by the Second Amended Scoping Memo and D.08-12-048, D.09-02-014, D.09-04-015, D.09-06-033, D.09-08-010, and D.09-10-015 should be extended by an additional 60 days.
2. In accordance with Rule 14.6(c)(4), the comment period is waived.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline for resolving this proceeding is extended to February 24, 2010.

This order is effective today.

Dated December 17, 2009, at San Francisco, California.

MICHAEL R. PEEVEY

President

DIAN M. GRUENEICH

JOHN A. BOHN

RACHELLE B. CHONG

TIMOTHY ALAN SIMON

Commissioners