

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking To Revise
Commission General Order Numbers 95 and 128.

Rulemaking 01-10-001

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
NOTICING A WORKSHOP FOR MAY 2002, IN SAN FRANCISCO**

Summary

This ruling notices a workshop for Tuesday, May 7, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Commission's Training Room, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness, San Francisco, California. Workshop attendees can determine at this session if future sessions are necessary, and if so, when and where they should be held.

Background

On October 5, 2001, The Commission issued Order Initiating Rulemaking (OIR) 01-10-001 to strengthen General Orders 95 and 128—two General Orders that are critical to the Commission's role of overseeing the safe operation of electric utilities' facilities. The OIR set forth 13 rule changes proposed by Commission staff and invited parties to file written comments to the staff's proposals and to recommend alternative rule changes.

Discussion

While the OIR did not establish that workshops would be scheduled, the Commission is free to schedule workshops—if upon review of the filed

comments it appeared that workshops would produce a better end-product in the form of the rule changes.

The filed comments and reply comments overwhelmingly urge the Commission to schedule workshop sessions. In addition to the 13 rule changes proposed by Commission staff, the comments proposed at least 47 different rule changes. Almost all of the parties argued that this is a complex matter involving multiple issues and a workshop format is an efficient and effective way to deal with the multifaceted proposals. Global participation can promote a global consensus.

The Commission desires to hear from all of the competing interests in a workshop forum where the substantive rule changes can be aired and studied. The May 7, 2002, workshop will aim to accomplish the following:

- Identify all of the rule change proposals submitted by the parties, including those by Commission staff in the OIR;
- Organize the workshop participants into subcommittees;¹
- Establish workshop protocol, including how consensus and non-consensus will be handled and the role of the facilitator;
- Decide what the final result of the workshop will look like;²

¹ One recommendation was to assign the rule change proposals to committees based on the type of facility affected, such as electric supply, communication, or joint facilities. Parties can explore if this organizational tool would work effectively.

² Unless parties propose something different, the usual procedure is at the conclusion of the workshop a workshop report is circulated, parties are invited to comment, and the workshop results and the comments are incorporated into a report to the Commission.

- Discuss the scheduling of future workshops and subcommittee meetings and who will host them.

IT IS RULED that a workshop will take place on May 7, 2002, from 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. in the Commission's Training Room, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, California.

Dated March 26, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ CAROL BROWN
Carol Brown
Administrative Law Judge

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I certify that I have by mail this day served a true copy of the original attached Administrative Law Judge's Ruling Noticing a Workshop for May 7, 2002, in San Francisco on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated March 26, 2002, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ ERLINDA PULMANO
Erlinda Pulmano

N O T I C E

Parties should notify the Process Office, Public Utilities Commission, 505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 2000, San Francisco, CA 94102, of any change of address to insure that they continue to receive documents. You must indicate the proceeding number on the service list on which your name appears.

The Commission's policy is to schedule hearings (meetings, workshops, etc.) in locations that are accessible to people with disabilities. To verify that a particular location is accessible, call: Calendar Clerk (415) 703-1203.

If specialized accommodations for the disabled are needed, e.g., sign language interpreters, those making the arrangements must call the Public Advisor at (415) 703-2074, TTY 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.

