

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Angelica Garcia a.k.a. Angelica Medrano,

Complainant,

vs.

Southern California Edison Company,

Defendant.

Case 03-09-027
(Filed September 17, 2003)

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING
SHORTENING TIME FOR ANSWER,
SETTING PREHEARING CONFERENCE AND
DIRECTING PARTIES TO MEET AND CONFER BEFOREHAND**

Answer

The Complaint states that electricity has been shut off to complainant Angelica Garcia (Garcia) because of a dispute over complainant's liability for electricity theft in the amount of \$9,805.66. Pursuant to Rule 13 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, I direct defendant Southern California Edison Company (Edison) to file and serve its Answer by October 21, 2003. The answer shall be served on me electronically (vieth@cpuc.ca.gov); Edison need not mail a courtesy copy to me.

Prehearing Conference

A prehearing conference (PHC) will be held by telephone on:

Tuesday, October 28, 2003, 10:00 a.m.

Prior to the PHC, the Commission will provide the parties with the telephone conference number and password. Both complainant and defendant must participate in the telephone conference call personally or through an authorized representative who is fully informed and prepared to discuss, with specificity, the party's contentions.

A PHC is a formal proceeding of the Commission and a court reporter will be present to record it and to prepare a transcript. The purpose of a PHC is to: (1) identify the parties and the parties' positions; (2) identify the factual and legal issues in dispute; and (3) set a date for evidentiary hearing, is one is to be held.

Meet and Confer Required Before PHC

Complainant and an authorized representative of Edison shall meet and confer, in good faith, by telephone prior to the PHC so as to be better prepared to address the following matters at the PHC:

1. Prospects for settlement of the dispute without evidentiary hearing, including the following issues: (a) reconnection of complainant's electric power; (b) complainant's liability for the bill from Edison of \$9,805.66; and (c) if complainant is liable for the debt or does not contest liability, the terms of a reasonable payment plan.

2. If the parties cannot settle this dispute, a schedule for evidentiary hearing (both time and place), including the dates for the distribution of prepared testimony prior to evidentiary hearing.¹
3. A schedule for filing briefs after evidentiary hearing and for submission of the case for decision.

IT IS RULED that:

1. Southern California Edison Company shall file and serve its Answer on or before October 21, 2003, as explained more fully in the body of this ruling.
2. A Prehearing Conference (PHC) will be held by telephone at 10:00 a.m., on October 28, 2003.

¹ The Commission routinely uses prepared testimony at evidentiary hearing instead of direct examination. Prepared testimony is a complete, written statement of a party's case and may include, as attachments, all documents that are necessary to support the party's position. The defendant is entitled to cross-examine the complainant about complainant's prepared testimony, and vice versa. Prepared testimony must comport with the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. The Commission's Public Advisor can provide more detailed information. The Public Advisor telephone number is 415-703-2074 (in San Francisco) and 213-576-7055 (in Los Angeles).

3. Prior to the PHC, complainant and an authorized representative of Edison shall meet and confer in good faith to discuss the issues set out in the body of this ruling.

Dated October 2, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JANET ECONOMO FOR JEAN VIETH

Jean Vieth
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 Shortening Time for Answer, Setting Prehearing Conference and Directing Parties to Meet and Confer Beforehand on all parties of record in this proceeding or their attorneys of record.

Dated October 2, 2003, at San Francisco, California.

 /s/ FANNIE SID
Fannie Sid

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 or TTY# 1-866-836-7825 or (415) 703-5282 at least three working days in advance of the event.