



ALJ/ML2/mef 1/17/2023

FILED

01/17/23

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN AM

A2205015

Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) for Authority, Among Other Things, to Update its Gas Revenue Requirement and Base Rates Effective on January 1, 2024.

Application 22-05-015

And Related Matter.

Application 22-05-016

**ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE’S RULING
NOTICING PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS**

This ruling establishes remote and in-person public participation hearings (PPHs) in the applications by Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) (Sempra Utilities or utilities) for authorization to increase their revenue requirements and base rates effective January 1, 2024, and to further increase their revenue requirements in the 2025-2027 post-test years. The PPHs are an opportunity for the utilities’ customers to communicate directly with the Commission regarding the proposed revenue and rate base changes. Details regarding how to participate in the remote and in-person PPHs are provided below. Sempra Utilities are also directed to take certain actions to further notice and facilitate public participation at these hearings.

1. Remote Public Participation Hearing

The remote hearings, which will be held on March 6, 2023, and March 15, 2023, can be viewed via the internet, or listened to via phone, with the

information below. If you wish to make a public comment, please participate by phone using the phone number below, press *1, unmute your phone, and provide your name when prompted.

Event	PPH - Utility	Date	Time	Participation Information
1	SoCalGas	March 6, 2023	2:00 p.m.	Phone Number: 1-800-857-1917 Passcode: 1767567# Webcast: adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/
2	SDG&E	March 6, 2023	6:00 p.m.	
3	SDG&E	March 15, 2023	1:00 p.m.	
4	SoCalGas	March 15, 2023	6:00 p.m.	

2. In-Person Public Participation Hearing

After considering the request of the Joint Community Choice Aggregators for an in-person PPH in San Diego, on March 23, 2023, a PPH will be conducted in-person for SDG&E customers as follows:

Date and Time	Meeting Location
March 23, 2023, 2:00 p.m.	Sherman Heights Community Center Multi-purpose Room, 2 nd Floor 2258 Island Avenue San Diego, CA 92102
March 23, 2023, 6:00 p.m.	Sherman Heights Community Center Multi-purpose Room, 2 nd Floor 2258 Island Avenue San Diego, CA 92102

If you wish to make a public comment, sign up at the Public Advisor's Office's table.

3. General Participation Information

Please note that a quorum of commissioners may attend but no decisions will be made or voted on at these hearings.

Members of the public must use the in-person or phone number options to provide verbal comments. When it is time for comments, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will make an announcement. Participants using the phone options who wish to make a comment must follow the procedures, as directed above. Public officials wishing to speak should provide their name, title, and governmental entity prior to speaking. Based on the number of speakers wishing to provide comments, the ALJ may limit speakers' time so that all speakers have an opportunity to comment, and to promote an orderly hearing.

The Commission's court reporters will record the statements made during the hearing and post the transcript on the Commission's website at the Docket Card for this proceeding.

If you need a language interpreter, please contact the CPUC's Public Advisor's Office at least five business days before the hearing, using one of the following methods:

Phone: 1-866-849-8390 (toll-free) or 1-415-703-2074

Mail: CPUC Public Advisor's Office, 505 Van Ness Avenue
San Francisco, CA 94102

E-mail: Public.Advisor@cpuc.ca.gov

In addition to the March 6, 15, and 23, 2023 PPHs, customers may submit written public comments at any time during the proceeding and read other public comments via the Commission's website at the Docket Card for this proceeding, using the Public Comment tab at: apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2205015

(SoCalGas) and apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2205016 (SDG&E). Your participation by providing your thoughts on the utilities' request can help the Commission make an informed decision.

4. Directives to SoCalGas and SDG&E

For the remote PPHs on March 6 and 15, 2023, SoCalGas and SDG&E shall each prepare, for their respective PPHs, the name, title, and telephone number of at least one senior customer service representative who can be reached by customers during the hearing for individual service or billing issues and one representative prepared to respond to specific questions about the material in their Applications. SoCalGas and SDG&E shall each provide this information to the Public Advisor's Office no later than seven days before their respective public participation hearing. This information may be posted for the public during the hearing.

For the in-person PPH on March 23, 2023, SDG&E shall have a customer service representative in person who can assist customers with service and billing issues. SDG&E will also have at least one representative prepared to respond to specific questions about the material in this Application in person at the hearing.

Pursuant to Rule 13.1(b) and (c),¹ SoCalGas and SDG&E are directed to take, at a minimum, the below actions to ensure that customer notice regarding the PPHs is distributed in a comprehensive manner:

¹ Rule 13.1(b) and (c) provides as follows: (b) Whenever any electrical, gas, heat, telephone, water, or sewer system utility files an application to increase any rate, the utility shall give notice of any public participation hearing that may be set in the proceeding, not less than five nor more than 30 days before the date of the public participation hearing, to entities or persons who may be affected thereby, by posting notice in public places, which may include the website of the utility, and by publishing notice in a newspaper or newspapers of general circulation in the area or areas concerned, of the time, date, and place of hearing. Proof of publication and

Footnote continued on next page.

- Post notice of the public participation hearing in at least one newspaper in each geographic region in its service territory. In a geographic region with a notable number of non-English speaking customers, post notice of the public participation hearing in a regional newspaper in those languages and secure radio advertising broadcasted in non-English languages;
- Include notice of the public participation hearing in mailed bill to customers that currently receive bills via the United States Postal Service;
- Send e-mail messages to all customers that have provided SoCalGas and SDG&E with an e-mail address and the subject line of this e-mail must clearly advise the recipient that this public participation hearing will be held in this proceeding. The body of the e-mail must include the same information as approved by the Commission's Public Advisor's Office in the bill notice. In addition, e-mail messages shall not be combined with an e-mail electronic bill but, instead, be sent separately from a customer's electronic bill;
- SoCalGas and SDG&E shall each publicize the public participation hearing on all social media platforms they use;
- SoCalGas and SDG&E shall each post notice of their public participation hearings on their respective website in a prominent location so that customers easily access the notice/information; and
- Ensure all the above communication methods are compatible with electronic or remote access and clearly state hearing can be accessed remotely or attended in-person.

sample copies of the notices shall be filed within 10 days after publication. (c) In addition to the notice required by this rule, parties shall provide such notice of hearing as the presiding officer may designate.

Not later than seven days prior to the public participation hearing, SoCalGas and SDG&E shall each file and provide the Commission's Public Advisor's Office a letter verifying that they have complied with the above directives. This letter shall state the dates when the referenced types of notices were sent to customers, the methods used, and the approximate number of customers notified by each method. SoCalGas and SDG&E shall also provide the dates and locations of publication and posting. A copy of their respective public participation hearing notice shall be attached to this filing.

5. Party Participation During PPHs

Each party to the consolidated proceedings may make a brief presentation at the start of each PPH. Each party may also prepare no more than two slides for use during their presentations. Parties wishing to participate in the PPHs shall provide the name, position, e-mail address, and phone number of the individual who will be conducting the presentation, and any slides to be used during the presentation. This information shall be e-mailed to the assigned ALJ, copying the service lists, no later than seven days prior to the PPH in which the party seeks to present. An e-mail will be sent to the party presenters with their allotted time limit following the aforementioned deadline for receiving presentation requests. For the remote PPHs, a separate WebEx link and speaker code will also be emailed to each designated party presenter prior to the event.

IT IS RULED that:

1. The schedule for the public participation hearings is set forth above.
2. Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (Sempra Utilities) shall each provide customer notice via direct mailing or the Internet not less than five days before the date of the first scheduled public participation hearing. Where customer email addresses are

available, the Sempra Utilities shall also provide the notice through direct e-mail communication.

3. In each service area where a public participation hearing (PPH) will be held Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company shall each publish a notice of the PPHs in one or more local newspapers of general circulation for seven consecutive days prior to, and including, the date of the PPH.
4. Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (Sempra Utilities) shall each prominently post a notice of the public participation hearings on their website and in all their offices where customers come into contact with a Sempra Utilities customer service representative.
5. Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company shall each provide the Public Advisor's Office, not later than five days prior to the public participation hearing, a letter verifying that it has complied with the customer notice requirement.
6. Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company shall have at least one customer service representative available at each of the respective public participation hearings to answer any billing or service questions that individual customers may have.

7. If any active party in this proceeding wishes to present a brief summary (not to exceed 3 minutes each) of its position at the beginning of one or more public participation hearings (PPHs), the party will need to inform the assigned Administrative Law Judge at least seven days prior to the date of the PPH in which the party wants to present, and serve the request on the service lists to Application (A.) 22-05-015 and A.22-05-016.

Dated January 17, 2023, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ MANISHA LAKHANPAL

Manisha Lakhanpal
Administrative Law Judge