

Decision _____

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking into Policies to Promote a Partnership Framework between Energy Investor Owned Utilities and the Water Sector to Promote Water-Energy Nexus Programs.

Rulemaking 13-12-011
(Filed December 19, 2013)

ORDER AMENDING ORDER INSTITUTING RULEMAKING**Summary**

Today's order amends the Commission's December 19, 2013 Order Instituting Rulemaking. In particular, we expand the preliminary scope of this rulemaking to incorporate telecommunications and public safety issues. We also expand the universe of respondents to include jurisdictional telecommunications companies, and jurisdictional small energy utilities.

1. Background and Amended Scope

On December 19, 2013, we opened this rulemaking. We preliminarily established the scope of the proceeding as including various issues relating to the "water-energy nexus."¹ Our ultimate goal is to "reduce energy consumption by the water sector in supplying, conveying, treating, and distributing water."²

¹ See R.13-12-011 at 20-21 (bullet list enumerating "areas of concern" within scope, including, e.g., "the appropriate methodology for determining the energy embedded in water.")

² *Id.* at 2.

On July 1, 2014, an Assigned Commissioner Ruling proposed expanding the scope of this proceeding to encompass certain telecommunications issues. In that ruling the Assigned Commissioner observed correctly that “telecommunications and internet facilities and services are increasingly crucial to water management, use, and public safety.” Subsequent workshops in this proceeding have identified exemplary instances where advanced telecommunications technologies can greatly facilitate water-saving activities. They have also identified instances in remote communities served, *inter alia*, by smaller jurisdictional energy utilities, where water-energy programs might make sense and in particular where they might advance public safety in those communities (e.g. fire prevention).

Accordingly, we have expanded the preliminary scope of this proceeding. It shall now additionally include telecommunications and public safety issues, to the extent they intersect with water use.

2. Respondents

Currently, the respondents to this Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) are Pacific Gas and Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, San Diego Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Gas Company and all Class A jurisdictional water utilities.

In view of the amended scope of this proceeding, we will need to broaden the kinds of entities named as respondents. We add the following telecommunications companies that are subject to our jurisdiction:

- Calaveras Telephone Company;
- Cal-Ore Telephone Company;
- Centurytel of Eastern Oregon, Inc.;
- Citizens Telecommunications Co. of CA.;

Ducor Telephone Company;
Foresthill Telephone Company, Inc.;
Frontier Communications of the Southwest Inc.;
Happy Valley Telephone Co.;
Hornitos Telephone Company;
Kerman Telephone Company;
Pacific Bell;
Pinnacles Telephone Company;
Sierra Telephone Company, Inc.;
Siskiyou Telephone Company;
Surewest Telephone;
The Ponderosa Telephone Company;
Verizon California, Inc.;
Volcano Telephone Company; and
Winterhaven Telephone Company.

Similarly, we make respondents the smaller gas and electric investor-owned utilities subject to our jurisdiction. Specifically:

Alpine Natural Gas Operating Company;
Bear Valley Electric Service;
California Pacific Electric Company, LLC;
Liberty Utilities LLC;
PacifiCorp;
Southwest Gas Company;
Southwest Gas Corporation; and
West Coast Gas Company, Inc.

3. Categorization and Need for Hearing

We reaffirm the categorization of this proceeding as quasi-legislative, and the determination that hearings are not required.

4. Exemption from Comments

This is a decision amending an OIR. Accordingly, as provided by Rule 14.7 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, the 30-day period for public review and comment does not apply.

5. Assignment of Proceeding

Catherine Sandoval is the assigned Commissioner and Todd Edmister is the assigned Administrative Law Judge in this proceeding.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. In addition to the purposes set forth in the December 19, 2013 Order Instituting Rulemaking, this rulemaking will also include:

- (a) telecommunications issues relating to reducing water use;
- (b) water-energy programs involving smaller jurisdictional energy utilities; and
- (c) public safety issues associated with water/energy/telecommunications intersections.

2. All of the following are made respondents to this proceeding: (1) all electrical corporations as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 218, excluding electrical cooperatives; and (2) telephone corporations as defined in Public Utilities Code Section 218. Any party previously made a respondent to this proceeding remains a respondent.

3. This rulemaking will be completed within 24 months of the date of the Assigned Commissioner's scoping memo to be issued shortly.

This order is effective today.

Dated _____, at San Francisco, California.