

Decision 24-03-055 March 21, 2024

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902G) for Authority to Revise Their Natural Gas Rates and Implement storage proposals effective January 1, 2024 in This Cost Allocation Proceeding.

Application 22-09-015

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline of this proceeding to August 2, 2024.

1. Background

On September 30, 2022, Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company (jointly “Applicants”) filed Application (A.) 22-09-015 requesting authority to revise their natural gas rates and implement and implement storage proposals effective January 2024.

Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5(a) provides that ratesetting matters such as this application shall be resolved within 18 months of issuance of the scoping memo for the proceeding, unless the Commission makes findings why that statutory deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending the 18-month deadline. A scoping memo in this proceeding was issued on February 2, 2023 setting the statutory deadline as March 29, 2024.

Evidentiary hearings were suspended after an all-party request to take the evidentiary hearings off-calendar and suspend the briefing schedule due to significant progress in settlement discussions. Subsequently, three settlements were submitted for approval by the Commission.

The first settlement was filed by the Applicants and the Public Advocates Office of the California Public Utilities Commission (Cal Advocates) on December 1, 2023, and addressed the fixed charge issue. On January 2, 2024, The Utility Reform Network (TURN) filed comments opposing that settlement. On January 17, 2024, the Applicants and Cal Advocates filed joint reply comments to TURN's comments.

The second settlement was filed by the, the Applicants and Clean Energy on December 14, 2023, and addressed the Low Carbon Fuel Standard program. On January 16, 2024, TURN, Southern California Generation Coalition, and Air Products and Chemicals, Inc. filed comments opposing that settlement. On January 31, the Applicants and Clean Energy filed joint reply comments.

The third settlement was filed on December 15, 2023. It is an all-party settlement that addressed the remaining issues in the proceeding.

This matter was submitted on January 31, 2024.

In view of these recent developments, an extension of time to August 2, 2024, is necessary for the Commission to evaluate the settlements and allow the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to prepare a proposed decision for public review and comment.

2. Waiver of Comment Period

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 on proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving

ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, pursuant to this rule, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

John Reynolds is the assigned Commissioner, and Marcelo Poirier is the assigned ALJ in this proceeding.

Findings of Fact

1. The current deadline for resolving this proceeding is March 29, 2024.
2. This matter is ratesetting.
3. An extension of time to August 2, 2024, is necessary for the Commission to evaluate the settlements and allow the ALJ to prepare a proposed decision for public review and comment.

Conclusions of Law

1. Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Public Utilities Code Section 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline for resolving this proceeding should be extended to August 2, 2024.
2. Pursuant to Rule 14.6(c)(4), the comment period for the proposed decision should be waived.
3. This decision should be effective immediately.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. The time for completion of this proceeding is extended to August 2, 2024.
2. Application 22-09-015 remains open.

This order is effective today.

Dated March 21, 2024, San Francisco, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS

President

JOHN REYNOLDS

KAREN DOUGLAS

Commissioners

Commissioner Darcie L. Houck being absent,
did not participate.

Commissioner Matthew Baker recused himself from
this agenda item and was not part of the quorum in
its consideration.

/s/ MATTHEW BAKER

Commissioner