

Decision 24-09-044 September 26, 2024

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Order Instituting Rulemaking to
Develop Safety Culture Assessments
for Electric and Natural Gas Utilities.

Rulemaking 21-10-001

ORDER EXTENDING STATUTORY DEADLINE

Summary

This decision extends the statutory deadline for this proceeding until October 7, 2025.

1. Background

Public Utilities Code (Pub. Util.) Code Section 1701.5(a) provides that the Commission shall resolve the issues raised in the scoping memo of a quasi-legislative proceeding, within 18 months of the date the proceeding is initiated, unless the Commission makes a written determination that the deadline cannot be met and issues an order extending the deadline. The current statutory deadline for completion of Rulemaking (R.) 21-10-001 is October 7, 2024.

On October 7, 2021, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) opened this Order Instituting Rulemaking (OIR) to develop and adopt a safety culture assessment framework for the regulated investor-owned electric and natural gas corporations as well as for the gas storage operators

serving California. Additionally, this OIR was instituted to identify the structure, elements, and process necessary to drive each regulated investor-owned electric and natural gas utility and gas storage operator to establish and continuously improve their organization-wide safety culture. Accordingly, this OIR provides guidance on the form and content of the safety culture assessments for regulated electric and natural gas investor-owned utilities and gas storage operators, provides a venue for a review of their safety culture as an organization, and will determine a process for ongoing review and refinement of their safety culture assessments in future years.

A prehearing conference was held on March 30, 2022, to address the issues of law and fact, determine the need for hearing, set the schedule for resolving the matter, and address other matters as necessary.

On April 28, 2022, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling, establishing the Commission's intention to resolve this proceeding within 36 months of the date this Rulemaking was adopted. Consequently, the current statutory deadline is October 7, 2024.

On July 22, 2022, September 13, 2022, and June 10, 2024, the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) issued rulings seeking comment on policy Questions for safety culture assessments.

Throughout this time, the Commission has received numerous comments from interested parties. The Commission is reviewing these comments. The Commission needs additional time to consider the implications of these comments and available options in view thereof. Therefore, an extension of the statutory deadline until October 7, 2025, is appropriate to allow sufficient time to

complete the envisioned work and adopt a decision resolving the issues in this proceeding.

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 of proposed decisions extending the deadline for resolving ratesetting proceedings. Accordingly, the otherwise applicable period for public review and comment is being waived.

3. Assignment of Proceeding

Darcie L. Houck is the assigned Commissioner and Colin Rizzo is the assigned ALJ in these proceedings.

Findings of Fact

1. On October 7, 2021, the OIR was adopted and issued and this Rulemaking initiated.
2. On April 28, 2022, the assigned Commissioner issued a Scoping Memo and Ruling, establishing the Commission's intention to resolve this proceeding within 36 months of the date this Rulemaking was adopted. Consequently, the current statutory deadline is October 7, 2024.
3. The Commission needs additional time to consider the implications of the comments and available options in view thereof.
4. An extension of the statutory deadline until October 7, 2025, is necessary.

Conclusion of Law

Pursuant to the authority granted to the Commission under Pub. Util. Code § 1701.5(a), the statutory deadline should be extended until October 7, 2025.

IT IS ORDERED that the statutory deadline in these proceedings is extended until October 7, 2025.

This order is effective today.

Dated September 26, 2024, at San Francisco, California.

ALICE REYNOLDS

President

DARCIE L. HOUCK

JOHN REYNOLDS

KAREN DOUGLAS

Commissioners

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