

# BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of San Diego Gas & Electric Company (U902M) for Authority, Among Other Things, to Increase Rates and Charges for Electric and Gas Service Effective on January 1, 2012.

Application of Southern California Gas Company (U904G) for authority to update its gas revenue requirement and base rates effective on January 1, 2012. Application 10-12-005 (Filed December 15, 2010)

Application 10-12-006 (Filed December 15, 2010)

## ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE'S RULING ON THE MOTION TO CONSOLIDATE AND SETTING A PREHEARING CONFERENCE

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) filed its above-captioned general rate case (GRC) application on December 15, 2010. The focus of SDG&E's application is to establish the revenue requirements and rates for its electric and natural gas services for the period from January 1, 2012 through December 31, 2015.

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) also filed its above-captioned GRC application on December 15, 2010 in Application (A.) 10-12-006. SoCalGas and SDG&E are affiliated companies and are both owned by Sempra Energy. SoCalGas' application seeks relief similar to what SDG&E has requested.

Notice of the filing of these two applications appeared in the Commission's Daily Calendar on December 16, 2010. In accordance with Rule 2.6 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, any protest or response to these two applications are to be filed with the Commission's Docket Office by January 18, 2011.

A number of revenue requirement, cost allocation and rate design issues have been raised in the application. SDG&E listed its description of the scope of issues at pages 12-13, and 18 of its application, and SoCalGas listed its description of the scope of issues at pages 13 and 18 of its application.

On December 16, 2010, SDG&E and SoCalGas filed a joint motion in their respective proceedings "for consolidation of their general rate case applications." The motion seeks to consolidate both applications because there are related questions of law and fact, the two utilities share certain services, similar base rate ratemaking frameworks are being proposed, and to promote efficiency and avoid conflicts in scheduling. Pursuant to Rule 11.1(e) of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, responses to the motion were due on December 31, 2010. No responses were filed.

Since the GRC applications of SDG&E and SoCalGas involve related issues and witnesses, and to promote efficiency, the December 16, 2010 motion for consolidation of the two applications is granted.

Southern California Edison Company (SCE) also filed a GRC application (A.10-11-015) on November 23, 2010. SCE's application requests that its new rates go into effect on January 1, 2012. SCE's proposed procedural schedule for resolving its application is approximately one-month ahead of what SDG&E and SoCalGas have proposed for their procedural schedule.

Due to the three GRC applications and their overlapping schedules, it is expected that the Division of Ratepayer Advocates and other parties will face resource and time constraints while participating in these three proceedings. In

- 2 -

#### A.10-12-005, A.10-12-006, JSW/lil

an effort to resolve these constraints and to process all three applications in a timely manner, notice is hereby provided that a joint prehearing conference, followed by separate prehearing conferences, will be held on Monday, January 31, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the Commission's hearing room in San Francisco.

The purpose of the joint prehearing conference in all three GRC applications is to discuss the procedural schedules for resolving the three proceedings, and the constraints that parties may have with the proposed schedules. The Administrative Law Judges (ALJ) assigned to the three applications will try to stage the processing of the SCE application so that it does not conflict or interfere with the processing of the consolidated applications of SDG&E and SoCalGas.

Immediately following the joint prehearing conference, ALJ Darling (assigned to A.10-11-015) and ALJ Wong (assigned to A.10-12-005 and A.10-12-006), will convene in different hearing rooms, separate prehearing conferences in their respective proceedings to discuss the scope of issues that should be addressed in this proceeding, whether evidentiary hearings are needed, whether public participation hearings should be held, and the procedural schedule for resolving all of the issues raised by the application.

Entities participating in the prehearing conference may file a prehearing conference statement with the Commission's Docket Office by January 26, 2011. The prehearing conference statement should provide a description of the issues the party plans to raise and its proposed schedule.

Since the consolidated proceedings are new, a new service list for this consolidated proceeding will be compiled at the prehearing conference. In addition, this ruling shall be served on the service list in the consolidated

- 3 -

proceedings of A.06-12-009 and A.06-12-010 (the prior GRC applications of SDG&E and SoCalGas).

## Therefore, **IT IS RULED** that:

1. The December 16, 2010 joint motion for consolidation of the general rate applications of Application (A.) 10-12-005 and A.10-12-006 is granted.

2. A joint prehearing conference will be held on January 31, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. in the Commission's Courtroom, State Office Building, 505 Van Ness Avenue, San Francisco, in conjunction with Southern California Edison Company's application in Application 10-11-015, to discuss the procedural schedules for resolving the three proceedings, and the constraints that parties may have with the proposed schedules.

3. Immediately following the conclusion of the joint prehearing conference, a prehearing conference in the consolidated proceedings of Application (A.) 10-12-005 and A.10-12-006 will be held to discuss the scope of issues to be addressed in this proceeding, whether evidentiary hearings are needed, whether public participation hearings should be held, and the procedural schedule for these consolidated proceedings.

4. Entities participating in the prehearing conference may file a prehearing conference statement with the Commission's Docket Office by January 26, 2011. The prehearing conference statement should provide a description of the issues the party plans to raise and its proposed schedule.

A.10-12-005, A.10-12-006, JSW/lil

5. This ruling shall be served on the service list from the prior consolidated proceedings in Application (A.) 06-12-009 and A.06-12-010, and the preliminary service list that has been established for A.10-12-005 and A.10-12-006.

Dated January 7, 2010, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ JOHN S. WONG John S. Wong Administrative Law Judge

### INFORMATION REGARDING SERVICE

I have provided notification of filing to the electronic mail addresses on the attached service list.

Upon confirmation of this document's acceptance for filing, I will cause a Notice of Availability of the filed document to be served upon the service list to this proceeding by U.S. mail. The service list I will use to serve the Notice of Availability of the filed document is current as of today's date.

Dated January 7, 2010, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ LILLIAN LI Lillian Li

#### NOTICE

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 ensure 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 TDD# (415) 703-2032 five working days in advance of the event.