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July 15, 2002

ADVICE No. 3168

(U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Revision of Rule No. 3 - Application for Service

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) hereby transmits for filing revisions to its tariffs, applicable throughout its service territory, as shown on Attachment B.

Purpose

This filing revises language in Rule No. 3, Application for Service, for the purpose of responding to the California Public Utilities Commission's (Commission) expressed desire for statewide consistency in utility tariffs to the extent possible. These revisions promote tariff simplicity, respond to customer needs, and provide ease in administering the tariff. San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) is concurrently filing an advice letter to also revise its electric and gas Rule 3, Application for Service.

Background

During a recent comparison of SoCalGas' Rule No. 3 and SDG&E's gas Rule No. 3, SoCalGas determined that while many of the terms and conditions were very similar in intent and wording, SDG&E's rule was generally more detailed and specific. Consequently, SoCalGas has revised its Rule No. 3 to mirror SDG&E's gas Rule No. 3 except for several areas where the language is necessarily different.

Following is a brief description of the major changes proposed in this filing:

Section A, which relates to the need for an application for service, has been revised to indicate that an application for service is required, however, at the option of the Utility, a verbal request for service may be accepted although each applicant may be required to sign an application. The language in Section A is now very similar to what was previously in Sections A, B, and D of Rule No. 3. In addition to being modified slightly, the specific items to be included in the Application for Service have been moved out of Section A and are now set forth in Section B, Information Required on Application.

A statement has been added to Section B which states that prior to and while taking service, for every service, applicant must meet SoCalGas' creditworthiness requirements. In addition, the statement provides that a service establishment charge may be required when service is established or re-established.

Section C, Changes in Load or Operation has been added to SoCalGas' Rule No. 3, consistent with SDG&E.

Section D, Joint and Several Liability for Service/Beneficial Use, while very similar to the language previously contained in SoCalGas' Section F, Individual liability for joint service, has been revised to mirror Section D of SDG&E's Rule No. 3.

Section E, Refusal to Provide Service or Discontinuance of Service, while similar to the language previously contained in SoCalGas' Sections D and E, has been revised to make the language more detailed and to cover safety on the premises for utility personnel as a requirement for service.

Lastly, Section F, Request for Medical Baseline Allowance by Residential Customer, has been added to indicate that SoCalGas may require a residential customer, or prospective residential customer, to complete a Medical Baseline Allowance Application, if appropriate, before additional medical baseline quantities can be determined. An explanation of when the additional medical baseline allowance will become effective is also included in Section F. SDG&E also added a similar Section to its Rule No. 3.

This filing will not result in an increase or decrease in any rate or charge, conflict with any rate schedules or rules, nor cause the withdrawal of service.

Protest

Anyone may protest this Advice Letter to the California Public Utilities Commission. The protest must state the grounds upon which it is based, including such items as financial and service impact, and should be submitted expeditiously. The protest must be made in writing and must be received within 20 days of the date this Advice Letter. There is no restriction on who may file a protest. The address for mailing or delivering a protest to the Commission is:

Energy Division - IMC Branch California Public Utilities Commission 505 Van Ness Avenue, 4th Floor San Francisco, CA 94102

Copies of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the attention of both Jerry Royer (<u>jir@cpuc.ca.gov</u>) and to Honesto Gatchalian (<u>inj@cpuc.ca.gov</u>) of the Energy Division. A copy of the protest should also be sent via both e-mail <u>and</u> facsimile to the address shown below on the same date it is mailed or delivered to the Commission.

Attn: Sid Newsom Tariff Manager - GT14D6 555 West Fifth Street Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011 Facsimile No. (213) 244-4957 E-mail: snewsom@SempraUtilities.com

Effective Date

SoCalGas respectfully requests that this filing become effective August 24, 2002, which is not less than forty (40) days regular statutory notice. No resolution is needed to approve this filing.

<u>Notice</u>

In accordance with Section III-G of General Order No. 96-A, a copy of this advice letter is being sent to the parties shown on Attachment A.

J. STEVE RAHON Director Tariffs and Regulatory Accounts

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

Advice No. 3168

(See Attached Service List)

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ATTACHMENT B Advice No. 3168

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Revised 35524-G	Rule No. 03, APPLICATION FOR SERVICE, Sheet 1	Revised 24598-G
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Revised 35527-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 34696-G
Revised 35528-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 35523-G

Rule No. 03 APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

Sheet 1

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A. Application

An application for service is required. At the option of the Utility, a verbal request for service may be accepted. However, each applicant for service may be required to sign an application on a form provided by the Utility. The application information may vary depending upon the type of service requested by the applicant. Applicants desiring special rates and/or services may be required to complete additional forms and/or contracts in accordance with the Utility's applicable tariffs.

The application is a request for service and it does not bind the Utility to serve except under its filed tariffs and under reasonable conditions. The application does not bind the applicant to take service for a longer period than the minimum requirements of the Utility's tariffs. These tariffs constitute the terms and conditions of the agreement between the Utility and the customer for service rendered, unless otherwise agreed to in writing.

The Utility may refuse or discontinue gas service if the acts of the applicant indicate an intent to evade the credit practices of the Utility or if the conditions on the applicant's premises indicate an intent to evade payment of a Utility bill. If an applicant knowingly furnishes false, incomplete, misleading or inaccurate information or refuses to provide required information to the Utility, it shall be deemed to be an intent to evade the credit practices of the Utility. Upon written request of the applicant, the Utility shall provide a written statement of the reason for such refusal or discontinuance.

B. Information Required on Application

In addition to the information the Utility may require from applicants in order to establish credit in accordance with Rule No. 6, and to establish the identity of the applicant, all applicants shall provide such other information as the Utility may reasonably require for service. This information includes, but is not limited to:

- 1. Legal name of the applicant(s.)
- 2. Name of the applicant's spouse or other adults residing at the premises.
- 3. Service address.
- 4. Billing address.
- 5. Date applicant will be ready for service.
- 6. Purpose for which service is to be used with description of appliances.
- 7. Whether gas service has previously been supplied to the premises.
- 8. Whether applicant is the owner, agent or tenant of the premises.
- 9. Rate schedule desired (if optional schedules are available).

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY) ADVICE LETTER NO. 3168 DECISION NO. (Continued)

ISSUED BY Lee Schavrien Vice President Regulatory Affairs (TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) DATE FILED Jul 15, 2002 EFFECTIVE Aug 24, 2002 RESOLUTION NO. Ν Т Т Ν Ν Т Т Ν Т Т Ν Т Т Ν

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA CANCELING

35525-G 24598-G CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO.

Rule No. 03 APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

Sheet 2

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B. Information Required on Application (Continued)

The applicant may also be required to provide information necessary to the design, installation, maintenance and operation of the Utility's facilities, including the connected load, the number of residential dwelling units/spaces, the size or character of the appliances or apparatus to be installed, and other information required by the Utility's applicable tariffs. Further, prior to and while taking service, for every service, applicant must meet the Utility's creditworthiness requirements. In addition, a service establishment charge may be required when service is established or re-established.

C. Changes in Load or Operation

It is the customer's responsibility to notify the Utility in writing within 15 days if the customer makes any change in the connected load, in the number of residential dwelling units/spaces, or in the size or character of the appliances or apparatus. Such change(s) may require a new application for service and/or a change in the Utility's service facilities, and may result in the customer being transferred to a different tariff schedule.

D. Joint and Several Liability for Service/Beneficial Use

Where two or more applicants join in one application or contract for Utility service, they shall be jointly and severally liable under the terms of the application/contract and shall be billed by means of a single periodic bill mailed to the customer designated to receive the bill.

Whether or not the Utility obtained a joint application or contract for residential service, where there is evidence that an adult(s) other than the applicant resided at the premises and benefited from Utility service, the other adult(s) and the applicant shall be jointly and severally liable for service rendered while such other adults resided at the premises.

E. Refusal to Provide Service or Discontinuance of Service

The Utility may refuse to provide service or may discontinue or disconnect service and/or may rebill the account when:

- 1. The information provided to the Utility in applying for service is false, incomplete, misleading or inaccurate; or
- 2. The applicant has applied for service under a fictitious name or under the name of another to avoid payment of any Utility bill for service provided at the current premises or any previous premises or that the applicant has requested service in his/her legal name to assist another in avoiding payment of any Utility bill for service provided at the current account location or any previous account location; or

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ISSUED BY Lee Schavrien Vice President **Regulatory Affairs**

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) Jul 15, 2002 SUBMITTED Aug 24, 2002 EFFECTIVE **RESOLUTION NO.**

LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA CANCELING

CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO. 35526-G CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO.

Rule No. 03 APPLICATION FOR SERVICE

(Continued)

E. <u>Refusal to Provide Service or Discontinuance of Service</u> (Continued)

- 3. The applicant and/or other adults residing with the applicant have received the benefit of service without paying for it and are attempting to change the name on the account to avoid payment of any Utility bill for service provided at the current account location or any previous account location; or
- 4. The Utility is unable to arrange with the applicant or customer for a safe working environment for Utility employees on the premises being served.

In the event of a rebill, the Utility shall provide the customer with the reason for such rebill.

F. Request for Medical Baseline Allowance by Residential Customer

The Utility may require a residential customer, or prospective residential customer, to complete a Medical Baseline Allowance or Use of Natural Gas Medical Equipment for Life Support application, Form 4859-E, if appropriate, before additional medical baseline quantities can be determined. The additional medical baseline allowance will become effective for service rendered after the next regular meter reading following receipt of the Form by the Utility.

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Sheet 3

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