

J. Steve Rahon Director Tariffs & Regulatory Accounts

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July 18, 2002

<u>Advice No. 3171</u> (U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Revision of Rule No. 4 - Contracts

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 simply revises language in Rule 4, Contracts, to bring SoCalGas' Rule 4 into conformance with San Diego Gas & Electric Company's (SDG&E) gas Rule 4, Contracts. SDG&E is concurrently filing an advice letter to reflect revisions to its Rule 4. This filing responds 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.

Information

During a recent review of SoCalGas' Rule 4 and SDG&E's gas Rule 4, SoCalGas found that while many of the terms and conditions were very similar in intent and wording, relatively minor changes in wording could make Rule 4 of both utilities identical for gas operations without any change in practices. Section A, Requirement, has been revised slightly and Section B, Contracts for Special Services, which SDG&E currently has in its gas Rule 4, has been added. The letter designations of subsequent Sections have been updated accordingly. Sections C and D have been revised to change the reference from "Public Utilities Commission of the State of California" to "Commission".

This filing will not result in an increase or decrease in any rate or charge, conflict with any rate schedules or other 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 was filed with

the Commission. 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, Room 4002 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 27, 2002, which is not less than forty (40) days regular statutory notice. No resolution is needed to approve this filing.

Notice

In accordance with Section III.G of General Order 96-A, a copy of this advice letter is being sent to the parties listed on Attachment A.

J. STEVE RAHON Director Tariffs and Regulatory Accounts

Attachments

ATTACHMENT A

Advice No. 3171

(See Attached Service List)

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ATTACHMENT B Advice No. 3171

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Revised 35529-G	Rule No. 04, CONTRACTS, Sheet 1	Revised 24599-G
Original 35530-G	Rule No. 04, CONTRACTS, Sheet 2	Revised 24599-G
Revised 35531-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 34696-G
Revised 35532-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 35523-G

Rule No. 04 <u>CONTRACTS</u>

All contracts for gas service by the Utility shall be subject to the following terms and conditions:

A. <u>REQUIREMENT</u>

Contracts for gas service will be required as a condition precedent to service as follows:

- 1. As required by conditions set forth in the regular schedule of rates approved or accepted by the Public Utilities Commission of the State of California, or otherwise specified in the Utility's rules or Orders of the Commission.
- 2. In the case of gas main extension or temporary service, for a period not to exceed three years, except by special permission from the Commission.

B. CONTRACTS FOR SPECIAL SERVICES

Eligible customers may be required, as a condition of a special service, to complete an agreement provided by the Utility, which outlines the conditions of the service provided.

C. INTERPRETATION

The interpretation and performance of any contracts for gas service shall be in accordance with the laws of the State of California, and the orders, rules and regulations of the Commission, in effect from time to time.

D. AMENDMENT OR MODIFICATION

Except as required to conform with California law and the orders, rules and regulations of the Commission, no amendment or modification shall be made to written contracts for gas service except by an instrument in writing executed by all parties thereto, and no amendment or modification shall be made by course of performance, course of dealing or usage of trade.

E. WAIVER

No waiver by any party of one or more defaults under contracts for gas service shall operate or be construed as a waiver of any other default or defaults, whether of a like or different character.

F. DAMAGES

No party under contracts for gas service shall be assessed any special, punitive, consequential, incidental, or indirect damages, whether in contract or tort, for any actions or inactions arising from or related to such contract.

(Continued)

ISSUED BY Lee Schavrien Vice President Regulatory Affairs (TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) DATE FILED Jul 18, 2002 EFFECTIVE Aug 27, 2002 RESOLUTION NO.

Sheet 1

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LOS ANGELES, CALIFORNIA CANCELING

CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO. CAL. P.U.C. SHEET NO.

35530-G 24599-G

Sheet 2

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Rule No. 04 **CONTRACTS**

(Continued)

G. ASSIGNMENT

No contracts for gas service (or any rights or obligations related thereto) shall be assigned without the prior written consent of the Utility, which consent shall not be withheld unreasonably (but the Utility may require that any assignee confirm in writing its assumption of the rights and obligations of its predecessor).

H. HINSHAW EXEMPTION

In the event that any governmental entity (including a court) issues an order or rule that would result in the loss of the Utility's Hinshaw Exemption from federal regulations if a contract entered into by the Utility remains in effect, the Utility may terminate such contract.

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

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC) Jul 18, 2002 DATE FILED Aug 27, 2002 EFFECTIVE **RESOLUTION NO.**

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