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September 30, 2003

Advice No. 3296  
(U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject: September 2003 Buy-Back Rates**

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

**Purpose**

This routine monthly filing updates the Buy-Back Rates in Schedule No. G-IMB for September 2003.

**Background**

As authorized in Schedule No. G-IMB - Transportation Imbalance Service, the Buy-Back Rates are established effective the last day of each month.

The Buy-Back Rates will be the lower of 1) the lowest incremental cost of gas purchased by Utility during the month the imbalance was incurred; or 2) 50% of the applicable core subscription procurement charge during the month such excess imbalance was incurred.

**Information**

During the month of September 2003, 50% of the core subscription procurement charge is lower than the lowest incremental cost of gas. Therefore, the Buy-Back Rates for September 2003 are being set accordingly. The workpaper showing details of the calculation of these rates is incorporated herein as Attachment C.

The new rates are reflected in the attached Schedule No. G-IMB tariff sheets.

Pursuant to Resolution G-3316, the September 2003 Standby Procurement Charges will be filed by separate advice letter at least one day prior to October 25, 2003.

**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, 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
San Francisco, CA 94102

Copies of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the attention of both Jerry Royer ([jjr@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jjr@cpuc.ca.gov)) and to Honesto Gatchalian ([jnj@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:jnj@cpuc.ca.gov)) of the Energy Division. A copy of the protest should also be sent via both e-mail and 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](mailto:snewsom@SempraUtilities.com)

**Effective Date**

It is requested that the tariff sheets filed herein be made effective September 30, 2003 to coincide with SoCalGas' Core Subscription Procurement Rate filing in Advice No. 3289, dated August 29, 2003.

**Notice**

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

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J. STEVE RAHON  
Director  
Tariffs and Regulatory Accounts

Attachments

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Advice No. 3296**

**(See Attached Service List)**

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ATTACHMENT B  
Advice No. 3296

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Revised 36932-G	PRELIMINARY STATEMENT, PART II, SUMMARY OF RATES AND CHARGES, Sheet 6	Revised 36928-G
Revised 36933-G	Schedule No. G-IMB, TRANSPORTATION IMBALANCE SERVICE, Sheet 2	Revised 36929-G
Revised 36934-G	Schedule No. G-IMB, TRANSPORTATION IMBALANCE SERVICE, Sheet 3	Revised 36880-G
Revised 36935-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 36930-G
Revised 36936-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 36931-G

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT  
 PART II  
SUMMARY OF RATES AND CHARGES

Sheet 6

(Continued)

IMBALANCE SERVICE

Standby Procurement Charge

Core Retail Standby (SP-CR)

July, 2003 .....	\$0.81689
August, 2003 .....	\$0.77676
September, 2003 .....	TBD*

Noncore Retail Standby (SP-NR)

July, 2003 .....	\$0.81754
August, 2003 .....	\$0.77741
September, 2003 .....	TBD*

Wholesale Standby (SP-W)

July, 2003 .....	\$0.81754
August, 2003 .....	\$0.77741
September, 2003 .....	TBD*

Buy-Back Rate

Core and Noncore Retail (BR-R)

July, 2003 .....	25.552¢
August, 2003 .....	22.441¢
September, 2003 .....	24.481¢

Wholesale (BR-W)

July, 2003 .....	25.427¢
August, 2003 .....	22.331¢
September, 2003 .....	24.361¢

\* To be determined (TBD). Pursuant to Resolution G-3316, the September 2003 Standby Procurement Charge will be filed by separate advice letter at least one day prior to October 25, 2003.

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)  
 ADVICE LETTER NO. 3296  
 DECISION NO. 89-11-060 & 90-09-089,  
 6H11 et al.

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

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC)  
 DATE FILED Sep 30, 2003  
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Schedule No. G-IMB  
TRANSPORTATION IMBALANCE SERVICE

Sheet 2

(Continued)

RATES (Continued)

Standby Procurement Charge

This charge is applied to customer's cumulative negative transportation imbalance (confirmed transportation deliveries less actual usage) exceeding the 10 percent tolerance band. The Standby Procurement Charge is posted at least one day in advance of each corresponding imbalance trading period for noncore/wholesale and core transport agents (CTAs). It is calculated at 150% of the highest daily border price index at the Southern California border beginning on the first day of the month that the imbalance is created to five days prior to the start of each corresponding imbalance trading period plus a Brokerage Fee of 0.266¢ per therm for noncore retail service and all wholesale service, and 0.201¢ per therm for core retail service. The highest daily border price index is an average of the highest prices from "NGI's Daily Gas Price Index – Southern California Border Average" and "Gas Daily's Daily Price Survey – SoCal gas, large pkgs Midpoint."

Core Retail Service:

SP-CR Standby Rate, per therm

July, 2003.....	\$0.81689	D
August, 2003 .....	\$0.77676	
September, 2003 .....	TBD*	T

Noncore Retail Service:

SP-NR Standby Rate, per therm

July, 2003.....	\$0.81754	D
August, 2003 .....	\$0.77741	
September, 2003 .....	TBD*	T

Wholesale Service:

SP-W Standby Rate per therm

July, 2003.....	\$0.81754	D
August, 2003 .....	\$0.77741*	
September, 2003 .....	TBD*	T

\* To be determined (TBD). Pursuant to Resolution G-3316, the September 2003 Standby Procurement Charge will be filed by separate advice letter at least one day prior to October 25, 2003.

Buy-Back Rate

This rate is applied to customer's cumulative positive transportation imbalance (confirmed transportation deliveries less actual usage) exceeding the 10 percent tolerance band. The Buy-Back Rate is established effective the last day of each month and will be the lower of 1) the lowest incremental cost of gas purchased by Utility during the month the excess imbalance was incurred; or 2) 50% of the applicable core subscription procurement charge during the month such excess imbalance was incurred.

(Continued)

Schedule No. G-IMB  
TRANSPORTATION IMBALANCE SERVICE

Sheet 3

(Continued)

RATES (Continued)

Buy-Back Rate (Continued)

Retail Service:

BR-R Buy-Back Rate, per therm	
July, 2003 .....	25.552¢
August, 2003 .....	22.441¢
September, 2003 .....	24.481¢

Wholesale Service:

BR-W Buy-Back Rate, per therm	
July, 2003 .....	25.427¢
August, 2003 .....	22.331¢
September, 2003 .....	24.361¢

If the incremental cost of gas is the basis for the Standby or Buy-Back Rates, Utility will provide CPUC the necessary work papers for such cost. Such documentation will be provided under confidentiality pursuant to General Order 66-C and Section 583 of the Public Utilities Code.

Daily Balancing Standby Rates

During November through March customers are required to deliver (flowing supply and firm storage withdrawal) at a minimum of 50% of burn during a five-day period. Volumes not in compliance with the 50% five-day minimum delivery requirement are purchased at the daily standby rate. The daily balancing standby rate is calculated as 150% of the highest Southern California Border price during the five-day period as published in "NGI's *Daily Gas Price Index*" including authorized franchise fees and, for retail customers, uncollectible expenses (F&U), and an authorized brokerage fee.

When the Utility's total inventory in storage declines to the "peak day minimum + 20 Bcf trigger", the minimum daily delivery requirement increases to 70%. The five-day period no longer applies. The daily balancing standby rate is 150% of the highest Southern California Border price per NGI's *Daily Gas Price Index* for the day (including F&U and brokerage fee) and is applied to each day's deliveries which are less than the 70% delivery requirement.

When the Utility's total inventory in storage declines to the "peak day minimum + 5 Bcf trigger", the minimum delivery requirement increases to 90% daily. Similar to the 70% regime, the five-day period no longer applies. The daily balancing standby rate is 150% of the highest Southern California Border price per NGI's *Daily Gas Price Index* for the day (including F&U and brokerage fee) and is applied to each day's deliveries which are less than the 90% delivery requirement.

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(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)  
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 DECISION NO. 89-11-060 & 90-09-089,  
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 Vice President  
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G-SRF	Surcharge to Fund Public Utilities Commission Utilities Reimbursement Account .....	36110-G
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(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)  
 ADVICE LETTER NO. 3296  
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 346 et al.

ISSUED BY  
**Lee Schavrien**  
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 Regulatory Affairs

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC)  
 DATE FILED Sep 30, 2003  
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TABLE OF CONTENTS

The following listed sheets contain all effective Schedules of Rates and Rules affecting service and information relating thereto in effect on the date indicated thereon.

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**ATTACHMENT C**

**ADVICE NO. 3296**

**RATE CALCULATION WORKPAPER  
BASED ON ADVICE NO. 3289  
CORE SUBSCRIPTION RATE FILING  
EFFECTIVE SEPTEMBER 1, 2003**

**Core Subscription Procurement Charge:**

**Retail CS:**                    **48.961¢** per therm  
(WACOG: 48.000¢ + Franchise and Uncollectibles:  
.961¢ or [2.0012% \* 48.000¢])

**Wholesale CS:**                **48.722¢** per therm  
(WACOG: 48.000¢ + Franchise:  
0.722¢ or [1.5051% \* 48.000¢])

**G-IMB Buy-Back Rates:**

**BR-R** = 50% of Retail Core Subscription Procurement Charge:  
50% \* 48.961 cents/therm = **24.481** cents/therm

**BR-W** = 50% of Wholesale Core Subscription Procurement Charge:  
50% \* 48.722 cents/therm = **24.361** cents/therm