## PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



August 2, 2007

Advice Letter 3741-A

Mr. Sid Newsom Regulatory Tariff Administration Southern California Gas Company – GT14D6 555 West Fifth Street Los Angeles, CA 90013-4957

Subject: Supplemental – Approval of Contract Amendment with ECOGAS

Dear Mr. Newsom:

Advice Letter 3741-A is effective July 26, 2007.

Sincerely,

Sean H. Gallagher, Director

I W Shalp L

**Energy Division** 





Ken Deremer
Director
Tariffs & Regulatory Accounts

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June 25, 2007

Advice No. 3741-A (U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject:** Supplemental - Approval of Contract Amendment with ECOGAS

## **Purpose**

This supplemental filing replaces in its entirety Advice No. (AL) 3741, dated May 3, 2007 in order to clarify the Background section below at the request of the Energy Division.

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) hereby submits for filing with the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) a request for approval of Amendment No. 1 (incorporated herein as Attachment B) to the January 1997 Gas Transportation Services Agreement with Distribuidora de Gas Natural de Mexicali (DGN). DGN underwent a legal entity change to ECOGAS September 1, 2005. This 12-year agreement originally received interim approval from the Commission in Decision (D.) 97-07-062 (Application 97-03-015), and final approval in D.98-12-024. The subject amendment is limited to modifying the Maximum Daily Quantity (MDQ) from 252,000 therms to 199,990 therms for the remaining contract term. All other contract terms and conditions remain unchanged. The agreement states that any contract modification requires Commission approval. Ordering Paragraph 7 from D.98-12-024 contains the same requirement for Commission approval of contract modification. Commission approval of this Advice Letter fulfills both the contract requirement and the requirement of Ordering Paragraph 7.

## **Background**

ECOGAS has requested a reduction in MDQ in order to qualify as a "Small Customer" in the recently closed Imperial Valley open season. D.06-09-039 requires SoCalGas to hold Open Seasons in potentially constrained areas of our system, and also establishes the distinction between "Large" and "Small" customers. Large Customers, defined as customers whose historical Peak Day usage is 20 MMcfd or more, participating in Open Seasons are required to make five year firm capacity commitments. Small customers are required to make two-year firm capacity commitments. Because ECOGAS has a long term contract, they have not been required to participate in the Imperial Valley open seasons, and the full amount of their contract MDQ, 252,000 therms per day, was set aside prior to determining available capacity for the other noncore customers. ECOGAS' contract MDQ is equivalent to a Large Customer. There are approximately two years left on the ECOGAS contract. With no change

to the contract, if ECOGAS wanted to continue to receive firm service after the expiration of the contract, they would have been required to submit a bid for the three years following the expiration of the contract. If they did not submit a bid, for system planning purposes their load would have been considered interruptible upon the expiration of the contract. However, ECOGAS' gas use history and forecasted future usage do not meet the Large Customer requirements. The remaining term on their contract coincides with the two year commitment requirement for Small Customer participation. By reducing their contract MDQ to 199,990 therms per day (or approximately 19.9 MMcfd), both ECOGAS' contract capacity and historical usage qualify as a Small Customer. For system planning purposes, firm load of Small Customers is assumed to continue at similar levels. This ensures ECOGAS can have access to firm service sufficient for their needs beyond the expiration of their current contract.

Since contract inception, ECOGAS usage has always been well below the 199,990 therms per day (or approximately 19.9 MMcfd) requested as the new MDQ. D.06-09-039 defines a Large Commercial & Industrial customer as one whose historical Peak Day usage is 20 MMcfd or more. There is no expected financial impact to either ECOGAS or SoCalGas resulting from this amendment.

Once approved, the capacity previously reserved for ECOGAS by the original agreement terms can be awarded to the one prorated customer in the Imperial Valley. This will offer the most benefit if capacity can be awarded prior to the end of the peak summer season. As gas system capacity in the Imperial Valley cannot be added in less than two years, this will also help alleviate the SoCalGas system constraint pending completion of the longer term solution.

## **Requested Contract Revision**

Amendment No. 1 to the Gas Transportation Services Agreement states:

"The Parties agree that Section 1 – Gas Services, paragraph 1.2 <u>Maximum Daily Quantity</u> of the Agreement is deleted in its entirety and the following language is substituted therefore:

SoCalGas will transport for ECOGAS all gas delivered by ECOGAS to SoCalGas at the Points of Receipt up to a maximum quantity of 199,990 therms per day. SoCalGas will also transport gas for ECOGAS above this maximum daily quantity, but any such volumes will be transported on an interruptible basis."

No other terms or conditions of the Agreement are modified by Amendment No. 1.

#### **Protest**

Anyone may protest this Advice Letter to the 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:

CPUC Energy Division Attn: Tariff Unit 505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102 Copies of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the attention of both Maria Salinas (<a href="mas@cpuc.ca.gov">mas@cpuc.ca.gov</a>) and Honesto Gatchalian (<a href="mail@cpuc.ca.gov">jni@cpuc.ca.gov</a>) of the Energy Division. A copy of the protest should also be sent via both e-mail <a href="mail@and">and</a> 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: <a href="mailto:snewsom@SempraUtilities.com">snewsom@SempraUtilities.com</a>

## **Effective Date**

SoCalGas believes that approval of this supplemental filing will require a Commission Resolution and respectfully requests that it be placed on the agenda for the August 23, 2007 Commission meeting.

## **Notice**

A copy of this advice letter is being sent to the parties listed on Attachment A, which includes the interested parties in R.04-01-025, the Gas Market OIR.

Ken Deremer Director Tariffs and Regulatory Accounts

Attachments

# CALIFORNIA PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

# ADVICE LETTER FILING SUMMARY ENERGY UTILITY

MUST BE COMPLETED BY UTILITY (Attach additional pages as needed)			
Company name/CPUC Utility No. SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY/ U 904 G			
Utility type:	Contact Person:	Sid Newsom	
☐ ELC ☐ GAS	Phone #: (213) 244-2846		
PLC HEAT WATER E-mail: snewsom@semprautilities.com			
EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE (Date Filed/ Recei		(Date Filed/ Received Stamp by CPUC)	
ELC = Electric GAS = Gas PLC = Pipeline HEAT = Heat	WATER = Water		
Advice Letter (AL) #: 3741-A			
Subject of AL: Supplemental - Submission of Contract Amendment			
Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): <u>Capacity, Contracts, Natural Gas</u>			
AL filing type: Monthly Quarterly Annual One-Time Other			
If AL filed in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:			
<u>Decision No. 98-12-024</u>			
Does AL replace a withdrawn or rejected AL? If so, identify the prior AL No			
Summarize differences between the AL and the prior withdrawn or rejected AL1: N/A			
Resolution Required?   Yes   No			
Requested effective date: 8/23/07 No. of tariff sheets: None			
Estimated system annual revenue effect: (%): N/A			
Estimated system average rate effect (%): N/A			
When rates are affected by AL, include attachment in AL showing average rate effects on customer classes (residential, small commercial, large C/I, agricultural, lighting).			
Tariff schedules affected: None			
Service affected and changes proposed <sup>1</sup> : None			
Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: N/A			
Protests and all other correspondence regarding this AL are due no later than 20 days after the date of this filing, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission, and shall be sent to:			
CPUC, Energy Division		Southern California Gas Company	
Attention: Tariff Unit		Attention: Sid Newsom	
505 Van Ness Avenue San Francisco, CA 94102		555 West Fifth Street, ML GT14D6 Los Angeles, CA 90013-4957	
jjr@cpuc.ca.gov and jnj@cpuc.ca.gov		newsom@semprautilities.com	

 $<sup>^{\</sup>scriptscriptstyle 1}$  Discuss in AL if more space is needed.

# **ATTACHMENT A**

## Advice No. 3741-A

(See Attached Service Lists)

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## **ATTACHMENT B**

Advice No. 3741-A

# Gas Transportation Services Agreement Amendment No. 1 Between ECOGAS and SoCalGas

## Gas Transportation Services Agreement Amendment No.1

This Amendment No. 1 is entered into this 30<sup>th</sup> day of March, 2007 by and between ECOGAS Mexico, S. de R.L. de C.V., a Baja California, Mexico limited liability legal entity ("ECOGAS"), and Southern California Gas Company, a California, U.S.A. corporation ("SoCalGas") each referred to hereinafter individually as a "Party" and collectively as "the Parties," and modifies, as set out below, that certain Gas Transportation Services Agreement dated January 29, 1997 ("The Agreement") by and between the Parties.

The Parties agree that Section 1 – Gas Services, paragraph 1.2 <u>Maximum Daily Quantity of the Agreement</u> is deleted in its entirety and the following language is substituted therefore:

SoCalGas will transport for ECOGAS all gas delivered by ECOGAS to SoCalGas at the Points of Receipt up to a maximum quantity of 199,990 therms per day. SoCalGas will also transport gas for ECOGAS above this maximum daily quantity, but any such volumes will be transported on an interruptible basis.

This Amendment No.1 will take effect on the first day of the month following the date this Amendment No. 1 is approved by the California Public Utility Commission (the "Commission"), or April 1, 2007, whichever is later. All other terms and conditions of the Agreement remain unchanged and in full force and effect.

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, the authorized representatives of each of the Parties have executed two duplicate originals hereof.

ECOGAS Mexico, S. DE R.L. DE C.V.	SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS COMPANY
By: GENDANDO DE SANTIAGO	By: Gillian Waght
Signature:	Signature: Jelle U. Mark
Title: DINSCTUN	Title: Director, Energy Mels & Capach
Date: 03 (30/07	Date: 4/26/07