

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE  
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 11, 2009

**Advice Letter 3954**

Ronald van der Leeden, Director  
Rates, Revenues and Tariffs  
8330 Century Park Court CP32C  
San Diego, CA 92123-1548

**Subject: January 2009 Buy-Back Rates**

Dear Mr. van der Leeden:

Advice Letter 3954 is effective January 31, 2009.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Julie A. Fitch".

Julie A. Fitch, Director  
Energy Division



**Ronald van der Leeden**  
Director  
Rates, Revenues and Tariffs

555 W. Fifth Street, GT14D6  
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Fax: 213.244.3201

*rvanderleeden@semprautilities.com*

January 30, 2009

Advice No. 3954  
(U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

**Subject: January 2009 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 January 2009.

**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 Adjusted Core Procurement Charge, G-CPA, set forth in Schedule No. G-CP, during the month such excess imbalance was incurred.

**Information**

During the month of January, 50% of the Adjusted Core Procurement Charge, G-CPA, is lower than the lowest incremental cost of gas. Therefore, the Buy-Back Rates for January 2009 are being set accordingly. The work paper 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 January 2009 Standby Procurement Charges will be filed by separate advice letter at least one day prior to February 25, 2009.

**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:

CPUC Energy Division  
Attention: 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 ([mas@cpuc.ca.gov](mailto:mas@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**

SoCalGas believes this Advice Letter is subject to Energy Division disposition and should be classified as Tier 1 (effective pending disposition) pursuant to GO 96-B and therefore respectfully requests that the tariff sheets filed herein be made effective January 31, 2009, to coincide with SoCalGas' Adjusted Core Procurement Charge filing in Advice No. 3942, dated December 31, 2008.

**Notice**

A copy of this advice letter is being sent to the parties listed on Attachment A.

---

Ronald van der Leeden  
Director  
Rates, Revenues and Tariffs

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:

ELC     GAS  
 PLC     HEAT     WATER

Contact Person: Sid Newsom

Phone #: (213) 244-2846

E-mail: snewsom@semprautilities.com

### EXPLANATION OF UTILITY TYPE

ELC = Electric                      GAS = Gas  
PLC = Pipeline                     HEAT = Heat    WATER = Water

(Date Filed/ Received Stamp by CPUC)

Advice Letter (AL) #: 3954

Subject of AL: January 2009 Buy-Back Rates

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): Preliminary Statement, Core, Compliance

AL filing type:  Monthly     Quarterly     Annual     One-Time     Other

AL filed in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:  
D89-11-060 and D90-09-089, et al.

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 AL<sup>1</sup>: N/A

Does AL request confidential treatment? If so, provide explanation: No

Resolution Required?     Yes     No

Tier Designation:     1     2     3

Requested effective date: January 31, 2009

No. of tariff sheets: 5

Estimated system annual revenue effect (%): None

Estimated system average rate effect (%): None

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: Preliminary Statement, Part II; Schedule G-IMB; and TOCs

Service affected and changes proposed<sup>1</sup>: N/A

Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: 3938, 3941, and 3951

**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**

**Attention: Tariff Unit**

**505 Van Ness Ave.**

**San Francisco, CA 94102**

**mas@cpuc.ca.gov and jnj@cpuc.ca.gov**

**Southern California Gas Company**

**Attention: Sid Newsom**

**555 West Fifth Street, GT14D6**

**Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011**

**snewsom@semprautilities.com**

<sup>1</sup> Discuss in AL if more space is needed.

**ATTACHMENT A**

**Advice No. 3954**

**(See Attached Service List)**

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ATTACHMENT B  
Advice No. 3954

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Revised 44354-G	PRELIMINARY STATEMENT, PART II, SUMMARY OF RATES AND CHARGES, Sheet 7	Revised 44346-G
Revised 44355-G	Schedule No. G-IMB, TRANSPORTATION IMBALANCE SERVICE, Sheet 2	Revised 44347-G
Revised 44356-G	Schedule No. G-IMB, TRANSPORTATION IMBALANCE SERVICE, Sheet 3	Revised 44269-G
Revised 44357-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 44352-G
Revised 44358-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 44353-G

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT  
 PART II  
SUMMARY OF RATES AND CHARGES

Sheet 7

(Continued)

IMBALANCE SERVICE

Standby Procurement Charge

Core Retail Standby (SP-CR)

November .....	90.563¢	D
December .....	90.563¢	T
January .....	TBD*	T

Noncore Retail Standby (SP-NR)

November .....	90.641¢	D
December .....	90.641¢	T
January .....	TBD*	T

Wholesale Standby (SP-W)

November .....	90.641¢	D
December .....	90.641¢	T
January .....	TBD*	T

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

Buy-Back Rate

Core and Noncore Retail (BR-R)

November .....	17.851¢	D
December .....	26.213¢	I
January .....	26.877¢	I

Wholesale (BR-W)

November .....	17.851¢	D
December .....	26.150¢	I
January .....	26.813¢	I

(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)  
 ADVICE LETTER NO. 3954  
 DECISION NO. 89-11-060 & 90-09-089,  
 7H7 et al.

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

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC)  
 DATE FILED Jan 30, 2009  
 EFFECTIVE Jan 31, 2009  
 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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 0.188¢ 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, Midpoint."

Core Retail Service:

SP-CR Standby Rate, per therm

November 2008 .....	90.563¢	D
December .....	90.563¢	T
January .....	TBD*	T

Noncore Retail Service:

SP-NR Standby Rate, per therm

November 2008 .....	90.641¢	D
December .....	90.641¢	T
January .....	TBD*	T

Wholesale Service:

SP-W Standby Rate per therm

November 2008 .....	90.641¢	D
December .....	90.641¢	T
January .....	TBD*	T

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

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 Adjusted Core Procurement Charge, G-CPA, set forth in Schedule No. G-CP, 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

November 2008 .....	17.851¢
December 2008 .....	26.213¢
January .....	26.877¢

Wholesale Service:

BR-W Buy-Back Rate, per therm

November 2008 .....	17.851¢
December 2008 .....	26.150¢
January .....	26.813¢

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.

(Continued)

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(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)  
 ADVICE LETTER NO. 3954  
 DECISION NO. 89-11-060 & 90-09-089,  
 346 et al.

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

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC)  
 DATE FILED Jan 30, 2009  
 EFFECTIVE Jan 31, 2009  
 RESOLUTION NO. \_\_\_\_\_

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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(Continued)

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)  
 ADVICE LETTER NO. 3954  
 DECISION NO. 89-11-060 & 90-09-089,  
 et al.

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

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC)  
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**ATTACHMENT C**

**ADVICE NO. 3954**

**RATE CALCULATION WORKPAPER  
BASED ON ADVICE NO. 3942  
ADJUSTED CORE PROCUREMENT CHARGE FILING  
EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2009**

**Adjusted Core Procurement Charge:**

**Retail G-CPA: 53.753 ¢ per therm**  
( WACOG: 52.841 ¢ + Franchise and Uncollectibles:  
0.912 ¢ or [ 1.7262% \* 52.841 ¢ ] )

**Wholesale G-CPA: 53.625 ¢ per therm**  
( WACOG: 52.841 ¢ + Franchise and Uncollectibles:  
0.784 ¢ or [ 1.4837% \* 52.841 ¢ ] )

**GIMB Buy-Back Rates**

**BR-R = 50% of Retail G-CPA:**  
50% \* 53.753 cents/therm = **26.877** cents/therm

**BR-W = 50% of Wholesale G-CPA:**  
50% \* 53.625 cents/therm = **26.813** cents/therm