

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 3, 2014

Advice Letter 4600

Rasha Prince, Director
Regulatory Affairs
Southern California Gas
555 W. Fifth Street, GT14D6
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011

**Subject: Annual Joint Tier 2 Advice Letter Submitting Updated List of
Proposed Categorical Eligible Low Income Programs for the
Upcoming Year in Compliance with D.12-08-044**

Dear Ms. Prince:

Advice Letter 4600 is effective March 3, 2014.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Edward F. Randolph".

Edward F. Randolph, Director
Energy Division



Rasha Prince
Director
Regulatory Affairs

555 W. Fifth Street, GT14D6
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011
Tel: 213.244.5141
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RPrince@semprautilities.com

January 31, 2014

Advice 4600-G

(Southern California Gas Company U 904 G)

Advice 2570-E/2265-G

(San Diego Gas & Electric Company U 902 M)

Advice 3452-G/4354-E

(Pacific Gas and Electric Company U 39 M)

Advice 2998-E

(Southern California Edison Company U 338 E)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Annual Joint Tier 2 Advice Letter Submitting Updated List of Proposed Categorical Eligible Low Income Programs for the Upcoming Year in Compliance with Decision 12-08-044

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas), on behalf of itself, San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E), Southern California Edison Company (SCE), and Pacific Gas and Electric Company (PG&E) (together the "Investor Owned Utilities", or "IOUs") hereby submit this Tier 2 Advice Letter (AL) as discussed below.

Purpose

This joint filing complies with Ordering Paragraph (OP) 88(b) of Decision (D.) 12-08-044 stating that by January 31st of each year, the IOUs "are directed to jointly and annually review and submit, by Tier 2 Advice Letter, an updated list of proposed categorical eligible low income programs for the upcoming year."¹

Background

Current enrollment for both the California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) and Energy Savings Assistance (ESA) Programs is permitted through income eligibility or through categorical eligibility where participation in certain other low income programs provides customers with an alternative/convenient means of enrollment (as authorized in D.06-12-038). In D.12-08-044, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) directed the IOUs to jointly review and submit, on an annual basis, a list of proposed categorically eligible low

¹ D.12-08-044, p. 395.

income programs with income thresholds consistent with the CARE and ESA Programs. To initially comply with this directive (for 2013), the IOUs contracted with an independent consultant, ICF International (ICF), to perform a comprehensive assessment of the list of categorically eligible programs to determine alignment with CARE and ESA Program guidelines (specifically the household unit of measure, income thresholds, and income definitions). ICF also performed an assessment for other customer assistance programs for consideration in addition to the current statewide Categorical Eligibility list.

In a Joint AL filed by SoCalGas on behalf of the IOUs on January 31, 2013,² the ICF Study found that, of the list of 11 categorical eligible programs, only three programs were “*broadly aligned*” with the eligibility criteria. The IOUs proposed the following updated list of categorical eligible programs for Commission approval for 2013:

- CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP),
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP), and
- Women, Infants, and Children (WIC) program.

The IOUs also presented an alternative proposal: that the Commission retain the current list of categorical eligible programs, and permit the IOUs to determine whether the customer would be required to provide income documentation, or allow the customer to provide proof of enrollment in one of the categorical programs with an award letter or a comparable form of documentation.³

On February 20, 2013, the Office of Ratepayer Advocates (ORA)⁴ and the Joint Consumers⁵ filed protests to the IOU proposals. The IOUs filed a Joint Reply to the protests on February 27. On February 28, 2013, the Commission’s Energy Division (ED) suspended the AL for an initial 120 days pending further review.

On April 30, 2013, the ED rejected the Joint AL without prejudice because it determined that the Joint AL raised unforeseen policy issues requiring review in a formal proceeding. The disposition also rejected without prejudice the alternative proposal to retain the current list of categorical eligible programs, finding that the alternative proposal sought approval for a relief not previously authorized by D.12-08-044. The ED indicated that further procedural directives would be provided by the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) thereafter.

On July 24, 2013, a Joint Second Amended Scoping Memo (ASM) and Ruling of Assigned Commissioner and the ALJ was issued. The ASM extended the schedule for Phase 2 of the proceeding to allow time to solicit comments and/or legal briefs on categorical eligibility and post-enrollment verification in the Commission’s low income programs. The ASM further noted the various options would require examination into the overall effectiveness of the impacts to the categorical eligibility program, and both enrollment and post-enrollment verification criteria, as well as budgetary and administrative impacts to the CARE and ESA Programs.

To date, the Commission has not yet initiated a formal proceeding to address the unforeseen policy issues related to categorical eligibility as identified in the ASM. The Legislature provided

² SoCalGas 4457-G, SDG&E 2455-E/2170-G, SCE 2849-E, and PG&E 3361-G / 4186-E.

³ SoCalGas Advice Letter 4457-G, p.7.

⁴ Formerly known as the Division of Ratepayer Advocates.

⁵ Joint Consumers is comprised of the following organizations: The Center for Accessible Technology, the Greenlining Institute, the National Consumer Law Center, and the Utility Reform Network.

additional direction in 2013 through Assembly Bill 327, which states the Commission may determine customers are categorically eligible if they are enrolled in programs with substantially the same income eligibility requirements.⁶ The CPUC has not provided direction on how the new statute should be interpreted in a manner compatible with the income limitations that are set in statute at 200 percent of Federal Poverty Guidelines.

Discussion

Each year, the ED issues a notice to the IOUs and the Small and Multi-Jurisdictional Utilities to update the revised income guidelines for CARE, the Family Electric Rate Assistance, and the ESA Program which become effective June 1st of each year. On April 1, 2013, the ED issued the notice to update the income guidelines effective June 1, 2013 – May 31, 2014. The notice also informed utilities that the list of categorical eligibility programs outlined in Attachment A of the letter are to remain in effect until further notice because the Commission had not yet addressed the outstanding policy issues related to categorical eligibility. The list of categorical programs included in Attachment A of the April 1st notice remain in effect, and the IOUs will continue to categorically enroll customers in the CARE and ESA Programs accordingly. A household can enroll in the programs by declaring that a member of the household receives benefits from one of the authorized government means-tested programs.

The current statewide list of categorical eligible programs is shown below.

- Bureau of Indian Affairs General Assistance
- CalFresh/Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP)
- CalWORKs/Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF)
- Head Start Income Eligible (Tribal Only)
- Healthy Families A & B
- Low-income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)
- Medicaid/Medi-Cal
- National School Lunch Program (NSLP)
- Supplemental Security Income (SSI)
- Tribal TANF
- Women, Infants, and Children Program (WIC)

A review of the current programs noted that, as of January 1, 2014, participants in Healthy Families were transitioned to Medi-Cal. The program is now known as “Medi-Cal for Families”. With the transition of Healthy Families to Medi-Cal, the IOUs recommend renaming Healthy Families A & B to Medi-Cal for Families A & B. The IOUs do not recommend any further changes to the list of categorical programs at this time.

The IOUs thus submit this AL to comply with OP 88(b), which is still in effect for 2014, while the Commission continues its review of the policy issues surrounding categorical eligibility and other Phase 2 issues. The IOUs understand the Commission finds it prudent to gather further information and stakeholder input prior to making changes to the categorical eligibility list due to the policy issues raised. Given that the policy issues will be examined in a yet-to-be-conducted Phase 2 of A.11-05-017 et. al., the IOUs request instructions regarding the list of categorical eligible programs before March 3, 2014 so the IOUs can file ALs in time to receive

⁶ AB 327 (Perea) Chaptered October 7, 2013 and effective January 1, 2014. Section 739.1(f)(1) reads in part, “The commission may determine that gas and electric customers are categorically eligible for CARE assistance if they are enrolled in other public assistance programs with substantially the same income eligibility requirements as the CARE program.”

approval and print forms by the June 1 effective date of the new program income eligibility guidelines.

Conclusion

The IOUs continue to support the categorical eligibility and enrollment process and await directives from the Commission in order to retain the categorical eligibility process, and include programs with income thresholds that are consistent with the ESA and CARE Programs as contemplated by D.12-08-044.

Protests

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 received within 20 days of the date of this Advice Letter, which is February 20, 2014. 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 Energy Division Tariff Unit (EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov). 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.

For SCG:

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

For SDG&E:

Attn: Megan Caulson
Regulatory Tariff Manager
8330 Century Park Court, Room 32C
San Diego, CA 92123-1548
Facsimile No. (858) 654-1879
E-mail: MCaulson@semprautilities.com

For SCE:

Megan Scott-Kakures
Vice President, Regulatory Operations
Southern California Edison Company

8631 Rush Street
Rosemead, California 91770
Facsimile: (626) 302-4829
E-mail: AdviceTariffManager@sce.com

Leslie E. Starck
Senior Vice President, Regulatory Policy & Affairs
c/o Karyn Gansecki
Southern California Edison Company
601 Van Ness Avenue, Suite 2030
San Francisco, California 94102
Facsimile: (415) 929-5544
E-mail: Karyn.Gansecki@sce.com

For PG&E:

Brian K. Cherry
Vice President, Regulatory Relations
Pacific Gas and Electric Company
77 Beale Street, Mail Code B10C
P.O. Box 770000
San Francisco, California 94177
Facsimile: (415) 973-7226
E-mail: PGETariffs@pge.com

Effective Date

The IOUs believe that this filing is subject to Energy Division disposition and, as directed in OP 88(b) of D.12-08-044, is classified as Tier 2. The IOUs respectfully request this Advice Letter become effective March 3, 2014, which is the first business day following 30 calendar days after the date filed.

Notice

A copy of this advice letter is being sent to all parties listed on Attachment A, which includes the interested parties in A.11-05-018, et al.

Rasha Prince
Director - Regulatory Affairs

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 904G)**

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) #: 4600, et al.

Subject of AL: Annual Joint Tier 2 Advice Letter Submitting Updated List of Proposed Categorical Eligible Low Income Programs for the Upcoming Year in Compliance with Decision (D.) 12 08-044

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): CARE

AL filing type: Monthly Quarterly Annual One-Time Other _____

If AL filed in compliance with a Commission order, indicate relevant Decision/Resolution #:

D.12-08-044

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

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

Resolution Required? Yes No

Tier Designation: 1 2 3

Requested effective date: 3/3/13

No. of tariff sheets: 0

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 proposed¹ See Advice Letter

Pending advice letters that revise the same tariff sheets: None

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
EDTariffUnit@cpuc.ca.gov

Southern California Gas Company
Attention: Sid Newsom
555 West 5th Street, GT14D6
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011
SNewsom@semprautilities.com
tariffs@socalgas.com

¹ Discuss in AL if more space is needed.

ATTACHMENT A

Advice No. 4600, et al.

(See Attached Service List)