

ALJ/GT2/avs 3/21/2024

FILED 03/21/24 BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA AM A2312011

Application of Southern California Edison Company (U338E) for Authority to, Among Other Things, Increase its Authorized Revenues for Gas Service for Santa Catalina Island and to Reflect that Increase in Rates.

Application 23-12-011

ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE RULING SETTING DATE FOR PUBLIC PARTICIPATION HEARINGS

This ruling sets the remote public participation hearings (PPHs) in Southern California Edison's (SCE) Santa Catalina Gas utility (Catalina Gas) General Rate Case Application (Application), Application (A.) 23-12-011, for May 29, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. The PPHs shall use live streaming and telephonic services. This ruling also directs SCE to provide customer notice of the remote PPHs via bill insert.

1. Background

On December 15, 2023, SCE filed the instant application for approval of a Test Year 2025 general rate case (GRC) for its Santa Catalina Island gas service. SCE provides gas service to 1,400 commercial and residential gas customers on Santa Catalina Island (Catalina Island), limited to the City of Avalon. SCE's most recent Catalina Gas GRC was filed in 2008. SCE proposes a 2025 Test Year revenue requirement of \$2.062 million, increasing to \$2.402 million in 2028. SCE recorded revenue requirements of \$1.259 million in 2022. On January 19, 2024, a protest to the Application was filed by the Wild Tree Foundation (Wild Tree). On January 22, 2024, protests to the Application were also filed by the Public Advocates Office (Cal Advocates) and The Utility Reform Network (TURN), with a reply to the Protests filed by SCE on February 1, 2024.

The PPHs are an opportunity for SCE and Catalina Gas customers to communicate directly with the Commission regarding the revenue, rate base, and electrification activities that SCE proposes in its GRC Application for Catalina Gas and how it may affect them and their community.

Details regarding how to participate in these remote PPHs are described below. Written public comments may also be provided at any time during the proceeding using the "Add Public Comment" button on the "Public Comment" tab of the Docket Card for A.23-12-011 (<u>apps.cpuc.ca.gov/c/A2312011</u>).

Public Participation Hearing Details for Catalina Gas GRC Application

Date	Time	Call-In Information
May 29, 2024	2:00 p.m.	Phone Number: 800-857-1917
		Passcode: 6032788#
May 29, 2024	6:00 p.m.	Spanish Passcode: 3799627#
		Webcast: adminmonitor.com/ca/cpuc/

2. Instructions to Participate

Participants may observe the PPH via the webcast information provided above. To provide public comment, participants should use the toll-free telephone number and participant code noted above. When it is time for public comment, the Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) will make an announcement through the telephone line for those who wish to speak. Participants who wish to speak must then press "star one" to alert the operator, who will put the speakers

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into a queue, and who will then announce each speaker's name one at a time when the speaker's turn comes up.

3. Bill Insert Notice

SCE shall prepare a bill insert in English and Spanish informing its Catalina Gas customers of these PPHs and provide a draft of the notice to the Commission's Public Advisor's Office. The draft insert shall inform SCE's customers about the upcoming remote PPHs, including the purpose of the PPHs, a summary of the relief that SCE is requesting in this Application, as well as the date, time, and how to participate in the streaming and telephonic services for the remote PPHs. The Public Advisor's Office may alter or require changes to the bill insert. After the Public Advisor's Office approves the language for the notice, SCE shall mail the notice to all its customers in the form of a bill insert. To the extent that any customers are billed electronically via the Internet, notice to those customers may be given electronically. Where customer email addresses are available, SCE shall also provide the notice through direct email communication.

4. Public Notice

Pursuant to Rule 13.1(c) of the California Public Utilities Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, SCE shall also cause the approved notice to be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in SCE's general service area not less than five days before the PPHs. At a minimum, the approved notice shall be posted in one or more newspapers of general circulation in the: (1) Santa Catalina Gas utility service area; and (2) the Los Angeles area. SCE shall also prominently post a notice of the PPHs on its website.

SCE shall provide the Public Advisor's Office, not later than five days prior to the first PPH, a letter verifying that it has complied with the customer notice requirement. The compliance letter shall state the date(s) notices were sent

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to customers, the method used, and the approximate number of customers notified. One copy of the actual notice shall be attached. The compliance letter shall also provide the dates and locations of publication and posting.

5. Party Participation During Public Participation Hearings

SCE, Cal Advocates, and Wild Tree Foundation are directed to prepare presentations, no longer than five minutes, of their positions and analysis of the application for presentation during the PPHs. Presentations will be presented virtually over the phone via the Verizon phone line. SCE's presentation shall include a discussion of the rate impacts to customers of both proposals for recovery as presented in the Application as well as the Supplemental testimony. Parties shall send their presentations, including slides and script, to the Public Advisor's Office at <u>public.advisor@cpuc.ca.gov</u> at least five days before the PPHs.

SCE shall also identify and have available at least one senior customer service representative to receive and respond to customer billing or service questions, as needed, during and following each PPH. SCE shall also identify a contact for customers that can provide additional information regarding the Application following the PPH. SCE shall provide the name, position, phone number, and e-mail address of the employees via e-mail to the assigned ALJ, copying the service list, no later than seven days prior to the scheduled PPHs. The employee's name and contact information will be publicly posted via webcast during the remote PPHs. It will also be provided to customers that mention billing issues in their public comment.

IT IS RULED that:

1. PPHs are scheduled for May 29, 2024, at 2:00 p.m. and 6:00 p.m. in this proceeding.

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2. SCE shall provide customer notice of the PPHs via direct mailing or the Internet not less than five days before the date of the scheduled PPHs. Where customer e-mail addresses are available, SCE shall also provide the notice through direct email communication.

3. SCE shall cause notice of the PPHs approved by the Public Advisor's Office to be published in one or more newspapers of general circulation in its general service area at least five days prior to the first PPH. Prior to publishing, SCE shall provide to the Public Advisor's Office a list of the locations where the approved notice will be circulated.

4. SCE shall provide the Public Advisor's Office, not later than five days prior to the first PPH, a letter verifying that it has complied with the customer notice requirement.

5. SCE shall have at least one senior customer service representative available at each of the public participation hearings to receive and follow up with any customer billing or service questions.

6. SCE shall provide contact information for customers to obtain further information regarding the Application.

7. SCE, Cal Advocates, and Wild Tree Foundation shall prepare presentations of their positions for the PPHs, no longer than five minutes each.

This order is effective today.

Dated March 21, 2024, at San Francisco, California.

/s/ GARRETT TOY

Garrett Toy Administrative Law Judge