

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION

505 VAN NESS AVENUE
SAN FRANCISCO, CA 94102-3298



March 16, 2010

Advice Letter 4004

Ronald van der Leeden, Director
Rates, Revenues and Tariffs
555 W. Fifth Street, GT14D6
Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011

**Subject: Request to Establish a Natural Gas Appliance Testing (NGAT)
Memorandum Account**

Dear Mr. van der Leeden:

Advice Letter 4004 is rejected per Resolution G-3441.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Julie A. Fitch".

Julie A. Fitch, Director
Energy Division



Ronald van der Leeden
Director
Rates, Revenues & Tariffs

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July 24, 2009

Advice No. 4004
(U 904 G)

Public Utilities Commission of the State of California

Subject: Request to Establish a Natural Gas Appliance Testing (NGAT) Memorandum Account

Southern California Gas Company (SoCalGas) hereby submits for approval by the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) revisions to its tariffs, applicable throughout its service territory, as shown on Attachment B.

Purpose

This filing requests authority from the Commission to establish a Natural Gas Appliance Testing Memorandum Account (NGATMA) to track costs associated with implementing Decision (D.) 08-11-031, the 2009-2011 Low Income Energy Efficiency (LIEE) and California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) Decision. The function of the NGATMA is to track the LIEE-related NGAT costs that are not currently in base rates until those costs are reviewed by the Commission and authorized for recovery through base rates in SoCalGas' next general rate case (GRC).

Background

In D.07-12-051, the Commission expanded its policy direction for the LIEE program by considering LIEE as an energy resource program. D.07-12-051 adopted a programmatic initiative to provide all eligible customers the opportunity to participate in the LIEE program and to offer those who wish to participate all cost-effective energy efficiency measures in their residences by 2020.

D.08-11-031 authorized SoCalGas' LIEE program plans and budget consistent with achieving the Commission's programmatic initiative. D.08-11-031 approved approximately \$1 billion in energy-related low income programs for the four investor-owned utilities (IOUs) for 2009-2011. The Commission, in the decision, reiterated its intent that the LIEE program "evolve into a resource program that garners significant energy savings in our state while providing an improved quality of life for California's low income population"¹.

¹ D.08-11-031 (p. 2)

In order to promote the strategic direction of the program, D.08-11-031 set aggressive LIEE goals to support its programmatic initiative. SoCalGas' GRC D.08-07-046 authorized SoCalGas \$1.6 million² a year for related NGAT expenses based on an assumption that 45,500³ of the homes to be treated each year would receive NGAT. D.08-11-031, however, set aggressive goals for the number of homes to be treated through the LIEE program in order to meet the Commission's programmatic initiative and directed SoCalGas to treat an average of 133,400 homes⁴ per year during the 2009-2011 program cycle. Based on historical averages, SoCalGas estimates that 90% of the low income households to be treated during 2009-2011 will receive NGAT. For SoCalGas, this represents an average of 120,000 homes (90% of 133,400) – an increase of over 160% per year over the homes authorized in SoCalGas' last GRC. As a result, at the estimated unit price of \$35/home, SoCalGas anticipates that costs will increase by an average of approximately \$2.6 million annually for 2009-2011 to support this initiative.

Further, D.08-11-031 reiterated the Commission's prior clarifications that NGAT is a basic utility service, since promoting customer safety is a general utility function. The Commission confirmed that NGAT is not an appropriate expenditure for LIEE funds and IOUs should be performing this vital safety testing using funding from general rates.

Tariff Changes

In support of the Commission's programmatic initiative and in accordance with the orders and decisions noted above, SoCalGas is revising its Preliminary Statement to establish the Natural Gas Appliance Testing Memorandum Account (NGATMA). This account will track incremental NGAT expenses incurred as a result of the aggressive program goals imposed by D.08-11-031. Costs will be tracked in the NGATMA until those costs are reviewed by the Commission and authorized for recovery through base rates in SoCalGas' next GRC or in a separate proceeding initiated by a formal application.

This filing will not increase any rate or charge, cause the withdrawal of service, or conflict with any rate schedule or rule.

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 received within 20 days of the date of 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) and Honesto Gatchalian (inj@cpuc.ca.gov) of the Energy Division. A copy

² A.06-12-009, Joint Settlement Comparison Exhibit, Exhibit SCG-302 (p.61-62); 45,500 homes at \$35/home

³ A.06-12-009, See Prepared Direct Testimony of Phillip Baker (p. PEB-A1)

<http://www2.sdge.com/grc/dec082006/scg/testimonies/Exh.8P.BakerC.S.I.pdf>

⁴ D.08-11-031, Attachment H (2009: 110,864; 2010: 143,540; 2011: 145,874)

of the protest shall 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

Effective Date

SoCalGas believes that this filing is subject to Energy Division disposition and should be classified as Tier 2 (effective after staff approval) pursuant to GO 96-B. Therefore, SoCalGas respectfully requests that this advice letter become effective August 23, 2009, which is 30 calendar days after the date filed.

Notice

A copy of this advice letter is being sent to the parties listed on Attachment A, which includes the parties in A.08-05-025, SoCalGas' Low-Income Assistance Programs and Budgets for Program Years 2009-2011.

Ronald van der Leeden
Director
Rates, Revenues & 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 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) #: 4004

Subject of AL: Request to Establish a Natural Gas Appliance Testing (NGAT) Memorandum Account

Keywords (choose from CPUC listing): LIEE, Memorandum Account

AL filing type: Monthly Quarterly Annual One-Time Other

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

D.08-11-031, D.07-12-051

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: 8/23/09

No. of tariff sheets: 4

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: Preliminary Statement Part VI and TOCs

Service affected and changes proposed¹: N/A

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

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

Southern California Gas Company

Attention: Sid Newsom

555 West 5th Street, GT14D6

Los Angeles, CA 90013-1011

SNewsom@semprautilities.com

¹ Discuss in AL if more space is needed.

ATTACHMENT A

Advice No. 4004

(See Attached Service Lists)

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ATTACHMENT B
Advice No. 4004

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Cancelling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Revised 44857-G	PRELIMINARY STATEMENT - PART VI - MEMORANDUM ACCOUNTS, DESCRIPTION AND LISTING OF MEMORANDUM ACCOUNTS, Sheet 1	Revised 43307-G***
Original 44858-G	PRELIMINARY STATEMENT - PART VI - MEMORANDUM ACCOUNTS, NATURAL GAS APPLIANCE TESTING MEMORANDUM ACCOUNT (NGATMA)	
Revised 44859-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 44856-G
Revised 44860-G	TABLE OF CONTENTS	Revised 43408-G***

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT - PART VI - MEMORANDUM ACCOUNTS
DESCRIPTION AND LISTING OF MEMORANDUM ACCOUNTS

Sheet 1

A. GENERAL

Memorandum accounts are special accounts authorized by the Commission for the purpose of tracking certain costs and revenues. Please refer to each individual memorandum account description for the specific accounting treatment applicable to each account.

B. LISTING OF MEMORANDUM ACCOUNTS

- PCB Expense Account (PCBEA)
- Research Development and Demonstration Expense Account (RDDEA)
- Curtailement Violation Penalty Account (CVPA)
- Economic Practicality Shortfall Memorandum Account (EPSMA)
- Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA)
- Vernon Avoided Distribution Cost Memorandum Account (VADCMA)
- Vernon Rate Savings Memorandum Account (VRSMA)
- Vernon Negotiated Core Contract Memorandum Account (VNCCMA)
- Research Royalty Memorandum Account (RRMA)
- NGV Research Development & Demonstration Memorandum Account (RDDNGV)
- Intervenor Award Memorandum Account (IAMA)
- Z Factor Account (ZFA)
- Wheeler Ridge Firm Access Charge Memorandum Account (WRFACMA)
- Gas Industry Restructuring Memorandum Account (GIRMA)
- Self-Generation Program Memorandum Account (SGPMA)
- Baseline Memorandum Account (BMA)
- Blythe Operational Flow Requirement Memorandum Account (BOFRMA)
- Cost of Service Revenue Requirement Memorandum Account (COSRRMA)
- FERC Settlement Proceeds Memorandum Account (FSPMA)
- Late Payment Charge Memorandum Account (LPCMA)
- San Diego Gas & Electric Storage Memorandum Account (SDGESMA)
- Gain/Loss On Sale Memorandum Account (GLOSMA)
- Affiliate Transfer Fee Account (ATFA)
- Firm Access and Storage Rights Memorandum Account (FASRMA)
- Otay Mesa System Reliability Memorandum Account (OMSRMA)
- General Rate Case Revenue Requirements Memorandum Account (GRCRRMA)
- 2009-2011 Energy Efficiency Memorandum Account (EEMA)
- System Reliability Memorandum Account (SRMA)
- Natural Gas Appliance Testing Memorandum Account (NGATMA)

N

(TO BE INSERTED BY UTILITY)
 ADVICE LETTER NO. 4004
 DECISION NO. 08-11-031

ISSUED BY
Lee Schavrien
 Senior Vice President
 Regulatory Affairs

(TO BE INSERTED BY CAL. PUC)
 DATE FILED Jul 24, 2009
 EFFECTIVE _____
 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.

GENERAL

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.

Title Page	40864-G
Table of Contents--General and Preliminary Statement	44859-G,44860-G,44266-G
Table of Contents--Service Area Maps and Descriptions	41970-G
Table of Contents--Rate Schedules	44850-G,44851-G,44855-G
Table of Contents--List of Cities and Communities Served	40149.1-G
Table of Contents--List of Contracts and Deviations	40149.1-G
Table of Contents--Rules	43402-G,43403-G
Table of Contents--Sample Forms	44715-G,44339-G,44340-G,44441-G,44442-G

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT

Part I General Service Information	37917-G,24332-G,24333-G,24334-G,24749-G
Part II Summary of Rates and Charges	44830-G,44831-G,44832-G,44833-G,44220-G,44834-G 44853-G,43595-G,43596-G,44041-G,44803-G,44804-G,44224-G,44225-G
Part III Cost Allocation and Revenue Requirement	27024-G,37920-G,27026-G,27027-G,44226-G
Part IV Income Tax Component of Contributions and Advances	44448-G,24354-G
Part V Balancing Accounts	
Description and Listing of Balancing Accounts	43687-G
Purchased Gas Account (PGA)	44460-G
Core Fixed Cost Account (CFCA)	42242-G
Noncore Fixed Cost Account (NFCA)	44461-G
Enhanced Oil Recovery Account (EORA)	42244-G
Noncore Storage Balancing Account (NSBA)	44191-G,44192-G
California Alternate Rates for Energy Account (CAREA)	40872-G,40873-G
Brokerage Fee Account (BFA)	40874-G
Hazardous Substance Cost Recovery Account (HSCRA)	40875-G, 40876-G,40877-G
Natural Gas Vehicle Account (NGVA)	43688-G,40879-G
El Paso Turned-Back Capacity Balancing Account (EPTCBA)	40880-G
Gas Cost Rewards and Penalties Account (GCRPA)	40881-G
Pension Balancing Account (PBA)	43689-G,43690-G

(Continued)

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 EFFECTIVE _____
 RESOLUTION NO. _____

TABLE OF CONTENTS

(Continued)

PRELIMINARY STATEMENT (Continued)

Part V Balancing Accounts (Continued)

Research Development and Demonstration Gas Surcharge Account (RDDGSA) 40888-G
 Demand Side Management Balancing Account (DSMBA) 41152-G,41153-G
 Direct Assistance Program Balancing Account (DAPBA) 40890-G
 California Solar Initiative Balancing Account (CSIBA) 41104-G
 Integrated Transmission Balancing Account (ITBA) 42487-G
 Compressor Station Fuel and Power Balancing Account (CFPBA) 43693-G
 Distribution Integrity Management Program Balancing Account (DIMPBA) 43694-G
 Rewards and Penalties Balancing Account (RPBA) 43695-G

Part VI Memorandum Accounts

Description and Listing of Memorandum Accounts 44857-G
 PCB Expense Account (PCBEA) 40893-G
 Research Development and Demonstration Expense Account (RDDEA) 43697-G
 Curtailment Violation Penalty Account (CVPA) 40895-G
 Economic Practicality Shortfall Memorandum Account (EPSMA) 40896-G
 Catastrophic Event Memorandum Account (CEMA) 40897-G,40898-G
 Vernon Avoided Distribution Cost Memorandum Account (VADCMA) 40899-G
 Vernon Rate Savings Memorandum Account (VRSMA) 40900-G
 Vernon Negotiated Core Contract Memorandum Account (VNCCMA) 40901-G
 Research Royalty Memorandum Account (RRMA) 43698-G
 NGV Research Development & Demonstration Memorandum Account (RDDNGV) 43699-G
 Intervenor Award Memorandum Account (IAMA) 40904-G
 Z Factor Account (ZFA) 40905-G
 Wheeler Ridge Firm Access Charge Memorandum Account (WRFACMA) 40906-G
 Gas Industry Restructuring Memorandum Account (GIRMA) 40907-G,40908-G,40909-G
 Self-Generation Program Memorandum Account (SGPMA) 41105-G
 Baseline Memorandum Account (BMA) 40911-G
 Blythe Operational Flow Requirement Memorandum Account (BOFRMA) 43410-G
 Cost of Service Revenue Requirement Memorandum Account (COSRRMA) 40913-G
 FERC Settlement Proceeds Memorandum Account (FSPMA) 40914-G
 Late Payment Charge Memorandum Account (LPCMA) 43700-G
 Gain/Loss on Sale Memorandum Account (GLOSMA) 42133-G
 Affiliate Transfer Fee Account (ATFA) 40919-G
 Firm Access and Storage Rights Memorandum Account (FASRMA) 43308-G
 Otay Mesa System Reliability Memorandum Account (OMSRMA) 42004-G
 General Rate Case Revenue Requirements Memorandum Account (GRCRRMA) 43701-G
 2009-2011 Energy Efficiency Memorandum Account (EEMA) 44000-G
 System Reliability Memorandum Account (SRMA) 43310-G
 Natural Gas Appliance Testing Memorandum Account (NGATMA) 44858-G

(Continued)

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