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July 22, 2004

ADVICE LETTER 1603-E/1463-G
(U902-M)

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

SUBJECT: CARE AUTOMATIC ENROLLMENT

San Diego Gas & Electric Company (SDG&E) hereby submits the following revisions applicable to its electric and gas tariffs, as shown on the enclosed Attachments A & B, respectively.

PURPOSE

The purpose of this advice letter is to make revisions to the Special Conditions reflected in SDG&E's electric residential Rate Schedule DR-LI and in residential gas Rate Schedule GR-LI. These revisions are being made in order to clarify program requirements for customers enrolled in SDG&E's California Alternate Rates for Energy (CARE) program through the automatic enrollment (AE) process. SDG&E's CARE program provides a 20% rate discount on eligible customers' bills.

BACKGROUND

In Decision (D.) 02-07-033, the California Public Utilities Commission (Commission) ordered a CARE AE program¹ whereby customers are to be automatically enrolled in the utility's CARE program by virtue of their participation in other public assistance programs—i.e., Medi-Cal; Women, Infants and Children (WIC); Healthy Families; and Low Income Home Energy Assistance (LIHEAP). These agencies were chosen because they provide public assistance to customers with eligibility requirements that most closely match the CARE income requirements of 175% of the federal poverty guidelines. These partner agencies require eligible customers to complete an application on the number of household members, amount and sources of household income and require proof of income prior to enrollment. Due to the similarities of the program requirements, the Commission determined that customers currently enrolled in the partner agency programs should be automatically enrolled in the utility's CARE program without the need to fill out an additional application for CARE.

¹ The CARE automatic enrollment program was adopted by the Commission for customers of Pacific Gas & Electric Company, Southern California Edison Company, Southern California Gas Company and San Diego Gas & Electric Company.

In a May 5, 2004 Assigned Commissioner's Ruling, the Commission notified the utilities that it intended to move forward with AE with one agency, the Department of Community Services and Development (DCSD), which administers the LIHEAP program. At this time, implementation of CARE AE with the other state agencies is on hold.

The Commission will administer the agency data exchange by providing the utilities with a list of eligible customers on a quarterly basis (starting in May) which is to be matched with utility customer information for AE in CARE. For those customers where there is a match on the bill account but not a match on the customer last name, SDG&E will send the household a CARE application. For those customers where the last name and bill account do match, a letter will be sent to the customer indicating they will be enrolled in CARE unless they opt out of the program. Customers have 30 days to inform the utility that they do not want to participate in the CARE program. SDG&E is revising its tariffs to include these program requirements.

More specifically, SDG&E is revising its tariffs to reflect that: (1) customers will be enrolled in the utility's CARE program for a period of two years based upon their participation in the Commission's AE program with partner agencies, (2) recertification of CARE AE customers will occur every two years, (3) prior to enrollment, customers qualified for CARE through the AE program will receive a letter from the utility indicating how they can choose not to be enrolled in CARE, and (4) customers enrolled through AE are not subject to the income verification process under the utility's traditional CARE program requirements.

This filing will not increase any rates or charges, conflict with any schedules or rules, or cause the withdrawal of service.

EFFECTIVE DATE

In accordance with Section V.A. of General Order 96-A, SDG&E respectfully requests that this filing become effective on August 31, 2004, which is 40 calendar days after the date filed.

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 was filed with the Commission. There is no restriction on who may file a protest. The address for mailing or delivering a protest to the Commission is:

Energy Division - IMC Branch
California Public Utilities Commission
505 Van Ness Avenue, Room 4002
San Francisco, CA 94102

Copies of the protest should also be sent via e-mail to the attention of both Jerry Royer (jrr@cpuc.ca.gov) and to Honesto Gatchalian (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: Monica Wiggins
Regulatory Tariff Manager
8330 Century Park Court, Room 32D
San Diego, CA 92123-1548
Facsimile No. (858) 654-1788
E-mail: mwiggins@semprautilities.com

NOTICE

In accordance with Section III-G of General Order 96-A, a copy of this filing has been served on the utilities and interested parties shown on the attached list, including interested parties in R.04-01-006 by either providing them a copy electronically or by mailing them a copy hereof properly stamped and addressed.

Address changes should be directed to Christina Sondrini by facsimile at (858) 654-1788 or by e-mail to csondrini@semprautilities.com.

J. STEVE RAHON
Director – Tariffs & Regulatory Accounts

(cc list enclosed)

ATTACHMENT
ADVICE LETTER 1603-E

Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.	Title of Sheet	Canceling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No.
Revised 17200-E	SCHEDULE DR-LI, DOMESTIC SERVICE - CARE Program, Sheet 2	Revised 17124-E Revised 16805-E
Revised 17201-E	SCHEDULE DR-LI, DOMESTIC SERVICE - CARE Program, Sheet 3	Revised 17124-E
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Advice Ltr. No. 1603-E

Decision No. _____

Issued by
Lee Schavrien
Vice President
Regulatory Affairs

Date Filed Jul 22, 2004

Effective _____

Resolution No. _____

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ATTACHMENT
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SCHEDULE GR-LI

DOMESTIC NATURAL GAS SERVICE - CARE PROGRAM

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

- 1. Low-Income Household. A Low-Income Household is a household where the total annual gross income from all sources is no more than what is shown on the table below based on the number of persons living in the household. The combined income of all persons from all sources, both taxable and non-taxable, shall be no more than:

Number of Persons Living in Household	Total Annual Gross Income
1 or 2	\$23,400
3	\$27,500
4	\$33,100
5	\$38,700
6	\$44,300

For Households with more than six persons, add \$5,600 for each additional person. These annual gross income levels have been established pursuant to the Commission's Universal Lifeline Telephone Service (ULTS) Program guidelines and are subject to revision subsequent to the Commission's communication of new levels no later than May 1 of each year.

- 2. Application and Eligibility Declaration. An application and eligibility declaration on a form authorized by the Commission is required for each request for service under this schedule, unless the customer is to be automatically enrolled based upon their participation in the Commission's approved CARE automatic enrollment (AE) partner agency program adopted in D.02-07-033. Customers are enrolled in CARE for a period of two years after which time renewal of a customer's eligibility is required. Customers are only eligible to receive service under this rate at one residential location at any one time and the rate applies only to a customer's permanent primary residence. This schedule is not applicable where, in the opinion of the utility, either the accommodation or the occupancy is transient. T
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- 3. Commencement of Rate. Eligible customers shall be billed on this schedule commencing no more than one billing period after receipt of the application by the utility. Customers eligible through AE will receive a letter from the utility indicating that they will be enrolled in the program unless they choose to opt out from being enrolled on CARE. Customers choosing not to opt out will be provided the CARE rate discount no more than one billing period after a 30-day opt out period. T
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- 4. Verification. Information provided by the applicant is subject to verification by the utility. Refusal or failure of a customer to provide documentation of eligibility acceptable to the utility, upon request by the utility, shall result in removal from this rate schedule. Customers enrolled through the AE process are excluded from the utility's income verification process. T
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- 5. Notice From Customer. It is the customer's responsibility to notify the utility if there is a change in his eligibility status.
- 6. Rebiling. Customers may be rebilled for periods of ineligibility under the applicable rate schedule.
- 7. Combined Rates. This schedule may not be combined with any other rate schedules.
- 8. Baseline Rates. Baseline rates are applicable only to separately metered residential usage.

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