SoCalGas reduces rates by $61 million

As a result of three recent decisions by the California Public Utilities Commission, SoCalGas reduced its rates by $61 million annually.

The new rates became effective Monday, Jan. 15.

The decreases are the net result of final decisions by the PUC on the following:

- the company's 1990 general rate case (the first in five years for SoCalGas);
- the 1989 Annual Cost Allocation Proceeding (ACAP), a new rate proceeding. The ACAP sets rates as a result of the PUC allocating non-gas costs between core and noncore markets and adopting official forecasts of gas costs and the volume of gas traveling through the gas company's system; and
- last month's PUC authorization of a 13% return on common equity for 1990. Return on equity is the percentage rate earned by the company's shareholders.

As a result, the average residential bill -- representing monthly consumption of 53 therms of gas -- increased from $27.33 to $29.33.

The average rate for small commercial customers will rise by 9.7%. For industrial customers, the rate will decrease by 29.1%, and for wholesale customers, the average rate will decrease by 2.2%. (See box at right for a further breakdown on rates.)

These changes reflect the PUC's policy of recent years to bring the rates of each customer class more in line with the actual cost of serving them.

"In the general rate case decision, the PUC affirmed our operating plan for 1990 and supported the company on most issues critical to the company's operations," said Roy Rawlings, vice president of regulatory affairs.

"Compared to the proposed ACAP decision, the final decision represents a number of improvements, from the company's point of view," he added. "The decision provides SoCalGas an improved opportunity to at least recover the costs of company operations allocated to the noncore market."

The PUC authorized virtually all of SoCalGas' proposed capital spending budget for 1990 and the same level of capital spending for the 1991 and 1992 taxation allowances, as proposed by SoCalGas.

"The good results of this case are due to the outstanding efforts of the employees involved in preparing and presenting it," said Dave Follett, manager of state energy affairs. "Our request included an $85 million productivity gain, which reflects well on all employees."

Another change in what residential customers pay for gas service is a $5 fee for establishing new service, which SoCalGas began charging this month. Customers who call SoCalGas to initiate gas service will, in most cases, be charged the fee. The charge will appear on the customer's first monthly bill. Customer services representatives will explain the fee when taking the customer's service order.

Rate changes by customer class

(Decreases shown in parentheses)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>CORE CUSTOMERS:</th>
<th>NONCORE CUSTOMERS:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>residential:</td>
<td>utility electric generation: ($66.6 million) (45.3%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>non-residential:</td>
<td>industrial: ($40.8 million) (29.1%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>cogeneration: ($4.6 million) (11.6%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>wholesale: ($2.3 million) (2.2%)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>brokerage fees: $4.0 million N/A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>TOTAL:</td>
<td>($61.1 million) (2.1%)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

(These changes reflect the PUC's policy of recent years to bring the rates of each customer class more in line with the actual cost of serving them.)
Implementing Proposition 65: Mostly 'business as usual'

Three years ago this month, provisions of the Safe Drinking Water and Toxic Enforcement Act -- better known as Proposition 65 -- began to take effect.

Yet, aside from various administrative adjustments and expenses, the wide-ranging mandate required almost no operational changes at SoCalGas.

Proposition 65 consists of two basic mandates. First, it requires that any individual be warned prior to exposing them to substances "known by the state to cause cancer or reproductive toxicity." Second, it forbids discharge of those substances into potential sources of drinking water.

The gas company's existing steps for warning employees easily enveloped the new law's requirements, according to Lyn Berman, supervisor of occupational health in human resources.

These requirements were already being met through the company's hazard communications program, as well as its system of material safety data sheets, Berman says. These sheets inform employees of safety procedures for operating or handling certain items in the workplace.

Similarly, the company needed to take only minor steps to meet the law's specifications for notifying the public, according to Hector Madariaga, manager of environmental engineering and research.

Newspaper ads and bill inserts have informed the public that benzene may be found in unburned natural gas, and that traces of soot and formaldehyde can result from any combustion process, including the burning of natural gas.

SoCalGas has also posted signs warning people entering company premises that they may be exposed to substances listed under Proposition 65, including tobacco smoke.

Regarding the mandate against discharging substances into drinking water, Proposition 65 required no changes at SoCalGas.

"Our discharges conform to agency permit requirements," Madariaga said, "and they do not entail the types of discharges that are prohibited under Proposition 65."

The list of substances applicable to Proposition 65 is updated annually, and it now contains approximately 300 substances. "We monitor the list on a continuous basis," Madariaga said.

SoCalGas to help people come to their census

Now is the time to stand and be counted, and SoCalGas is helping in the effort.

The gas company is lending its support to the federal government's effort to complete the 1990 Census, an accurate count of every person in the United States, by April 1. A new federal census is undertaken every ten years.

"The 1990 Census is a Herculean effort which will profoundly influence the future of every community SoCalGas serves," says SoCalGas Chairman Dick Farmer. "We are proud to help ensure its success."

Among the steps SoCalGas is taking to encourage census participation are displays and hand-outs of multi-language cards at company office counters, reminder messages printed on the back of customer bill envelopes, tape-recorded reminders which will play on telephones whenever customers are placed on hold, and distribution of information through community groups and schools.

"The census is vital to government and business, and anyone who depends on their services," Berman says.

"There are three reasons why people should care about the census. The first is political representation," says Larry Bryant, regional census information officer for the United States Bureau of the Census.

The distribution of seats in the U.S. House of Representatives is based upon the population as revealed by the census. Representation at state and county levels hinges on the census as well.

"Reason number two for supporting the census is money," Bryant says. In 1988 alone $38 billion in federal grant money was distributed based on census population counts.

SoCalGas employees are one of the key efforts being made to encourage participation in the census.

On Feb. 16, hiring by supervisors will be suspended at the close of business. Human resources will refer no further candidates for nonrepresented jobs until March 5.

"The cancellation of old requests will avoid confusion that might have resulted by converting them to the new system," says Steve Bennett, manager of personnel relations and planning in human resources. "Also, it will enable us to have a smooth transition and give everyone an equal opportunity."

Upcoming changes in job consideration procedures will also give employees a clearer picture of nonrepresented non-management jobs that are available.

For the first time, a generic listing of nonrepresented jobs and job request cards are being made available at company bulletin boards systemwide. The jobs will be listed by request number, department and working unit, and the list will reflect positions that are available for consideration although they may not be a current vacancy.

Under the current system, employees write requests for nonrepresented positions will be cancelled and must be resubmitted on company form #4627.

On Feb. 16, all existing job requests for nonrepresented positions will be cancelled and must be resubmitted on company form #4627.

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Employees dig into King memorial project

A small army of SoCalGas employees helped create a living memorial to slain civil rights leader Martin Luther King and marveled that even wet weekend weather failed to douse their spirit. "Rain? No, it didn't rain. There were clouds all over, but the sun shone on us," says Darryl Miller, district manager in Central division. He helped organize more than 250 SoCalGas volunteers to join with 3,000 others citywide in planting nearly 300 trees along Martin Luther King Boulevard in Los Angeles. SoCalGas volunteers came from all corners of the Southland, including Central, South Coastal, West Valley, Foothill, Orange County and North Coastal divisions. "Residents along the route came out of their houses and took part," Miller says. "People were walking around hugging each other and shaking hands. There was something in the air, a feeling of togetherness. Everybody had a warm feeling."

There's no lack of enthusiasm on the can-do team at left. From left (back row) are David Luke, field collector in South Coastal division; Elizabeth Patterson, special investigations representative in West Valley division; Ron Hicks, field services supervisor in North Coastal division; and John Sims, senior instructor in distribution and measurement. In front (from left) are non-employees Virgy Cornelius, Ginny Branch, Darryl Corea and Wendy Cornelius. Commemorative T-shirts, as displayed by Yolanda Gonzalez (below), records control clerk in Central division, were the hit of the day. Each SoCalGas volunteer received one.

Photos by Laurie Metzger

Greg Gratton, appliance service representative in South Coastal division, peaks through the foliage.

Tony Virdone (center), appliance service representative in South Coastal division, gets plenty of help from local youths.

Ellen Parridge-Charles, office operations coordinator in consumer services at Headquarters, gets a lift early in the day.
Division moves

NON-MANAGEMENT
General Clerk-G
Pearl Callahora .......................................................... Inland Empire
#Barrett Johnson ......................................................... Collection Control Clerk-U
#Jeffrey Logan .......................................................... Foothill
#Diana Gonzalez ......................................................... Central
#Rosalind Garay .......................................................... West Valley to South Coastal
Customer Billing Clerk-U
#Juan Solis ............................................................... Information Systems
Customer Service Representative
#Linda Sadler ............................................................. Orange County to Inland Empire
#Mark Reid ................................................................. Headquarters to Central
#Susan Thayer ............................................................ Foothill
#Patience West ........................................................... Orange County
Customer Billing Analyst
#Sandra Chodobish ...................................................... Inland Empire
Customer Contact Representative-Bilingual
#Angela Kocher .......................................................... Orange County
Auto Mechanic
#Terence McGarry .......................................................... West Valley
#Clayton Whitton .......................................................... Central to West Valley
#Mark Berry ............................................................... Headquarters to Central
Appliance Service Representative
#Ray Lacy ................................................................. Inland Empire
#Fred Marquez .......................................................... South Coastal
Crew Leader
#Alfred Munro ............................................................ South Valley
#Gilbert Aguilera .......................................................... Central
#Donald Fleming .......................................................... Central
#Ronald Trujillo .......................................................... Inland Empire
#Douglas Kline .......................................................... Inland Empire
Field Mechanic
#Michael Curtis .......................................................... Orange County
Michael Heredia .......................................................... South Coast to East Valley
#Rodger Vaughn .......................................................... Central
#Stephen Deese .......................................................... North Coastal
#Kevin Veltri .............................................................. South Coastal
Field Service Representative
#Bruce Groover .......................................................... South Coastal
#Gerald Bohne ............................................................ South Coastal
#Linda Nance ............................................................. South Coastal
#Robert Taylor ........................................................... Central
#Scott Smith ............................................................... Central
#Steven Soares ........................................................... South Coastal
#Andrew Laver ........................................................... West Valley
#Robin Baker ............................................................ South Valley
#Jesus Duarte ............................................................ South Coastal
#Howard Roberts ......................................................... West Valley
#David Reid .............................................................. Orange County
Meter Reader
#Ray O'Connor .......................................................... West Valley to Orange County
#Roger Bray .............................................................. West Valley
#Catherine Perez .......................................................... Headquarters to East Valley
#Chris Tamaro ........................................................... Headquarters to East Valley
#Bush Van Houten ....................................................... Headquarters to East Valley
Welder
#Gary LaPrel ............................................................. Foothill
#Larry Dukes .............................................................. West Valley
#Robert Curran .......................................................... South Valley
#Robert Mann ........................................................... South Valley
Field Operator
#Joseph Backes .......................................................... South Basin
Senior Planning Technician
#Robert Audle ............................................................ Foothill
Catholic Protection Mechanic
#Michael Knauer .......................................................... North Coastal to Coastal

MANAGEMENT
Construction Inspector
#Clarence Bonner ....................................................... South Coast to South Basin
Distribution Planning Specialist
#Elliot Law ................................................................. Headquarters to South Coastal
#Nina Strymarck ......................................................... Headquarters to Central
Distribution Clerical Support Specialist
#Andre Williams .......................................................... North Coastal
Personnel Services Supervisor
#Ronald Cowan .......................................................... Orange County
Distribution Construction Supervisor
#George Flynn ........................................................... Orange County
#Quintino Estrada ....................................................... Inland Empire
Field Instructor
#Robert Williams .......................................................... West Valley
#Robert Cordova .......................................................... Pipeline Planner
#Mary Ellen ............................................................... Headquarters to South Basin
Service Dispatch Supervisor
#Claustra Dodson .......................................................... Inland Empire
#Meter Reading Support Representative
#Rodney Campbell .......................................................... Central
Distribution Office Supervisor
#Louis Poe ................................................................. North Coastal
#Ronald Botta ........................................................... North Basin
#Linda Walters ........................................................... Headquarters to South Coastal
Builder Services Manager
#Irene Wood ............................................................. Headquarters to Central
Accounting Group Supervisor
#Melissa Hiraoka .......................................................... Headquarters to South Basin
Field Service Supervisor
#Henry Ortiz ............................................................. Headquarters to Coastal
#Jack Shive .............................................................. Inland Empire
Office Supervisor
#Margaret Salas .......................................................... Headquarters to Orange County
#Larry Weeks ............................................................ Inland Empire
Office Supervisor
#Lloyd Francis .......................................................... Headquarters to West Valley

#promotions  *temporary assignments

Headquarters moves

NON-MANAGEMENT
Computer Operator-U
#Charles Mahoney ....................................................... Information Systems
#Kathy Kohn ............................................................. Headquarters to Central
#Rose Teng ............................................................... Human Resources
#Maria Mitchell .......................................................... Accounting and Finance
#Spinella ................................................................. Headquarters to Central
Sraphic Records Clerk-U
#Vladimir Valencia ...................................................... Headquarters to Central
#Linda Salas ............................................................. Headquarters to Central
#Cheryl Vickers .......................................................... Headquarters to South Coastal
#Gilbert Cortales .......................................................... Headquarters to South Coastal
#Scotia Reyman .......................................................... Headquarters to South Coastal
#Rita Yabana ............................................................. Headquarters to South Coastal
Manager of Community and Local Relations
#Joseph Kinoshita .......................................................... Headquarters to South Coastal

Computer Systems Analyst
#William Hulett .......................................................... Engineering and Research
#John Hess ............................................................... Distribution and Measurement
#George Luter ............................................................ Distribution and Measurement
#Richard Coker .......................................................... Accounting and Finance
#Dave Smith ............................................................. Headquarters to South Coastal

#promotions  *temporary assignments

Field Operations Instructor
#James Noon .............................................................. Distribution and Measurement
#Charles Trinkle .......................................................... Distribution and Measurement
#Melvin Tufo ............................................................. Distribution and Measurement
#Marjorie Schmidt-Prina .................................................. Gas Supply
#Donna Bundy ........................................................... Distribution and Measurement
#Debra Morris ........................................................... Office Specialist
#John Smith .............................................................. Distribution and Measurement
#Gary Guernsey .......................................................... Distribution and Measurement
#Steve Curran ........................................................... Distribution and Measurement
#Bob Young .............................................................. Distribution and Measurement
#Mike Roberts ........................................................... Distribution and Measurement
#Sandra DeWalker .......................................................... Industrial Services Representative
#Leon Cole .............................................................. Consumer Services
#Customer Information Specialist
#Jennifer Johnson .......................................................... Consumer Services
#Lydia Lien ............................................................. Consumer Services
#Material Specialist
#Luis Mendez ........................................................... Distribution and Measurement
#Brenda Fitzpatrick .......................................................... Information Systems
#Rene Salas ............................................................. Engineering and Research
#Roberto Del Real .......................................................... Consumer Services
#Mail Payment Supervisor
#Linda Ellis ............................................................. Information Systems
Residential Services Representative
#Stefan De Leon .......................................................... Consumer Services
Planning Instructor
#John Hudson ............................................................ Distribution and Measurement
Gas News Page 4
#promotions  *temporary assignments

Hazardous Materials Regulations Analyst
#William Hulett .......................................................... Engineering and Research
#John Hess ............................................................... Distribution and Measurement
#CPUC Coordination Administrator
#Petra Catalano .......................................................... Regulatory Affairs
#Electric Energy Analyst
#Stephen Scoring .......................................................... Planning
#Senior Drilling Engineer
#Stephen Robinson .......................................................... Transmission and Storage
#Senior Gas Acquisition Administrator
#Maurice Barney .......................................................... Gas Supply
#General Accounting Supervisor
#Stephen Kan ............................................................. Accounting and Finance
#Drilling Superintendent
#Bret Lane ............................................................... Transmission and Storage
#Manager of Community and Local Government Relations
#Earl Plummer ........................................................... Public Affairs
#Manager of Energy Studies
#Ann Smith ............................................................... Planning
#Financial Forecast Analyst
#Terri Kinoshita .......................................................... Accounting and Finance
#Computer Systems Analyst
#Rollen Nakagawa .......................................................... Information Systems
#Information Systems Specialist
#Ian McDaniels .......................................................... Information Systems
#Data Communications Specialist
#Wolfgang Schoen .......................................................... Information Systems
#Joseph Kerner .......................................................... Information Systems

#promotions  *temporary assignments
JOBS: New procedure (continued from page 2)

memos requesting consideration for nonrepresented jobs. But those employees have had to rely on word of mouth to know which positions were available for consideration. Also, their memos have not always included all of the information needed to efficiently carry out their requests.

"The present job request procedure is inefficient," says Bennett. "The primary advantages of the new request procedure are that employees will have more information about nonrepresented jobs, and the job request cards will be easy to fill out, while providing all the necessary information."

The new nonrepresented job list will be in a green cover, similar to the systemwide job bid list. The job request card is yellow to readily distinguish it from the blue job bid card, which is used to bid for represented jobs. The new card and list will be available on Feb. 16. Employees may begin submitting new requests on that date. The combined number of job requests or job bids per employee may not exceed 15.

Supervisors' hiring procedures will be unaffected by the changes. Employees with questions on the new policy should call employee placement at ext. 689-2263.

SoCal Faces

GasNews is published biweekly for Gloria Harmon and other employees and retirees of SoCalGas. Harmon, a special collections representative in San Joaquin Valley division, began her career with the gas company in 1956.
Employee classified ads

Next ad deadline: 10 a.m., Tues., Jan. 30.
Limit: 25 words. Mail to: M.L. 111K.

Autos for sale

* Nissan Maxima, 4-cyl, 100,000 miles, air conditioning, automatic, sunroof, AM/FM radio, power steering, power brakes, new tires, catalytic converter, must see to believe, $1,500. Mike C. (714) 487-3050.


* Chevrolet Nova, 4-cyl, auto, run good, 1,300 miles. Bill Weeks. (213) 560-9555 or 953-5512.

* Chevrolet Citation, 2-door auto, runs good, $1,300. Black Walls. (213) 467-2100 or 975-7184.

* Buick Wildcat. clean. $1,500 obo. Bill Webb. (213) 467-2100 or 975-7184.

* Mitsubishi Starion, 2-door auto, runs good, $1,500. Brian B. (818) 243-1377.


* Xerox model 760 electronic printing system, multiple product computer controlled, high performance, graphics processor, communications & color printer, $2,500. Roger Hall. (213) 722-1777, ext. 4-5. Sale price.

* Oceanfront, beach home. 2 beds, 2 baths, fireplace, ocean view, pool, 7 miles from Disneyland, $61,900. Linda Molle. (714) 292-5959.

* San Felipe, 2-bdrm home near Snow Summit ski resort & village, fully furnished, sleeps 6, $13,500. Joyce Amador. (714) 894-1557.

* Rose Dillon, 2,938 sq ft. 3-bdrm, 2-bath, new, equipped. $275,000. Karen Casey. (714) 243-4394. exterior, brick


* Millie Bohn, (213) 698-5536.

* Bathroom, 2-bdrm home near Bear Lake. 2.5 miles from town, sleeps 6, completely equipped, $650 per week. Patsy S. (714) 632-3751.

* Palm Springs area, 4-bdrm, 3-ba, fully furnished, 3-car, pool, all new. $100,000. B. Muller. (818) 465-1519.

* Black Bear, 3-bdrm home on Bear Mt. ski trail access, fully furnished, sleeps 10, $120,000. Joe Thompson. (714) 798-3627.

* San Felipe. 2-bdrm home on the ocean. sleeps 8, completely equipped, $800 per week. Brian B. (818) 243-4394.

* Kona Beach, panoramic ocean view. sleeps 4, daily housekeeping service included, $495 per week. Lori B. (213) 484-2578.

* Big Bear Lake. 2-bdrm home on the lake. sleeps 6, fully furnished, $500 per week. John R. (714) 331-6900.

* Kauai, 2-3 bdrms. new, 3-ba, newly equipped. $160,000. Patsy S. (714) 632-3751.

* Coronado Islands, dragonfly, windsock, poinsettia. For sale.


* San Diego, 2-bdrm home on the ocean. sleeps 6, completely equipped, $1,200 per week. Brian B. (818) 243-4394.

* 3-bed room on the ocean. sleeps 6, completely equipped, $1,200 per week. Brian B. (818) 243-4394.

* Banana Bread. 2,938 sq ft. 3-bdrm, 2-bath, new, equipped. $275,000. Karen Casey. (714) 243-4394.
We're branching out... ...thanks to your help!

We would be hedging if we didn’t say that many GasNews story ideas stem from your letters and phone calls! We want to acknowledge all of you who helped spruce up the paper during the past twelve months with your suggestions. If we left out your name by mistake, please don’t bark! Thank you for keeping GasNews a grass-roots publication!
M. ke Marsha Wade recently became the first Peace Officer’s Assn. of Los Angeles County.

BEST FRIENDS — Patrick Smith, field service representative in East Valley division, gives granddaughter Kendra some help in an open house coloring contest. The event was held to help celebrate the opening of the division’s new Chino base.

The “General Services Office: Overview” course, used to train more than 200 general services office clerks and accounting personnel in the past year, has received an award for outstanding achievement in performance improvement from the Los Angeles Chapter of the National Society for Performance and Instruction. NSPI is a professional society of instructional designers and writers. The course was produced by video productions, but course content was developed by a special subcommittee encompassing general services, accounting and finance and operations support, according to John Stormes, training support services supervisor in distribution and measurement. SoCalGas backhoes will be safer, thanks to Kris Wieland, crew leader in North Coastal division. Wieland entered the suggestion program, proposing that backhoes be outfitted with rearview mirrors because they are legally authorized to be driven between work stations. All future shipments of 580 backhoes will be equipped with the mirrors and they can be retrofitted onto existing equipment.

People at the Imperial Valley Blind Center can enjoy pleasant lunches outdoors on a new patio, thanks to a dozen employees at Inland Empire division’s El Centro Base. The volunteers pitched in to pour the concrete needed to form the slab. In addition, they’ll submit SoCalGas Volunteer Incentive Program applications to help cover the cost of construction. Employees involved in the project were John Durham, Danny Pattero, Richard Bennett, Warren Adams, Marco Hurtado, Butch Sinka, Joe Fernandez, Jimmy Rodriguez, Steve McClain, Steve Lester, Lloyd Freeman and Joe Montenegro.

Lester, Lloyd Freeman and Joe Montenegro... Bob Nicksin, district manager in West Valley division, recently appeared on a Variety Club Telethon to accept the donation of a van from the Variety Club on behalf of the Options House, a Hollywood shelter for runaway youth. Nicksin is a member of Option House’s board of directors. Barbara Mintzer-Watkins, district manager in West Valley division and a former Options House director, was instrumental in securing the donation... This year’s officers of the East Basin Golf Assn. are Dave Horstman, president; Tony Yap, vice president; Ileana Reyes, secretary; Dale Borhaug, treasurer; Bob Dowell, tournament chairman; Lew Erlenmeyer, assistant tournament chairman; and Kris Pajari, handicap chairman. The association’s next tournament will be held Feb. 3 in Palos Verdes.