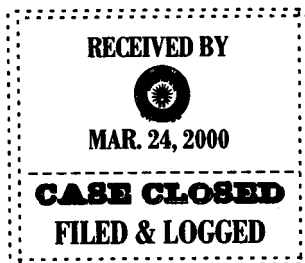




REVIEW COMMITTEE



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
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INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
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BOB CHOATE, SECRETARY

MARGARET A. SHORT, CHAIRMAN

DECISION
LETTER DECISION
PRE-REVIEW REFERRAL

Kern Grievance No. BAK-98-13
Fact Finding No. 6779-98-154
Pre-Review Committee No. 2196

North Valley Grievance No. CHI-98-12
Fact Finding No. 6905-99-063
Pre-Review Committee No. 2234

No. Valley Grievance No. CHI-98-07
Fact Finding No. 6834-98-209
Pre-Review Committee No. 2232

Colgate Grievance No. ETBUN-98-10
Fact Finding No. 6863-99-021
Pre-Review Committee No. 2216

Review Committee Decision No. 1831

JEFF NEELEY
JO ANN PITTMAN
FRED CLARK
MARY COGAN
Company Members
Local Investigating Committee

MIKE GRILL
MICKEY HARRINGTON

Union Members
Local Investigating Committee

Subject of the Grievances

These four cases involve work performed on Time-Of-Use Meters (TOU's). Each alleges assignment to an inappropriate classification.

Facts of the Cases

KERN, PRC 2196

Gas Service Representatives in the Bakersfield area were assigned to remove older single phase residential TOU meters and replace them with newer programmable TOU meters.

Any programming or reprogramming, battery changes, or troubleshooting on these meters was performed by metering classifications at the Fremont Meter Shop. The Gas Service Supervisor testified that such assignments have been made to the GSR's for, at least, the 10 prior years. The Metering Supervisor testified that the Meter Department was involved in installing more sophisticated, higher priority ESP meters (energy service providers).

Union alleged that any work associated with TOU meters should be performed by Metering Systems Technicians.

The RC requested information as to the practices around the system. Many areas for many years have assigned the removal or installation of single phase residential TOU meters to Gas Service Representatives. Additionally, the GSR's negotiated training course includes coverage of installation and removal of all class 200 120/240v 3 wire single phase electric meters, which includes TOU meters.

NORTH VALLEY, PRC 2232

During 1997, ISO meters (Independent System Operator) were installed on the Company's generating facilities. These meters electronically provide generation data through telephone communications lines to the ISO. None of these meters are manually read, however, occasionally they malfunction in which case a probe must be used to take the reading. Roving Operators were trained in the use of this device to take reads, if needed.

The probe looks like a coiled telephone cord with a computer jack on one end; the other end looks like a magnetized silver dollar which matches, and attaches to a ring on the meter plate. The probe is attached to a lap top computer to download the information to a file which can then be sent as an email attachment to the ISO.

Roving Operators have historically taken manual reads of kwh meters within all the Hydro powerhouses. These manual reads were forwarded to a switching center System Operator who in turn reported the data to the System Dispatcher.

The Review Committee took testimony telephonically from the system-wide Metering Director who shared that ISO meters are not traditional revenue meters and the information is used to manage system loads. Because these meters are not utilized for billing customers similar meters have been historically managed by the organizations where the meters were installed.

This grievance claims that these reads should have been taken by Senior Meter Systems Technicians.

NORTH VALLEY, PRC 2234

This case is similar to the Kern case, PRC 2196, in that the Union alleges a contractual violation by using GSR's instead of Meter Systems Technicians to install TOU meters. However, this case also alleges contracting out of bargaining unit work in that the programming of the newly installed meters occurred at the manufacturer prior to installation rather than being programmed by the MST when installed.

Prior to the mid-1990's Company ordered single phase residential TOU meters without any billing rates programmed into the meters. The manufacturer would test each meter to verify its operation, then a Metering Department classification would install an E-7 rate program into the meter. However, since approximately April 1998, the Company has been ordering meters with the E-7 rate schedule and new batteries already installed in the meters. The Metering Department checks upon delivery to ensure the functioning of the meters, then the meters are installed at customer residences by Gas Service Representatives.

COLGATE, PRC 2216

This case concerns the entering of data by an Operating Clerk, Table Mountain, into the RCMS system. The information is provided by an Electrician. Prior to the Operating Clerk performing this task, a light duty Electrician was assigned the work. When the Electrician bid to an Assistant Foreman's Clerk position, Company assigned the data input work to an Operating Clerk. The Company cited three, and there are perhaps more, Operating Clerical benchmark duty statements from the jointly negotiated Job Evaluation System which pertain to the use of personal computers for entering data to provide documents, reports, etc. If the information to be entered is technical or requires some interpretation, then it is input by the Electrician.

The Review Committee also was made aware of another grievance filed in another headquarters where the Electricians were grieving that the data entry was clerical work and should be so assigned. That case was settled granting the correction requested (non-precedential level).

Discussion

The Review Committee noted in PRC 2196 and 2234 that single phase residential TOU meters have been installed for many years by GSR's, that they are just another type of electric meter that fall well within the job definition of a GSR. Maintenance or troubleshooting associated with the TOU meters is work for the Metering classifications. Company's purchase of more updated preprogrammed TOU meters is not work contracted.

Taking the reading of the ISO meters by Roving Operators in PRC 2232 using a probe involves utilizing a new tool to perform historical work. It should also be noted that this is work that occurs very rarely since it is only necessary when the normal procedure fails.

Finally, the inputting of information into a Company database in PRC 2216 is not work exclusive to any classification. Many people/classifications have occasion to enter appropriate information into various systems. The Operating Clerk, in this case, takes information provided by the Electrician and enters it to the system, playing no part in the gathering or interpreting of that information.

Decision

The Review Committee discussed these cases at length being sensitive to the changing technology in metering and trying to balance the interest of the Company to manage the business and the interest of the Union in job protection in these cases. After all the discussion, the Review Committee determined there was no violation of the Agreement. These cases are closed without adjustment.

For the Company:

Margaret A. Short
Ernie Boutte
Steve Itano
Dave Morris

For the Union:

Bob Choate
William R. Bouzek
Ed Dwyer
Sherrick A. Slattery

By: Margaret Short

Date: 3/22/00

By: Bob Choate

Date: 3/22/00