



REVIEW COMMITTEE



PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
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**CASE CLOSED
FILED & LOGGED**

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO
LOCAL UNION 1245, I.B.E.W.
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SALIM A. TAMIMI, SECRETARY

MARGARET A. SHORT, CHAIRMAN

DECISION
LETTER DECISION
PRE-REVIEW REFERRAL

Pre-Review Committee No. 14970 Customer Services – Meter Reading - Bakersfield

Karen Brower
Company Member
Local Investigating Committee

Ed Dwyer
Union Member
Local Investigating Committee

Subject of the Grievance

This case concerns the discharge of a Meter Reader for curbing a meter.

Facts of the Case

On October 14, 2003 Company installed a rebuilt gas meter at a new residence. The set read was 9225. The other gas meters set in this new subdivision were all new with initial reads of 0000. On February 4, 2004 a help ticket was issued to verify the gas meter number and read resulting from a customer high bill inquiry (ECI). On February 5, the Sr. Meter Reader verified the meter number and read the meter at 9284. The Supervisor visited the meter site the following morning to take a picture of the meter. He too read the meter at 9284.

The grievant had read this meter as follows:

- November 14, 2003 0233
- December 15, 2003 0248
- January 15, 2004 0269

For the November and December reads the grievant had to re-verify and reenter the read, not just acknowledge, as the hand-held device beeped because the read he entered was so out of range.

When shown the picture of the meter, the grievant correctly read it at 9284. He was also taken to the meter site to give him an opportunity to provide additional information to explain the reading discrepancy. The grievant indicated he does not curb or three-dial, that the reads he entered are what he saw on the meter. In response to a question, the grievant indicated that if he could not see the last dial, he would enter a missed meter code.

The set read (9225) kicked out of CorDaptix and errored-out to a To Do List. The Stockton Records Center made an Office Estimate read of 9940 on November 5, 2003.

Discussion

This case has been discussed at length several times by the Pre-Review Committee. Union argued the grievant misread the meter and was misled by the Office Estimate read that was loaded into the hand held device. Union also argued the grievant in trying to reconcile what he saw on the meter with the read in the datacap device, determined that the fourth dial (1,000th dial) was slow and should have been on zero, hence his reads.

Company responded that the grievant could not have mistaken the placement of the meter hands as the picture is quite clear that the hand is on the 9. He confirmed that when he correctly read the picture of the meter and when we visited the meter site. For the hand to move from 9 to 0, the dial to the right of it (100's) would have to go around 10 times. If the grievant really thought the hand was slow, he was obligated to note that in the datacap. Further, the grievant entered the wrong read five times when the overrides are considered.

The PRC noted that there are precedent decisions upholding the discharge of Meter Readers for curbing a single meter.

Decision

Based on the facts of this case, the Pre-Review Committee agrees that the discharge was for just cause. This case is closed without adjustment.

Margaret Short

Margaret A. Short, Chairman
Review Committee

8/19/04

Date

S. A. Sabemmar

Sam Tamimi, Secretary
Review Committee

Aug. 19-04

Date