

REVIEW COMMITTEE

PG and E

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
245 MARKET STREET, ROOM 444
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CASE CLOSED
LOGGED AND FILED

FEB 23 1982

IBEW 

INTERNATIONAL BROTHERHOOD OF
ELECTRICAL WORKERS, AFL-CIO
LOCAL UNION 1245, I.B.E.W.
P.O. BOX 4790

February 11, 1982
WALNUT CREEK, CALIFORNIA 94596
(415) 933-6060
R.W. STALCUP, SECRETARY

D.J. BERGMAN, CHAIRMAN

REVIEW COMMITTEE DECISION

- DECISION
 LETTER DECISION
 PRE-REVIEW REFERRAL

Shasta Division Grievance No. 13-124-80-8
Review Committee File No. 1525-81-9

Statement of the Case

This grievance concerns the appropriateness of assigning the setting of large gas meters (over 300 cubic feet per hour) to the Gas Mechanic classification.

Also at issue is whether or not Gas Mechanics can turn on the meter for testing once it is set and make any necessary calibrations or adjustments and then place the set in service.

Facts of the Case

Prior to March 1978, large gas meters were set in Cascade District by several classifications including Light Crew Foreman, M&C Mechanic and Gas Mechanic. In March 1978, the then District Gas Superintendent changed the policy so that the setting of large meters would be performed by M&C Mechanics or other qualified employees upgraded to M&C Mechanic. This policy change was based on the Superintendent's interpretation of the Job Definition of Gas Mechanic which, in part, states: "An employee with the qualifications of a Fitter...." A review of the notes on the Fitter Job Definition, specifically Item A(3) identifies that Fitters are limited to installing or working on meters and regulator sets which do not exceed 300 cubic feet per hour.

On March 11, 1980 a new District Gas Superintendent denied a Gas Mechanic's upgrade to M&C Mechanic after the grievant had set several large meters on that day. Several subsequent requests for upgrade were also denied by the Superintendent on the basis that he disagreed with his predecessor's policy because the Job Definition of Gas Mechanic identifies this classification as a "more highly skilled Fitter" who can perform "all work without direct supervision which a Fitter would do plus those of a more complicated nature".

Discussion

The Review Committee discussed a previous decision in Review Committee Case No. 1492-80-18 and determined that while it had no application in this issue, the Company had surveyed its system practice at that time, and that survey did have application to this case. The survey indicated that using the Gas Mechanic classification to set large gas meters was an accepted practice throughout the system except in the larger metropolitan areas where specialization is a more efficient means of operation.

Also discussed was the Job Definition of Gas Mechanic whereby he could do work more complicated than that of a Fitter, but generally restricted to the work of that particular Line of Progression. In this regard, unless the Gas Mechanic is qualified by schooling and by long experience in the work of the M&C Mechanic classification or that of Serviceman or Service Mechanic, he is to set the meter only and shall not place it in service. This does not mean that the Gas Mechanic cannot turn on the meter set for the purpose of soap testing welds or joints and for gauging the outlet pressure.

Where the Gas Mechanic is qualified by schooling and by long experience in the work of the M&C Mechanic classification or that of the Serviceman or Service Mechanic, he may be required to place the meter set in service; however, when assigned such duties the Gas Mechanic shall be upgraded to the appropriate classification for all time worked at the higher classification. If the Gas Mechanic is not qualified to turn on service, make calibrations or adjustments, or this work is scheduled for another day, then the work will be assigned to a Service Mechanic or M&C Mechanic, whichever is appropriate.

Lastly, the Committee discussed the Company's offer of December 15, 1980 to pay the involved Gas Mechanics at the M&C Mechanic rate of pay for the days in question between March 11, 1980 to December 15 1980.

Decision

It is the decision of the Review Committee that it is appropriate for Company to utilize the classification of Gas Mechanic to set gas meters which exceed 300 cubic feet per hour capacity in accordance with the above discussion. However, the parties agreed that the past practices that may exist at other headquarters that differ from the above are not intended to be changed as a result of this decision.

Further, the Review Committee agreed as an equity settlement to accept the Division's offer, that is, to upgrade the appropriate employee to M&C Mechanic between the period of March 11, 1980 to December 15, 1980 when involved in the installation of large meters.

This case is closed.

FOR COMPANY:

L. C. Beanland
F. C. Buchholz
J. B. Stoutamore
D. J. Bergman

By _____

Date _____

2-11-82

FOR UNION:

G. W. Abrahamson
W. H. Burr
P. Pelucca
R. W. Stalcup

By _____

Date _____

2-11-82