

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Investigation of)
HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC.)
Regarding the Reliability of the)
Company's System.)
_____)

DOCKET NO. 7049

ORDER NO. 20150

Filed April 24, 2003
At 9:30 o'clock A.M.
Karen Higashi
Chief Clerk of the Commission

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DIV. OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY
DEPT. OF COMMERCE AND
CONSUMER AFFAIRS
STATE OF HAWAII

ATTEST: A True Copy
KAREN HIGASHI
Chief Clerk, Public Utilities
Commission, State of Hawaii.
K. Higashi

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Investigation of)	
HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC.)	Docket No. 7049
Regarding the Reliability of the)	Order No. 20150
Company's System.)	
_____)	

ORDER

I.

By Order No. 11203, filed on July 30, 1991, the commission opened this docket as a result of the situation on the island of Hawaii where customers of HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC. (HELCO) have been suffering from island-wide rolling blackouts, electrical outages and other system interruptions. Specifically, on July 25, 1991, a transformer malfunction at the Keahole power plant interrupted the flow of electricity to certain customers of HELCO, and transmission line difficulties caused a power outage in the Kawaihae area. Further, on July 26, 1991, HELCO instituted island-wide rolling blackouts because, among other possible factors: (1) HELCO's combustion turbine #2 developed a fuel oil problem; and (2) a circuit breaker at the Hilo Coast Processing Company failed to close, requiring the purchased power provider to shut down its operations.

Order No. 11203 also made the DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (Consumer Advocate) a party in this proceeding.

By Order No. 11246, filed on August 29, 1991, the commission granted two motions to intervene, making WAILUKU RIVER HYDROELECTRIC POWER COMPANY, INC., WAIMANA ENTERPRISES, INC., and HAWAIIAN SUGAR PLANTERS' ASSOCIATION parties in this proceeding.

The commission conducted an evidentiary hearing regarding the reliability of HELCO's system on September 16, 17, and 18, 1991 in Hilo, Hawaii, and on July 21, 22, and 24, 1992 in Honolulu, Hawaii. The commission also conducted public hearings in Hilo on October 8, 1991, in Naalehu on October 9, 1991, and in Kailua-Kona on October 10, 1991.

On August 24, 1992, the parties submitted their written memoranda covering certain issues raised by the commission at the evidentiary hearing.

II.

Upon our review of the record, we find that, at this point in time, it would be very arduous for the commission to address and determine any of the issues raised by Order No. 11203 or at the evidentiary hearings. In particular, since the evidentiary hearings on this matter were held over ten years ago, it is quite apparent that the evidence, information, and docket record are now stale and no longer reliable. Moreover, due to the passage of time, the positions and composition of the parties, as set forth in their written briefs submitted in 1992, may have changed as well.¹

¹We do, however, commend the parties for their time and efforts to assist the commission in this investigation.

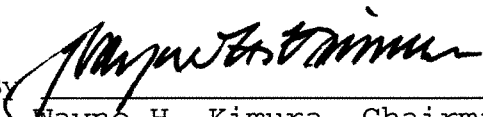
Accordingly, we find that it would no longer be viable, beneficial and in the public interest to continue to investigate this matter and, therefore, conclude that this docket should be closed.

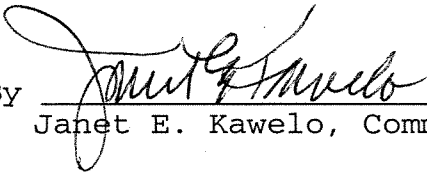
III.

THE COMMISSION ORDERS that this docket is hereby closed.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii this 24th day of April, 2003.


PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

By 
Wayne H. Kimura, Chairman

By 
Janet E. Kawelo, Commissioner

By _____ (RECUSED)
Gregg J. Kinkley, Commissioner

APPROVED AS TO FORM:


Kris N. Nakagawa
Commission Counsel

7049.sl

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing Order No. 20150 upon the following parties, by causing a copy hereof to be mailed, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to each such party.

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Certificate of Service - Continued

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Karen Higashi

DATED: April 24, 2003