BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Application of)
HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC.)

For Approval to Commit Funds )
in Excess of $500,000 for )
Item H0001048, Manini'owali )
Subdivision Phase 1, Installation )
of an Underground Distribution )
System.

ORDER NO. 20883

Filed ________, 2004
At __ o'clock ________ F.M.

Karen Higashi
Chief Clerk of the Commission

ATTEST: A True Copy
KAREN HIGASHI
BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

In the Matter of the Application of)
HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC.) Docket No. 04-0060
)
For Approval to Commit Funds ) Order No. 20883
in Excess of $500,000 for )
Item H0001048, Manini'owali )
Subdivision Phase 1, Installation )
of an Underground Distribution )
System. )

ORDER

I.

Background

HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC. ("HELCO") requests
the commission's approval to commit approximately $573,893 for
Item H0001048, the installation of an underground distribution
system at the Manini'owali Subdivision Phase 1 (the "Project").
HELCO makes its request in accordance with Section 2.3.g.2 of
General Order No. 7 ("G.O. No. 7"), Standards for Electric
Utility Service in the State of Hawaii.

HELCO, by its application and pursuant to
Section 1.2.b, of G.O. No. 7, also seeks a waiver of the
Section 2.3.g.2 requirement that its application "be submitted to
the commission for review at least 60 days prior to the
commencement of construction or commitment for expenditure,
whichever is earlier."

1HELCO's application, filed on March 19, 2004.
HELCO served copies of its application upon the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs, Division of Consumer Advocacy ("Consumer Advocate").

II.

Installation of an Underground Distribution System

The Project involves the installation of an underground distribution system to serve the Manini'owali Subdivision Phase 1 (the "Subdivision"), located at Kaupulehu, North Kona, island of Hawaii. The Project will: (1) initially serve approximately thirty-three (33) lots; and (2) ultimately serve a total of approximately one-hundred twenty (120) lots.

The Developer will fund the Project's entire cost through a cash contribution-in-aid-of-construction (aka CIAC) and customer advance. Construction of HELCO's electrical facilities is expected to commence in November 2004, with completion by February 2005.

The commission's approval of HELCO's waiver by April 2, 2004 will allow it to promptly commence with the inspection of the Subdivision's handholes/manholes and ductlines, consistent with the Developer's service deadlines.
III.

Waiver

The Consumer Advocate does not object to the request for waiver, but reserves the right to state its position with respect to the substance of HELCO's application.2

The commission finds good cause to approve HELCO's request for waiver. HELCO, thus, is permitted to commit funds for the Project earlier than sixty (60) days following the filing of its application.

Concomitantly, the commission notes that this order does not constitute a decision on the merits of HELCO's application. HELCO acknowledges that if the commission does not approve the application, "HELCO will have the burden of proof to justify the reasonableness of the capital expenditures in its next rate case."

IV.

Procedural Schedule

The deadline for commission action on the merits of HELCO's application is on or about June 16, 2004, pursuant to Section 2.3.g.2 of G.O. No. 7. Accordingly, the commission will instruct HELCO and the Consumer Advocate (collectively, the "parties") to submit a procedural order for the commission's review and consideration.3

2HELCO's application, at 4.

3In the event intervenor or participant status is later granted to any interested person, the commission will amend the procedural schedule accordingly, if necessary.
V. 
Orders

THE COMMISSION ORDERS:

1. HELCO's request for a waiver of the Section 2.3.g.2 requirement to file its application at least sixty (60) days prior to the commencement of construction or commitment for expenditure of funds, filed on March 19, 2004, is approved.

2. Within thirty (30) days from the date of this order, the parties shall submit to the commission a stipulated procedural schedule, incorporating their agreed upon schedule with respect to this proceeding. If they are unable to stipulate to such a schedule, each party shall submit a proposed procedural schedule for the commission's consideration by the same date.

DONE at Honolulu, Hawaii this 31st day of March, 2004.

PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF HAWAII

By ________

Carlito P. Caliboso, Chairman

APPROVED AS TO FORM:

Michael Azama
Commission Counsel

04-0060.sl
CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this date served a copy of the foregoing Order No. 20883 upon the following parties, by causing a copy hereof to be mailed, postage prepaid, and properly addressed to each such party.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS
DIVISION OF CONSUMER ADVOCACY
P. O. Box 541
Honolulu, HI 96809

WARREN H. W. LEE
PRESIDENT
HAWAII ELECTRIC LIGHT COMPANY, INC.
P. O. Box 1027
Hilo, HI 96721-1027

PATSY H. NANBU
DIRECTOR, REGULATORY AFFAIRS
HAWAIIAN ELECTRIC COMPANY, INC.
P. O. Box 2750
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DATED: March 31, 2004

Karen Higashi