

**In reference to Schedule “B”, page 23 of 82 – Substation Protection and Monitoring Improvements, at a project cost of \$425,000:**

**Q. If Substation Protection and Monitoring Improvements are permitted by the Board, please advise if the company will require fewer employees as a result of these improvements. Please advise, in dollars, as to the total savings for consumers as a result of these projects.**

A. These expenditures are necessary to maintain system protection and increase the operating reliability of the electrical system. Protection modifications will minimize outage times, while monitoring improvements will allow potential problems such as voltage variations to be identified before they negatively impact service to customers.

While these projects will have a tendency to lower operating costs somewhat by minimizing outage times, they are primarily aimed at improving the quality of electrical service rather than at increasing employee productivity or lowering operating costs.