

Decision No. 12450

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Complaint by the)
Commission, on its own motion, against)
the West Side Natural Gas Company)
of Taft, California, as to the)
reasonableness of its rates or charges.)

Case No. 1828

BY THE COMMISSION.

ORIGINAL

FIRST SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

The Commission, by its Decision No. 11248, dated November 18, 1922, ordered West Side Natural Gas Company to test and repair all of the meters upon its system in a manner complying with the requirements of the Commission for such work. This work is now being prosecuted diligently by respondent and a material number of meters, which have been in service measuring gas to consumers, have been found to be recording inaccurately and registering in excess of the true amount of gas delivered.

From the evidence before us it appears reasonable to believe that meters now found inaccurate have been in such condition for a prolonged period of time, inasmuch as very little attention has in the past been given to their proper maintenance. In view of this situation the Commission is of the opinion that refunds to consumers, in reparation for the over-registration of meters found to be inaccurate, should be made, covering a greater period of time than is prescribed by General Order No. 58 of the Railroad Commission.

This proceeding was instituted October 19, 1922, and we are of the opinion that refunds to consumers should be made for excess meter registration above the true amount of gas delivered to correct bills for service subsequent to January 1, 1922.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that West Side Natural Gas Company refund to all present or former consumers, by personal delivery, or by mailing to the last known mail address, an amount equal to overcharges which may have been made to them and each of them for service rendered, as follows: (a) If the meter was last set prior to January 1, 1922 refund shall be made in an amount equal to the over-registration of the meter, at the percentage rate of error determined by the tests now being made under the direction of the Commission, such refund to cover the entire period from January 1, 1922 to the date of removal of said meter; (b) if the meter was tested, accurately adjusted and set subsequent to January 1, 1922 and later became inaccurate and registered in excess of the true amount of gas delivered, refund shall be made in an amount equal to the over-registration of the meter at the percentage rate of error, as determined by the aforementioned tests, such refund to cover a period of six months prior to the date of removing such inaccurate meter or meters .

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED, that if any former consumers to whom refunds are due, under the provision of this order cannot now be located, the amounts of such refunds shall be kept on hand, ready for payment by West Side Natural Gas Company, for a period of two years from the date of this order.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that West Side Natural Gas Company submit to this Commission a written report showing:

the identification number of each meter and the percentage of error found, the location or locations where set, the name of the consumer or consumers supplied by said meter since January 1, 1922 or since the date when last accurately adjusted and set if subsequent to January 1, 1922, the volumes of gas measured since the above dates, together with corresponding bills rendered and refunds made in accordance with this Order.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 2nd day of August 1923.

C. M. Murray

H. B. ...

Dwight ...

Egerton ...

J. T. Whittsey
Commissioners