

Decision No. 12699.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the matter of the application of Siskiyou Telephone Company for Order authorizing purchase from Independent Telephone Company of its property and franchise.

Application No. 9325.

J. M. Allen for Independent Telephone Company.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding authorization of this Commission is requested by Independent Telephone Company to transfer the telephone line and appurtenances owned by it to Siskiyou Telephone Company and by Siskiyou Telephone Company to purchase said line.

The property which it is desired to transfer is more particularly described as a one-wire "grounded" line consisting of fourteen miles of #12 B.W.G. galvanized iron wire, supported by four hundred small poles of native timber, formerly extending from Fort Jones to Etna Mills. In addition, rights-of-way to the value of \$75.00 and ten magneto wall-type telephone instruments are included in the transfer.

A public hearing on this matter was held by Examiner Satterwhite in Etna Mills on September 27, 1923.

Service over the Independent Telephone Company's line is at present furnished by the Siskiyou Telephone Company on the farmer-line basis from the latter Company's Fort Jones and Etna

Mills exchanges, the line being cut at a point between these two towns and part of the subscribers being served from Fort Jones and the remainder from Etna Mills. Siskiyou Telephone Company proposes to render suburban service at the regular filed rates for such service from its Fort Jones and Etna Mills exchanges to these subscribers. It was shown at the hearing that under this proposal of the Siskiyou Telephone Company, an increase in rates to subscribers now served on the farmer-line basis from \$0.50 per month to \$2.00 per month would result. No complaint was made regarding this change in rates by anyone at the hearing.

It appears from the testimony that those subscribers who are connected with the Fort Jones exchange have been receiving poor service due to the condition of the line and inductive interference from neighboring power lines. To remedy these difficulties it appears that it will be necessary to metallicize this grounded line. Mr. Dannenbrink of Siskiyou Telephone Company testified that his Company was ready and willing to undertake such reconstruction if authorization is obtained to purchase the line.

The Independent Telephone Company filed an exhibit in this proceeding showing an estimated cost of the line, including franchises, to be \$875.00, and it appears that the sale price of \$500.00 is not unreasonable.

O R D E R

An application having been filed with the Railroad Commission involving the transfer of the telephone property owned by Independent Telephone Company to Siskiyou Telephone Company, a public hearing having been held, the matter having been submitted, and the Commission being fully apprised and of the opinion that the granting of the authority herein requested will be in the

public interest;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Independent Telephone Company be and it is hereby authorized to sell and Siskiyou Telephone Company be and it is hereby authorized to purchase the telephone system of Independent Telephone Company located in the vicinity of the towns of Fort Jones and Etna Mills and more particularly described in the form of agreement filed in this matter and identified as "Exhibit E," and

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Siskiyou Telephone Company be and it is authorized to charge and collect for telephone service rendered over said telephone system its rates now on file with the Railroad Commission for suburban telephone service and such other rates as may, from time to time, be filed with and approved by the Railroad Commission, provided that before such rates may be applied the Siskiyou Telephone Company shall

(a) Construct a metallic telephone line from its Fort Jones exchange following the same general route as now followed by Independent Telephone Company's line and connect the present subscribers of Independent Telephone Company with such metallic line. This work shall be completed within sixty (60) days after the acquisition of the property by the Siskiyou Telephone Company.

(b) Connect the present subscribers of the Independent Telephone Company served from Etna Mills exchange with an existing suburban line or so reconstruct the line from which such subscribers are at present served that suburban service may be rendered.

The authority herein granted is upon the following conditions and not otherwise:

1. Within sixty (60) days after the acquisition of the telephone property of Independent Telephone Company, Siskiyou.

Telephone Company shall file with the Railroad Commission for approval a stipulation duly authorized by its Board of Directors declaring that Siskiyou Telephone Company, its successors and assigns, will never, in any proceeding before the Railroad Commission or any other public authority, claim any value for any franchises or permits acquired from Independent Telephone Company in excess of the amount paid by the original grantee of such franchises or permits to the public authority granting the same, which amount shall be specified in said stipulation.

2. The consideration at which the public utility properties are herein authorized to be transferred shall not be considered as a measure of the value of said properties for any purpose other than the transfer herein authorized.

3. The authority herein granted will apply only to such transfer as may be made on or before December 1, 1923.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 13th day of October, 1923.

Chas. E. Whittier

Dwight Mastic

J. F. Whittier
Commissioners.