

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 15073.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
The Fall River Valley Telephone Co.  
for a certificate of Public Conven-  
ience and Necessity covering the  
operation of a Telephone and Telegraph  
Utility in certain portions of Shasta  
and Lassen Counties, California.

Application No. 10791.

In the Matter of the Investigation on  
the Commission's own motion of the  
service furnished by Bass Telephone  
Lines in the town of Fall River Mills  
and adjacent territory.

Case No. 2110.

Edson Abel, for Applicant and California Farm  
Bureau Federation.

George W. Johnstone, for Bass Telephone Lines.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Fall River Valley Telephone Company, in the above application, asks for authority to operate as a public utility for the purpose of providing adequate telephone service in the communities of McArthur, Fall River Mills and Glenburn and adjacent territory. The telephone as a means of communication is not new in this area, the Bass Telephone Lines, Williams Telephone Line, North Telephone Company, South Pit River Telephone Company, and Glenburn Telephone Company having, at some time, provided telephone service in portions of this territory. The Bass Telephone Lines and Williams Telephone Line have been operated as public utilities while the North Telephone Company,

South Pit River Telephone Company and Glenburn Telephone Company, have been operated as mutual organizations. It is these last three companies that applicant proposes to consolidate and operate as a combined property under the name of Fall River Valley Telephone Company.

A public hearing was held in these two proceedings before Examiner Satterwhite, at McArthur, on March 24, 1925.

Testimony at the hearing shows that although certain telephone lines exist and are now in operation in the Fall River Valley, the service afforded by these facilities, due to the type and condition of the lines and lack of cooperation, is far from adequately fulfilling the needs of the communities. North Telephone Company, South Pit River Telephone Company and Glenburn Telephone Company have intercommunication between their own subscribers but no dependable connection with the outside world. An exhibit was introduced in evidence consisting of a statement signed by E. R. Feuz, owner of Williams Telephone Line, to the effect that Williams Line does not claim that the territory in which the Fall River Valley Company proposes to operate, should be served by the Williams Line and has no objection to this territory being served by applicant. According to applicant's testimony, that portion of the Williams Line in Fall River Valley has not been used for some time and is not now in a condition to be used in rendering telephone service. Bass Telephone Lines has a toll line, with connections at Redding, Montgomery Creek and other points, which terminates at Fall River Mills. Bass Lines has also a switching point, or central office, in Fall River Mills but, due probably to lack of aggressiveness in the development of the territory, has now only one exchange subscriber

connected to this central office.

While it was convincingly shown that more adequate communication facilities are needed in Fall River Valley it did not appear that the plan of operation proposed by applicant was a satisfactory method of rendering telephone service. The plan applicant sets forth in its original application contemplated the entire valley, including the communities of McArthur, Fall River Mills, and Glenburn being served as one exchange. A toll line was proposed between McArthur and Fall River Mills, although three other lines, each having connected stations, existed as connecting links between these two points. One subscriber was to be connected, as at present, to the Bass central office at Fall River Mills, while neighboring subscribers were to be connected to applicant's central office at McArthur. Such an arrangement would lead to discrimination as between subscribers on different lines and in different areas. These points were brought out in detail and thoroughly discussed at the hearing.

It was suggested that as applicant was in possession of the facts in the matter further time be given in which to file a revised plan of operation before submitting this proceeding. Accordingly, the proceeding was held open until April 13, 1925, which time was later extended to May 25, 1925.

On May 23, 1925, applicant filed an amended application in which it asks for a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity as requested in its original application and further that the principle of operation governing the furnishing of telephone service be adopted as suggested at the hearing. Applicant proposes that its territory be divided into three exchange areas with central offices at McArthur, Fall River Mills and Glenburn. It proposes

further to so arrange existing lines and add new construction where necessary that toll circuits will be provided between central offices, that each subscriber's station will be permanently connected to one central office only and that toll connections will be made with the toll line of the Bass Lines at Fall River Mills for communications to points outside Fall River Valley. Applicant has attached to its amended application a signed statement by Bass Telephone Lines in which Bass Telephone Lines agree to abandon the exchange territory at Fall River Mills provided applicant is given authority to serve this town and that Fall River Valley Company reimburses Bass Lines for any expense incurred by it in such abandonment.

It appears that the present telephone users and the public generally in Fall River Valley would be benefitted by the granting of this application. There appears to be no reason why applicant should not now be allowed to commence operations as a public utility and to render telephone service under the conditions as proposed in its amended application, as outlined above, and under the rates as shown in Exhibit 1 attached hereto. Accordingly, the order following will so provide.

O R D E R

IN APPLICATION NO. 10791.

Fall River Valley Telephone Company having requested the Railroad Commission for an order granting a Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity requiring it to operate as a public utility and to render telephone service in and in the vicinity of the Fall River Valley in Shasta and Lassen Counties, California, under rates, rules and regulations as set forth in its application, and for such further order as may seem proper

to this Commission, a public hearing having been held, the Railroad Commission having fully considered all evidence in this proceeding, and the matter now being submitted and ready for decision;

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby declares that public convenience and necessity require applicant to operate the systems known as North Telephone Company, South Pit River Telephone Company and Glenburn Telephone Company as a public telephone utility and to establish and furnish telephone and telegraph service throughout the territory heretofore served by the North Telephone Company, South Pit River Telephone Company and Glenburn Telephone Company and the town of Fall River Mills.

The Railroad Commission finds as a fact that the Fall River Valley Telephone Company should establish and render local exchange and toll telephone and telegraph service throughout the territory formerly served by the North Telephone Company, South Pit River Telephone Company, and Glenburn Telephone Company, and also the town of Fall River Mills, under rates as set forth in this order and that Fall River Valley Telephone Company reimburse the Bass Telephone Lines for all expenses incurred in the abandonment of the local exchange at Fall River Mills.

Basing its Order on the foregoing findings of fact and upon other findings of fact contained in the Opinion preceding this Order:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Fall River Valley Telephone Company shall charge and collect the rates for local exchange and toll telephone and telegraph service as set forth in Exhibit 1, attached hereto, after showing to this Commission that it has com-

pleted re-arrangements, construction and installations necessary to render service in accordance with the plan shown in Exhibit "A" of its amended application, which provides that central office switchboards be installed at McArthur, Fall River Mills and Glenburn, that toll circuits having no connected subscribers' stations be constructed for communication between McArthur and Fall River Mills, McArthur and Glenburn and Glenburn and Fall River Mills, and that re-arrangements be made so that each subscribers' station will be provided with local exchange service from one exchange only, and upon issuance of a supplemental order by this Commission.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the aforesaid installations, construction and re-arrangements shall be commenced on or before July 1, 1925 and that said installations, construction and re-arrangements necessary for the purpose of furnishing telephone service as herein provided, shall be completed on or before October 1, 1925.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Fall River Valley Telephone Company reimburse the Bass Telephone Lines for all expenses incurred in the abandonment of the local exchange at Fall River Mills and that the amount of these expenses be submitted to the Railroad Commission for approval.

IN CASE NO. 2110:

The Railroad Commission having instituted a proceeding, on its own motion, investigating the service furnished by Bass Telephone Lines in the town of Fall River Mills and adjacent territory, a hearing having been held and the matter now being submitted and ready for decision;

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby finds as a fact that the Bass Telephone Lines should withdraw and abandon all local telephone exchange utility operations in the town of Fall River Mills when and after the Fall River Valley Telephone Company establishes local exchange telephone service in said

town.

Basing its order on the foregoing findings of fact and other findings of fact contained in the opinion preceding this Order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the Bass Telephone Lines withdraw and abandon all local telephone exchange utility operations in the town of Fall River Mills when and after the Fall River Valley Telephone Company establishes local exchange telephone service in said town and after supplemental order from this Commission.

For all other purposes the effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20<sup>th</sup> day of June, 1925.

H. B. Brundage  
C. A. Seaver  
Ernest D. Stone  
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Commissioners.

APPLICATION 10791

EXHIBIT NO. 1

EXCHANGE AND TOLL TELEPHONE

AND TELEGRAPH RATES

FALL RIVER VANNEY TELEPHONE COMPANY



EXCHANGE AND TOLL TELEPHONE AND

TELEGRAPH RATES

FALL RIVER VALLEY TELEPHONE COMPANY

Exchange Service Schedule No. A-1

General Service:

Applicable to service within any one exchange area.

Rate:

<u>Class of Service</u>	<u>Rate per station per month, wall service</u>
Individual line, business	\$2.50
Individual line, residence	1.75
Party line, business	2.00
Party line, residence	1.25
Extension telephone on same premises as primary station, additional amount	.75

Conditions:

1. For the above rate the company owns and maintains all of the switching services and telephone lines including those to the first point of permanent support on subscriber's premises, but does not furnish, own or maintain the telephone instruments or batteries.
2. Subscribers will be allowed an unlimited number of messages to all stations within the same exchange area.
3. For messages beyond the limits of subscriber's exchange area, see Schedule No. B-1.

Exchange Service Schedule No. A-2.

General Service:

Applicable to service within any one exchange area.

Rate:

<u>Class of Service</u>	<u>Rate per month per station, wall set</u>
Individual line, business	\$2.75
Individual line, residence	2.25
Party line, business	2.00
Party line, residence	1.50
Extension telephone on same premises as primary station, additional amount	.75

Conditions:

1. For the above rate the company owns and maintains all

telephone equipment including instruments and batteries.

2. Subscribers will be allowed an unlimited number of messages to all stations within the same exchange area.

3. For messages beyond the limits of subscriber's exchange area, see Schedule No. B-1.

Exchange Service Schedule No. A-3.

Pay Station Service:

Applicable to messages from company's non-listed pay stations.

Rate:

Each message to any station within local exchange area \$0.10

Toll Telephone Service Schedule No. B-1

The following listed rates are effective for Toll Telephone Service over the toll lines of the Fall River Valley Telephone Company.

Rate:

(1) Person-to-Person Service:

McArthur to Fall River Mills	\$0.15
Glenburn to Fall River Mills	.15
McArthur to Glenburn	.15

The above rates are for an initial period of three minutes: For overtime periods and rates, see "Overtime Rates".

(2) Appointment and Messenger Service:

McArthur to Fall River Mills	\$0.20
Glenburn to Fall River Mills	.20
McArthur to Glenburn	.20

The above rates are for an initial period of three minutes: For overtime periods and rates see "Overtime Rates".

(3) Overtime Rates:

Overtime rate and period for either person-to-person or appointment and messenger service is \$.05 for each additional minute or fraction thereof.

(4) Report Charge:

Report Charge	\$0.05
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Conditions:

The administration of rates for toll telephone service on the lines of this Company is in accordance with Order No. 2495, dated December 13, 1918 and Order No. 2797, dated February 17, 1919 of the Postmaster General of the United States with the exception that station-to-station service is not furnished.

The charges for messages from stations with any exchange area of this Company to or from stations on the lines of other companies, will include the proper charges of this Company plus the charges accruing to each message for service over the lines of the other companies. Station-to-station service will be provided between points on the lines of the Fall River Valley Telephone Company and points on the lines of other companies which furnish such service and person-to-person rates of this Company will apply to such service over this company's lines.

Telegraph Service Schedule No. C-1

Applicable to telegraph service between Fall River Mills and Glenburn, and between Fall River Mills and McArthur.

Rate:

Class of Service

(a) Each telegram of 10 words or less	\$0.25
Each additional word	.02
(b) Each night letter of 50 words or less	\$0.25
Each additional 10 words or less	.05

Conditions:

For telegraph service to or from stations on the lines of other companies, the charges will include the proper charge for service rendered by this company plus all charges accruing to each message for service over the lines of the other companies.