

Decision No. 15367.

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce,
a corporation,

Complainant,

vs.

Western Union Telegraph Company,
a corporation,

Defendant.

Case. No. 2137.

A. D. Hitchcock, for complainant.
E. C. Vanderbilt, for defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is a proceeding in which the Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce, complainant, requests this Commission to require the Western Union Telegraph Company, the defendant, to establish a telegraph office at Van Nuys for the receipt and delivery of telegraph messages and for such other and further relief as may appear just to this Commission.

A hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Williams on August 10th, 1925, at Van Nuys.

Defendant claims that the closing of the Western Union Company's office in Van Nuys, during the early part of 1924, has seriously handicapped the community of Van Nuys in the carrying on of its business, that persons wishing to transmit messages have been unduly delayed and that telegraph messages to Van Nuys from other points have had to be received by telephone or mail,

which has resulted in confusion and delay. Complainant further alleges that there is sufficient business arising in the community to justify and warrant the establishment of an office at Van Nuys.

A number of witnesses for complainant stated that the present method of receiving and sending telegrams by telephone from Los Angeles is unsatisfactory and not only results in delay and confusion in transmitting telegrams but also increases greatly the possibility of errors, and that many errors have been made which would not have occurred if the Western Union Telegraph Company maintained an office at Van Nuys. Prior to April 20th, 1924, the Western Union Telegraph Company did maintain a telegraph office in the Southern Pacific Railway Company's depot at Van Nuys. This office was discontinued due to the Southern Pacific Company abandoning its telegraph office at Van Nuys, which was used by it in transmitting and receiving train orders. Since that date the Western Union Telegraph Company has not had an office in the town of Van Nuys.

The townsite of Van Nuys is located in the San Fernando Valley, approximately eighteen (18) miles to the north of Los Angeles, and is a part of the city of Los Angeles. The community of Van Nuys together with the immediate surrounding territory, usually referred to as Van Nuys District, contains a population of approximately fifteen thousand (15,000) persons. The townsite of Van Nuys includes one (1) square mile of territory and has a population of approximately three thousand five hundred (3,500) persons.

From the evidence submitted at this hearing, it appears that the present method of sending and receiving telegrams, to and from Van Nuys, is inadequate and unsatisfactory and that the public needs require the Western Union Telegraph Company to establish a telegraph office at Van Nuys. The Western Union Telegraph Company made no protest to the request of the complainant and did not submit nor offer to submit any evidence to show that it should

not establish such telegraph office, or that revenue which it might receive would not justify the maintenance of an office at Van Nuys. The Order following will provide that the Western Union Telegraph Company establish a telegraph office in Van Nuys for the carrying on of a general telegraph business on and after October 1st, 1925.

O R D E R

The Van Nuys Chamber of Commerce having brought a formal complaint against the Western Union Telegraph Company, requesting this Commission to require the Western Union Telegraph Company to re-establish a telegraph office at Van Nuys, for the receipt and delivery of telegraph messages and for such relief as may appear just to the Commission, and a public hearing having been held, the matter having been submitted and now ready for decision, the Railroad Commission of the State of California finds as a fact that the present method of sending and receiving telegrams, to and from Van Nuys, is inadequate and unsatisfactory and that the public needs of the community of Van Nuys and surrounding territory require the Western Union Telegraph Company to establish a telegraph office at Van Nuys.

Basing its Order on the foregoing findings of fact and upon such other findings and statements of fact as are set forth in the Opinion preceding this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Western Union Telegraph Company shall,

(1) Establish a telegraph office in the town of Van Nuys for the receipt and transmission of telegrams and for the carrying on of a general telegraph business on and after October 1, 1925.

(2) File with the Railroad Commission, on or before September 15th, 1925, rates for telegraph service between

Van Nuys and other telegraph points, determined in accordance with the standard methods set forth in the telegraph rate schedules of the Western Union Telegraph Company on file with the Railroad 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 3^d day of September ~~August~~, 1925.

J. W. Brundage
C. A. Seaver
Leon White
Commissioners.