

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 15640

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA  
- , - - - - -

In the Matter of the Application )  
of Wilmington Transportation Company )  
for Authority to Readjust Freight )  
Storage Rates. )

APPLICATION NO. 11428

Gibson, Dunn & Crutcher, by H.F. Prince, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is an application of the Wilmington Transportation Company for authority under the provisions of Section 63 of the Public Utilities Act to increase the rates assessed in connection with the storage of less than carload freight in its warehouses or on its platforms and premises at Wilmington and Avalon.

A public hearing was held at Wilmington October 9, 1925 before Examiner Geary, and the matter having been duly submitted is now ready for an opinion and order.

Applicant is engaged in the transportation of passengers and freight between Wilmington, San Pedro and Avalon, Avalon being the terminal for the steamers at Catalina Island. The present storage charges are assessed after 48 hours free time, exclusive

of Sundays and legal holidays and range from 1 cent per day for freight in lots of 100 pounds or less to 5 cents per ton for freight in lots over 2000 pounds, subject to a minimum charge of 25 cents. The proposed storage charges for freight held on applicant's premises in excess of the 48 hours free time allowed will be, for the first five days  $1\frac{1}{2}$  cents per 100 pounds and for the sixth and each succeeding day 3 cents per 100 pounds, with a minimum charge per shipment held five days or a part thereof 25 cents, and six days or more 50 cents. The proposed rates are the same as those now assessed by all important rail carriers throughout the State of California.

Applicant is, primarily, a common carrier of persons and property and the proposed changes in its storage rates are not intended for the securing of additional revenue. An exhibit introduced by a witness for applicant shows that for the period September 1, 1924 to August 31, 1925 the total freight receipts were \$80514.53, while the storage charges for the same period amounted to but \$29.03, or an average of \$2.42 per month. The storage rates now in effect were established July 1, 1914 and because of their volume sometimes result in the freight being left in carrier's possession at Wilmington or Avalon for an unreasonable length of time. A large part of the business transacted is tourist travel and during the vacation periods of the year all depot and wharf facilities are taxed to their capacity.

The testimony showed that the principal purpose of the application is to prevent an unsatisfactory situation in the future and to standardize the rates to conform with those assessed by connecting carriers.

Giving consideration to the fact that applicant's facilities are in the main devoted to the transportation of passengers on sightseeing and vacation trips and that it is not equipped for the storage or warehousing of freight, and also to the fact that the storage charges proposed are reasonable, we are of the opinion that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

This application having been duly heard and submitted by the parties, full investigation of the matters and things involved having been had and basing this order on the findings of fact and the conclusions contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant, the Wilmington Transportation Company, be and it is hereby authorized to establish within twenty (20) days from the date hereof charges for the storage of freight at Wilmington and Avalon, as set forth in Exhibit A attached to and made a part of the application.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1925.

H. R. B. Rindiga

Charles

George D. Squires

Leon Whitell  
Commissioners.