

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 15789.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application
of the ELSINORE GAS WORKS for
a change in Basic Rates and the
Establishment of Just and Reason-
able Rates.

Application No. 11,043.

Samuel H. Gunder, for Applicant.

SEAVEY, COMMISSIONER:

O P I N I O N

Samuel H. Gunder, doing business under the name of Elsinore Gas Works, applies for permission to increase the rates charged for gas service in the town of Elsinore.

At a public hearing held in Elsinore, June 2, 1925, a certain amount of evidence in support of this application was introduced by Mr. Gunder and considerable protest was heard from his consumers. The evidence presented was not complete and in itself is not sufficient to show that an increase in rates is necessary to permit of the earning of a reasonable return on the capital invested.

A report was introduced by an engineer representing the Commission showing estimates of the revenue and expenses for the coming year and these estimates, in connection with Mr. Gunder's testimony regarding the cost of the plant, indicate that a fairly satisfactory return may be hoped for.

The complaints voiced by the consumers were directed not only at any increase in rate and the usual service troubles regarding which such complaints are customarily made, but related as well

to the character of the business dealings of the applicant with its consumers. The attitude of representatives of the Elsinore Gas Works during the hearing was such as to lend color to the charges made by the consumers and it is quite evident that there has been a marked lack of courtesy and effort to secure satisfactory relations between the utility and its patrons. Under such conditions it would require a far more definite showing than has been made for this Commission to give serious consideration to this application.

The evidence shows that at the time of the hearing there were many prospective consumers who were not using gas and that certain consumers had ceased the use of gas because of unsatisfactory personal relations with the utility.

The plant is well built and in good condition and a sincere effort on the part of its owners to give satisfactory service and courteous treatment to consumers will undoubtedly result in an increase in business and a thoroughly satisfactory return. Should these efforts fail the application may be renewed but the Commission will expect that it be supported by evidence of more satisfactory public relations and a more definite showing of past and future operating results and of capital invested.

O R D E R

Samuel H. Gunder, doing business under the name of Elsinore Gas Works, having applied to the Railroad Commission for authority to increase the rates and charges for gas service supplied in the town of Elsinore, public hearing having been held and the matter having been submitted;

The Railroad Commission hereby finds as a fact that under existing conditions the rates and charges of Elsinore Gas Works are not unreasonable nor unjust. Basing its order on the foregoing

finding of fact and the findings of fact in the opinion preceding this order;

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the above entitled application be and the same is hereby denied without prejudice.

The foregoing opinion and order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the opinion and order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22^d day of December, 1925.

H. N. Brundige

C. Henry

George D. Squires

Leon Caldwell

Commissioners.