

Decision No. 19192.

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application  
of the LAKE COUNTY TELEPHONE  
ASSOCIATION for Permission to  
Increase its Rates for Toll Service.)

Application No. 14128.

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER OF DISMISSAL

Lake County Telephone Association, applicant in this proceeding, owns and operates a telephone line connecting its central office in Kelseyville with that of Lakeport and Blue Lakes Telephone Association, in Lake County, California. At present, subscribers of applicant pay a fixed monthly charge which entitles them to the use of the inter-office line referred to above, at no additional charge; non-subscribers or occasional users of the inter-office lines, however, are required to pay a message charge for each conversation transmitted over that line. Applicant proposes to apply the message or toll charge alike to all users of the line whether subscribers or non-subscribers.

Evidence taken at a hearing in this proceeding, held before Examiner Rowell, in Lakeport on December 6, 1927, showed that subscribers of farmer line telephone associations over a large portion of Lake County have had the right to use the lines owned and operated by other farmer line associations without charge other than that fixed monthly charge made for their local exchange switching privileges. Application of rates as proposed by the Lake County Association would affect all such other associations and their subscribers who were not parties to this proceeding. Moreover, to make possible the application of toll rates

as proposed to apply to interexchange messages placed by subscribers as well as non-subscribers, it would be necessary that special lines be maintained for toll service exclusively. The construction of such lines where not now existing, is a condition precedent to any effective or equitable application of toll charges. If there are any subscriber's telephones on the toll line such subscribers will either have a so-called free long distance service or each such subscriber's station will be made a toll station, both results being inequitable and impracticable.

There is no doubt that the applicant desires to effect some improvement in the service rendered and believes that a revision in its charges for toll service to be a step in that direction. But it is clear that the public cannot be given anything approaching efficient service until all of the connecting telephone utilities in the Lake County district now providing so-called free inter-community service join in some practical plan for the improvement of such inter-community service and for the apportionment of the revenues between the various telephone interests. In a joint application by all of the utilities concerned to fix proper toll rates all interested parties could be heard and rates fixed equitable to all.

For a better understanding of the problems involved reference should be made to Decisions Nos. 12630 (23 C.R.C.903), 12631 (23 C.R.C.907) and 14871 (26 C.R.C.391).

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the application be and it is hereby dismissed without prejudice.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 23<sup>d</sup> day of December, 1927.

Emmert  
Chas. J. ...  
Leon ...  
Thos. ...  
M. J. ...  
 Commissioners.