

Decision No. 13776.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application  
of the LAKEPORT AND BLUE LAKES  
TELEPHONE ASSOCIATION for author-  
ity to abandon telephone service  
in the area in and around the  
town of Lakeport, Lake County,  
California.

**ORIGINAL**  
Application No. 14,447.

Law and Utilities Department of  
California Farm Bureau Federation,  
by Edson Abel, for Applicant.

H. W. Bemis, Manager and Secretary and  
Herbert Porter, President, for Lake  
County Telephone Association.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Lakeport and Blue Lakes Telephone Association, unin-  
corporated, applicant in this proceeding, operates a small tele-  
phone exchange from which it renders service in Lakeport and  
vicinity, all in Lake County. The Association owns jointly with  
Upper Lake Farmers' Telephone Association a trunk line extending  
from Lakeport to Upper Lake.

Applicant claims that future operation of its system  
is impossible on account of expected loss in revenues.

A hearing in this proceeding was held April 26, 1928,  
at Lakeport before Examiner Gannon.

Testimony given at the hearing was to the effect that  
only seventeen subscribers were receiving service from applicant's  
system and that some of its former subscribers had become sub-  
scribers to the service of the Northern California Telephone Com-  
pany which operates a telephone system in substantially the same  
territory as that served by the applicant. It was stated that

the estimate of revenue for the year 1928 is \$200.00 and that \$1,800.00 would be needed to maintain service. Other testimony indicated that on account of the deteriorated condition of the plant, it would require an expenditure of at least \$2,500.00 to make possible the continuance of the Association's service and that such a sum of money could not be secured by applicant.

John W. Morrison, President of the Association, stated that applicant proposes to transfer its interest in the trunk line to Upper Lake to the Upper Lake Telephone Association without charge. It is petitioner's desire to sell all of its facilities in Lakeport to the Northern California Telephone Company for the sum of \$2,000.00 in the event authority to discontinue service is secured.

Applicant's system is one of a group of small utilities which render telephone service in the territory about Clear Lake. Of these, Upper Lake Telephone Association operates in and around Upper Lake, which is north of Lakeport; Lake County Telephone Association operates in and around Kelseyville to the south of Lakeport; and Lower Lake Farmer's Associated Telephone Lines renders telephone service in and around Lower Lake located southeast of Kelseyville. Each subscriber to the service of these associations is entitled to telephone connection to any other subscriber in the group without payment of any message charges. Non-subscribers may receive such service at toll rates. It is evident that abandonment of telephone operations by applicant will curtail the service of all subscribers of all the before-named associations. The Commission, by its engineers, on several occasions has suggested to these associations plans for making permanent this extensive service and, in Decision No. 12,631, attention was called to the inadequacy of applicant's service and a method for securing improvement was outlined (23 C.R.C.903).

Failure to cooperate in efforts to improve service has resulted in the situation incident to this abandonment proceeding.

No one at the hearing in this matter stated any objection to the granting of applicant's request.

We believe that the Association cannot reasonably be expected to continue telephone service and that the request for authority to abandon telephone operations should be granted and the order following will so provide.

O R D E R

Lakeport and Blue Lakes Telephone Association, having made application to the Railroad Commission for authority to abandon all of its telephone service in Lakeport and vicinity, a public hearing having been held and the matter submitted for decision,

The Railroad Commission finds as a fact that applicant in this proceeding should be permitted to abandon telephone operations as requested.

Basing its order on the foregoing finding of fact and such other facts as are contained in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Lakeport and Blue Lakes Telephone Association be and it is hereby authorized to abandon all telephone operations provided such abandonment shall be completed on or before June 1, 1928.

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 18 day of May, 1928.

Leon White  
C. J. Seaver  
Frank J. Scott  
Wm. D. Smith  
Wm. D. Smith  
 Commissioners.