

Decision No. 20804

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY, a corporation, for an order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California granting to applicant a certificate, under Section 50 of the Public Utilities Act, declaring that the present and future public convenience and necessity require the construction of the power plants and projects mentioned herein, including power houses, dams and reservoirs, and the use of all lands and water rights which may be used or useful in connection therewith; and require the construction of the transmission lines described in this petition.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 15042

C. P. Cutten and W. B. Bosley, for Applicant.
John Selby, of Corbet and Selby, for
Colorado Power Company.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding Pacific Gas and Electric Company, a corporation, has made application to the Railroad Commission for an order granting it permission to construct, operate and maintain certain power projects on the North Fork of the Mokelumne River and its tributaries in Amador and Calaveras Counties and declaring that public convenience and necessity now require the construction, by applicant, of such projects and the use by it.

of all lands and water rights and the exercise by it of all permits, easements and franchises which may be used or useful in connection with said projects and the construction and use by it of certain transmission line facilities in Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin and Alameda Counties.

Public hearings were held before Examiner Gannon on November 13, 1928 and January 14, 1929, the matter being submitted for decision on the latter date. At the first hearing Colorado Power Company, a non-public utility company, opposed the granting of the application but withdrew its protest at the latter hearing, having transferred certain riparian land and water rights to the City of Lodi, which desires to take a neutral position in this matter.

It appears that Pacific Gas and Electric Company plans to construct four hydro-electric plants, including dams, aqueducts and reservoirs appurtenant thereto, on the North Fork of the Mokelumne River in Amador and Calaveras Counties, and to rebuild its present Electra power plant. The capacity of the entire development will aggregate approximately 134,000 kilowatts. Electric energy generated at these plants will be carried over a 220,000 volt transmission line to the company's Newark Substation in Alameda County. Said transmission line will run generally in a southwesterly direction passing through Amador, Calaveras, San Joaquin and Alameda Counties.

Witness for applicant testified that the estimated cost of the entire hydro-electric development, including transmission facilities, is \$36,000,000. It appears that the cost of power at Newark from this project, making due

allowance for the cost of supplemental steam power necessary to meet system load factor conditions and to provide for low stream flow conditions in abnormal water years, is substantially the same as that from an equivalent steam plant in the San Francisco Bay region. It also appears that applicant needs more power in the southern part of its system and that the proposed hydro-electric project would not only make this economically possible, but would also effect the full economic development of the present Electra plant, one of the oldest plants on applicant's system and now quite inefficient.

Applicant's construction program provides for three stages of development. The first stage is estimated to be completed by July 1, 1931. Figures submitted by applicant show that its present annual output is 3,089,000,000 kilowatt hours and that by 1931, when the first step is completed, the anticipated load will be 3,258,000,000 kilowatt hours, that by 1932, when the second step is completed the anticipated load requirements will be 3,503,000,000 kilowatt hours and that by 1934, when the final stage is constructed, the load demands will be 4,047,000,000 kilowatt hours as compared to an estimated annual output of approximately 4,008,000,000 kilowatt hours. It is apparent from applicant's figures, which appear reasonable, that the load demands upon its system will be sufficient to substantially absorb the output of this hydro-electric project as it becomes available.

We have carefully considered the evidence in this proceeding and are of the opinion that there is a public need

for this development and that applicant should proceed with its proposed project.

O R D E R

Pacific Gas and Electric Company having applied for a certificate of public convenience and necessity to construct a certain power project, consisting of certain hydro-electric plants on the Mokelumne River, together with necessary dams, reservoirs and transmission facilities, public hearings having been held and the matter submitted and being ready for decision,

The Commission hereby certifies and declares that the present and future public convenience and necessity require and will require the construction and operation of that certain hydro-electric project and transmission system more particularly described in the application herein.

The authority herein granted shall become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 20th day of February, 1929.

John D. Lovitt
W. J. Scavely
Edmund J. ...
Leon ...

Commissioners.