

ORIGINALDecision No. 22211.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
for authority to close agency at
Longvale, County of Mendocino, State
of California.

Application No. 16219.

In the Matter of the Application of
the RAILWAY EXPRESS AGENCY, INC., for
authority to abandon its agency at
Longvale, Mendocino County, State of
California.

Application No. 16227.

R. G. Hillebrand for Applicant, Northwestern
Pacific Railroad Company.
E. S. Elliott for Applicant, Railway Express
Agency, Inc.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In Application No. 16219, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company requests permission to abandon its agency at the Station of Longvale, Mendocino County, and in Application No. 16227, Railway Express Agency, Inc., makes like request.

A public hearing was held in these matters before Examiner Satterwhite on February 21, 1930, at Willits.

Longvale is located on the main line of Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company between Willits and Eureka. The nearest existing agency stations to Longvale are Willits, thirteen miles south, and Doc Rios, fourteen miles north.

The territory served by the Station of Longvale is located largely to the west and north in the vicinity of Laytonville.

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and points on the state highway along the south fork of the Eel River. The territory adjacent to Longvale Station is sparsely populated, the nearest resident living approximately one quarter mile distant.

The state highway practically parallels the railroad from Willits to Longvale. From Longvale north to South Fork, a distance of approximately 84 miles and through a mountainous section, the railroad and state highway are located some distance apart.

Applicant, Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company, contends that the revenues derived from said station do not warrant the expense of maintaining an agent at that point.

Revenues derived at this station for the twelve months' period ending October 31, 1929, are as follows:

Passenger tickets sold by agent,.....	\$48.00
Carload freight forwarded and received,.....	1,251.00
L.C.L. freight forwarded and received,.....	1,502.00
Expense of maintaining agent,.....	1,919.73

It was testified that since the highway has been paved, the residents at Laytonville and on the south fork of the Eel River are using Willits to a large extent for receiving L.C.L. freight shipments. A certificated truck carrier operates between Willits and points on the south fork of the Eel River and it was testified that it receives a considerable amount of freight at Willits for these points. It appears that Willits is gradually becoming the delivery point for freight to points along the highway to the north.

Railway Express Agency's representative expressed a willingness to maintain an agency at Longvale as long as an agency is maintained but in the event the railroad agent was removed there would be no one at said station to handle their business.

No one appeared at the hearing to protest the granting of either of these applications, although notices of the hearing had been posted at the Station of Longvale, Longvale Post Office and Laytonville Post Office. The fact that no one appeared to oppose the granting of these applications is in itself evidence that the public is not interested in the continued maintenance of these agencies.

It appears to the Commission that the public will not be greatly inconvenienced by the abandonment of said agency as passengers' tickets can be purchased from the conductor on trains and carload freight can reasonably be handled without a resident agent. The greatest inconvenience will be to the receivers and forwarders of L.C.L. freight, but it appears that this class of business is being handled at Willits in increasing amounts and the maintenance of an agent at Longvale does not appear to be required for this class of business.

If the railroad agency is abandoned, it is obvious that the express agency should also be abandoned and it will be so ordered.

O R D E R

Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company having made application to abandon its agency at Longvale, Mendocino County, (Application No. 16219) and Railway Express Agency, Inc. having made like application (Application No. 16227), a public hearing having been held, the Commission having been apprised of the facts and the matter being under submission and ready for decision,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that permission and authority be and the same is hereby granted to Northwestern Pacific Railroad

Company to abandon its agency at the Station of Longvale on its main line in the County of Mendocino, subject, however, to the following conditions:

1. Applicant shall continue the maintenance of said station as a non-agency station.

2. Applicant shall post notices at said station notifying the public of the removal of said agency for at least ten (10) days before the agent is removed.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that permission and authority be and the same is hereby granted to Railway Express Agency, Inc., to abandon its agency at Longvale, County of Mendocino, upon the abandonment of Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company's station agency authorized above, subject, however, to the condition that express shipments will be handled by the express messenger at the car door at said station.

If the authority herein granted to abandon agencies is not exercised within one (1) year from the date of this order, the authority granted shall then lapse and become void.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days from the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 18th day of March, 1930.

P. L. Leary

Leon Whiteley

W. D. Smith

W. J. Carr

Commissioners.