

Decision No. 23210

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

Mrs. R.R. Rupe, Mrs. D.M. Baker,
Mr. Martin Larsen, Mr. R.J. Willard,
Mr. A.A. Bills,

Complainants,

vs.

Mr. G.A. Reichman,

Defendant.

Case No. 2930.

R.R. Rupe, for Complainants.

Allen & McNamara, by James M. Allen,
for Defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

The above mentioned complainants are residents of the City of Fort Jones, Siskiyou County, and allege that the water service furnished them by G.A. Reichman, owner and operator of the public utility plant supplying the community, is inadequate; that at times there is no water at all during the night and that this same condition frequently exists for hours during the day. The Commission is requested to direct defendant Reichman to remedy and improve this unsatisfactory service. Defendant's answer is a general denial of the above allegations.

A public hearing in this matter was held before Examiner Williams in Fort Jones.

According to the evidence the water supply for defendant's water works is obtained by pumping from two wells, each twenty-five feet in depth. Water is pumped directly into the mains and stored in a reservoir of 60,000 gallons capacity. At present this plant serves seventy-three consumers, four of which are on a metered basis.

One of the wells is capable of continuous pumping throughout each twenty-four hours; the other well, however, is exhausted during the summer months after pumping for a period of about one and a half hours. Apparently the combined yield of these two wells would be sufficient to produce ample water for all reasonable requirements of the consumers were it not for the fact that there are excessive losses through unaccounted-for water. The testimony shows that, in spite of continuous pumping at night when practically no water is being used by consumers, there is no appreciable gain in storage water in the reservoir. This indicates either large heretofore undetected waste of water through consumers' plumbing or very serious leaks in the utility's pipe lines, service connections or reservoir. It is most probable that the latter is the cause of the abnormal loss of water and that there have been no surface indications thereof by reason of the gravelly nature of the soil underlying this community. During periods when the reservoir is full there is no cause of complaint as to service; however, when the reservoir is only partially full, those consumers residing on the higher elevations of the city do not receive a satisfactory supply during times of daily peak demand.

The consensus of opinion of those persons familiar

with the system who were present at the hearing showed that the remedy lies either in discovering and replacing leaking pipes and mains or in the development of sufficient additional water through new wells to overcome the present abnormal losses. Obviously the more economical plan is to make a thorough investigation and inspection of the mains, pipe lines and reservoir to determine if the difficulty is arising from serious leaks. The Commission must require defendant to take whatever measures are reasonably necessary to provide sufficient water for his consumers and, should the above investigation prove unavailing, an additional water supply will have to be developed. Should it appear that any substantial part of the present excessive loss of water arises from carelessness or the wasting of water on the part of any consumers, such a condition could be easily remedied through the more general installation of meters.

O R D E R

Complaint as above entitled having been made to this Commission, a public hearing having been held thereon, the matter having been submitted and the Commission being now fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that G.A. Reichman be and he is hereby directed as follows:

1. To make such repairs and/or install such improvements to his water works in Fort Jones as may reasonably be necessary to provide his consumers with a water service which shall be adequate and sufficient,

said repairs and/or improvements to be completed and in satisfactory working order on or before the first day of June, 1931.

2. To file with this Commission on or before the first day of June, 1931, a statement indicating the kind and type of repairs and/or improvements made in compliance with the terms of this Order, together with a statement showing the capacity of the water supply and status of water service as of the first day of June, 1931.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 24th day
of December, 1932.

Cl Seaver

Leon White
Thos. G. Loutin

Commissioners.