

ORIGINALDecision No. 23387.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the matter of the Application
of Death Valley Railroad Company,
Ltd., for permission to abandon
its railroad in Inyo County,
California, and also to abandon
the operation thereof.

Application No. 17149.

BY THE COMMISSION:

ORDER

Death Valley Railroad Company, Ltd., a corporation, filed the above entitled application on January 21, 1931, requesting permission to abandon all of that line of railroad known as the "Death Valley Railroad" and the further operation thereof. This line is located entirely in Inyo County and consists of a narrow gauge railroad extending from Death Valley Junction, west-erly to Ryan, a total length of 20.35 miles, with yard tracks having an additional aggregate length of .73 miles. Traffic is interchanged with the Tonopah and Tidewater Railroad at Death Valley Junction.

Applicant alleges that the line traverses an unsettled, non-agricultural district, all of it being in a desert and mountainous region. It is further alleged that the line was built for the purpose of transporting mining equipment and supplies to the borax mines at Ryan and for the transportation of borax ore from said mines. The mines having shut down about three years ago, the town of Ryan is now uninhabited and abandoned and traffic on the Death Valley Railroad has practically ceased. Applicant further

states that there is no likelihood of the reopening of the mines at Ryan for a long period of years.

The exhibits attached to the application show that the railway operations have been conducted at a loss of from \$24,000. to \$28,000. annually for the past four years. The application alleges that public convenience and necessity no longer requires the continued operation of said line of railroad. Applicant herein filed a similar application, No. 10135, on June 2, 1924, seeking authority to discontinue service, and upon protest by the Death Valley Borax Company the same was dismissed at the request of the applicant. The Death Valley Borax Company has advised by letter that it has no further interest relative to the continuance of the operation of the railroad at this time.

It appears to the Commission that this is not a matter in which a public hearing is necessary and that the application should be granted.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Death Valley Railroad Company, Ltd., is hereby authorized to abandon service and remove its line of railroad known as "Death Valley Railroad," heretofore conducted as a common carrier between Death Valley Junction and Ryan in Inyo County, State of California, and to cancel in conformity with the rules of the Commission all rate tariffs and time schedules applying on said railroad.

Applicant shall post notices at all stations effected at least thirty (30) days prior to the abandonment of service on said railroad, advising the public of such proposed abandonment.

Applicant shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission, in writing, of the abandonment of the facilities authorized herein and of its compliance with the conditions hereof.

The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the date hereof unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9th day of February, 1931.

Al J. ...
Leon ...
W. J. ...
M. B. ...
Fred G. ...
Commissioners.