

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 23670.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of  
The Western Union Telegraph Company  
for an order authorizing the dis-  
continuance of its telegraph office  
at Big Creek, California.

Application No. 17179.

A. H. May, for Applicant.

H. L. Siders, L. Schurich, Mrs. Nellie Moore,  
Mrs. W. J. Bauermeister, J. R. Snedden,  
C. B. Coit, E. S. Birdsell, E. Rasmussen,  
C. M. Barnes and Edward A. Marriott, Protestants.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding The Western Union Telegraph Company requests the Railroad Commission for authority to discontinue its telegraph office at Big Creek.

A public hearing was held in this matter before Examiner Kennedy at Big Creek on April 28, 1931, at which time full opportunity was given interested parties to be heard, and the matter was submitted for decision.

A. H. May, District Superintendent of The Western Union Company, as a witness, presented data to show that the annual gross receipts of the Big Creek office were \$1,695. in 1929 and \$1,352. in 1930. The annual operating expenses of the office were \$1,569. in 1929 and \$1,444. in 1930, leaving a balance of \$126. in 1929 and a deficit of \$92. in 1930. The expenses here used represent only the salary of the local manager and local miscellaneous expenses and do not include any amount for supplies, taxes, supervision, maintenance, etc., which is estimated to be approximately 35% of the revenues of the office. Receipts from the Big Creek office

for the first three months of 1931 amounted to \$110. and for the same periods of 1930 and 1929 amounted to \$159. and \$329., respectively. Mr. May stated that since the completion of its hydro-electric project at Big Creek the Southern California Edison Company had greatly reduced its local operating force and dismantled many of its buildings, with the result that telegraph receipts have been materially reduced at Big Creek. At the present time the local population, other than employees of the Southern California Edison Company, is approximately twenty-five.

The San Joaquin and Eastern Railroad Company has a private line from Big Creek to Fresno, over which emergency messages may be sent. The Southern California Edison Company has its own private telephone system at Big Creek and lines between Big Creek and outside points.

The Western Union Company proposes, if it is permitted to close its Big Creek office, to open a seasonal office at Huntington Lake, about four miles distant from Big Creek, where considerable telegraph business originates during the summer months. Telegrams from Big Creek to the proposed Huntington Lake telegraph office could be sent via the Forest Service telephone line. The record shows that telegraph messages from Big Creek may be sent over the Forest Service line to North Fork, thence over the lines of the Bigelow Telephone Company to Clovis, where connection with telegraph and telephone lines is effected. This route for telegraph messages was objected to on account of poor transmission, interruptions due to the Forest Service line being down and because the Bigelow Telephone Company service is not continuous.

Several citizens of Big Creek protested the abandonment of the Big Creek telegraph office, stating that it would result in personal inconvenience and detriment to business.

After a careful consideration of the testimony before us

in this matter, it is apparent that continuance of the telegraph office at Big Creek is not justified and the order following will provide for its abandonment.

O R D E R

The Western Union Telegraph Company having made application for authority to discontinue its telegraph office at Big Creek, a public hearing having been held, the matter having been submitted and now being ready for decision,

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby finds as a fact that The Western Union Telegraph Company should be granted authority to discontinue its Big Creek telegraph office and, basing this opinion on the foregoing finding of fact,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that The Western Union Telegraph Company may discontinue its Big Creek telegraph office on or before July 1, 1931.

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 11th day of May, 1931.

C. J. Seaver  
W. J. Linn  
W. B. Van  
Fred G. Stewart  
 Commissioners.