

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 24261.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the Application of Columbia Utilities Company of California, Ltd., a corporation, for Certificate of Public Convenience and Necessity for the construction of a Telephone and Telegraph toll line between Tule Lake, Siskiyou County, California, and the Shaw-Bertram Lumber Company logging camp, situated in Section 23, Township 44 North, Range 5 East, M.D.M.

Application No. 17559.

In the matter of the Application of Columbia Utilities Company of California, Ltd., a corporation, for permission to establish toll stations and intrastate toll rates in Siskiyou and Modoc Counties, California.

Application No. 17564.

D. O. Hood and A. W. Schaupp,  
for Applicant.  
A. J. Mathews, Interested Party.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In Application No. 17559, Columbia Utilities Company of California, Ltd., for convenience hereinafter referred to as the Columbia Company, requests of the Railroad Commission a certificate of public convenience and necessity for the construction of a toll telephone and telegraph line from Tule Lake in

Siskiyou County, California, to the Shaw-Bertram Lumber Company logging camp, called Tionesta, and situated in Section 23, Township 44 North, Range 5 East, M.D.M., in Modoc County, California, and to establish toll stations on said line.

In Application No. 17564, Columbia Company requests authority to establish toll stations at Clear Lake Dam, situated in Section 8, Township 47 North, Range 8 East, M.D.M., and at Groh's Ranch, in Modoc County, California, and to establish intrastate toll telephone and telegraph rates for service in California.

A public hearing in these proceedings, which were consolidated for hearing and decision, was held before Examiner Satterwhite in Dorris on October 8, 1931, and the matters submitted for decision.

Authority to operate an exchange telephone system in California was granted by this Commission in Decision No. 22313, dated April 10, 1930, in Application No. 16298 of Agnes Richey Kattenhorn. Authority to transfer to the Columbia Company the certificate of public convenience and necessity so granted was authorized in Decision No. 22390, dated September 22, 1930.

At the present time, the Columbia Company operates sixty ten-party line telephone stations in and around Tule Lake townsite. Of this number, forty receive switching service at Merrill, Oregon, without charge, to all exchange telephone stations connected to the Merrill exchange, and to the twenty Tule Lake stations which are switched at Malin, Oregon. The twenty Tule Lake stations switched at Malin, Oregon, likewise receive switching service without charge to all exchange telephone stations connected to the Malin, Oregon, exchange and to the forty Tule Lake stations connected to the Merrill exchange.

By authority conferred by an Order Extending Time, the Columbia Company has until December 31, 1931, in which to place

in operation a central office in Tule Lake District for the purpose of switching its exchange telephone services in California. In granting the certificate above referred to, applicant was ordered to establish telephonic communication between Tule Lake central office and outside points contemporaneously with the establishment of exchange service with a central office in Tule Lake District. D. O. Hood, president of applicant company, testified that arrangements were being completed to establish such a central office. It will be in order, therefore, that toll telephone rates be authorized effective for service on and after the date of the establishment of said central office.

A. J. Mathews stated that Public Utilities California Corporation, whom he represented at the hearing, had on file with the Commission a map showing the limits of the operative territory of the former Nevada, California and Oregon Telegraph and Telephone Company, a predecessor of Public Utilities California Corporation, and that the extension of service requested by the Columbia Company would include a portion of said operative territory. However, it was thereupon agreed by Mr. Mathews and Mr. Hood, for the respective companies represented by them, that if the south line of Township 44 North were made the south boundary and the west line of Range 7 East, M.D.M., were made the east boundary of the Columbia Company's service territory, such service territorial limits would be satisfactory to each utility.

The Columbia Company requested authority for the establishment of a toll station at Perez, which is about eight miles east of Tionesta, but will not be ready to open such station for some time in the future. Inasmuch as the location of Perez is in the service territory which the Columbia Company desires to serve and which Public Utilities California Corporation is willing

to relinquish, special permission to open a toll station at Perez, when required, may be authorized without a formal proceeding, and it is unnecessary to grant such authority at this time.

At the hearing, request was made by counsel for the Columbia Company that Application No. 17564 be amended to omit the proposed Clear Lake Dam toll station and, no good reason otherwise appearing, this request will be granted.

The agreement of the Columbia Company and Public Utilities California Corporation that the west line of Range 7 East, M.D.M., would limit the eastern extension of applicant's service, automatically eliminates the proposed Groh's Ranch toll station, located in Section 20, Township 48 North, Range 9 East, M.D.M., from consideration.

The Columbia Company in Application No. 17564 also requested authority to establish a toll station at the office of the Siskiyou Tractor and Implement Company in the townsite of Tule Lake, preliminary to the establishment of a central office at that point. Inasmuch as the Order in this proceeding will not authorize toll stations prior to the establishment of the central office, this request is automatically denied without prejudice.

After eliminating the four proposed toll stations referred to above, the Columbia Company is requesting authority to establish six toll points on the proposed Tule Lake-Tionesta toll line, one of which, Tule Lake, will be the exchange connecting point, and Stronghold, Liskey Brothers Ranch, Guthrie Camp No. 35, Guthrie Camp No. 42 and Tionesta will be toll stations. It is estimated that the proposed line will cost \$3,000,00.

In its Application No. 17559, the Columbia Company proposes to construct at least a portion of its toll system as a grounded circuit. This type of circuit is little used in California on account of transmission and inductive interference

difficulties. However, if applicant in this instance uses some grounded circuit mileage, it must be with the distinct understanding that telephonic transmission must be kept up to a reasonable standard and that in the event communication is impaired by inductive interference from electric power lines, reasonably located and constructed in accordance with State of California regulation, such grounded telephone lines will be metallicized promptly and at the Columbia Company's expense.

The Columbia Company filed an Exhibit No. 2 at the hearing showing the proposed toll telephone and telegraph rate schedules which it desired to make effective. A table purporting to show the air-line mileages between the proposed toll points, as shown on the map filed as Exhibit No. 1, was included in Exhibit No. 2. A check of these air-line mileages indicates that most of them are incorrect, assuming the toll station locations as spotted on the map to be correct. A review of the testimony given by Mr. Hood and a study of the proposed rates for toll telephone service indicates that an attempt was made to compute these rates on the basis generally used in California. It appears that considerable discrimination might result if the rates were made effective, as proposed, and for this reason the said rates will not be authorized without modification. The basis of constructing toll telephone rate schedules generally used in California contemplates a uniform zoning plan, uniform initial periods and rates, uniform overtime periods and rates and a uniform relation between the several classes of toll service. We believe that the method of constructing toll telephone rate schedules for service within the Columbia Company's service area in California should conform, as nearly as practicable, to this general practice. The suggested basis is set forth in Exhibit "A", attached to the Order herewith. Rates which may later be submitted to the

Commission by the Columbia Company for service between new toll stations should be constructed on this basis. Charges for messages between a toll point on the lines of the Columbia Company and an outside toll point will be the sum of the Columbia Company's charges and the charges of the connecting company or companies.

Columbia Company also requests authority to furnish telegraph service over its system at rates of charge as set forth in its Exhibit No. 2. It is in the public interest that this service be offered, and the rates proposed appear to be reasonable.

The Order following will provide for a certificate to furnish toll telephone and telegraph service, with rates as justified by the record in this proceeding.

O R D E R

Columbia Utilities Company of California, Ltd., having made application for a certificate to furnish toll telephone and telegraph service in portions of Siskiyou and Modoc Counties, California, and for rates of charge therefor, a public hearing having been held, the applications having been consolidated for hearing and decision, the matters having been submitted and now being ready for decision,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA HEREBY FINDS that public convenience and necessity require the establishment of toll telephone and telegraph service in that portion of Siskiyou and Modoc Counties described in the opinion which precedes this order, and basing its order on the foregoing finding of fact and such other findings of fact and conclusions as are contained in the preceding opinion, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and the same is hereby granted to

Columbia Utilities Company of California, Ltd., for the extension of toll telephone and telegraph service, in accordance with the above finding and subject to the following conditions, provided that the Railroad Commission of the State of California may hereafter, by appropriate proceedings and orders, revoke or limit, as to territory not then served by applicant or its successors in interest, the authority herein granted:

Columbia Utilities Company of California, Ltd., shall

- (1) Establish a toll connecting point at Tule Lake telephone central office, on or before December 31, 1931, contemporaneously with the establishment of said central office.
- (2) Establish toll telephone and telegraph stations at Stronghold, Liskey Brothers Ranch, Guthrie Camp No. 35, Guthrie Camp No. 42 and Tionesta on or before March 31, 1932, but not prior to the establishment of the telephone central office in Tule Lake District.
- (3) Submit to the Railroad Commission of the State of California, for filing, in the manner prescribed in General Order No. 68, rates for toll telephone and telegraph service between Tule Lake and outside points constructed on the plan set forth in Exhibit "A", attached hereto and made a part hereof, not later than ten (10) days prior to the establishment of the telephone central office in Tule Lake District.
- (4) Submit to the Railroad Commission of the State of California, for filing, in the manner prescribed in General Order No. 68, rates for toll telephone and telegraph service between Stronghold, Liskey Brothers Ranch, Guthrie Camp No. 35, Guthrie Camp No. 42 and Tionesta and other toll points not later than ten (10) days prior to the date of the establishment of said stations.
- (5) Submit to the Railroad Commission of the State of California, for filing, in the manner prescribed in General Order No. 68, a map showing its service territory limits as described in the opinion preceding this order, not later than ten (10) days prior to the establishment of the toll stations referred to in (2) above.
- (6) Keep an accurate and complete record, in accordance with the Uniform System of Accounts for Telephone Companies approved by the Railroad Commission of the State of California, of the cost of its properties in California which are used for toll telephone and telegraph service, and, of the operating

revenues and expenses appertaining thereto and make such records available to the Commission, or any officer or employee of the Commission, whenever the same are requested.

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 9<sup>th</sup> day of November, 1931.

C. Seavey  
Leon Swisher  
M. J. Carr  
W. B. Harris  
Fred G. Stewart  
 Commissioners.



EXHIBIT "A"

TOLL TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH RATES

TOLL TELEPHONE SERVICE

SERVICE:

Applicable to toll telephone service between stations of the system.

BASIS OF RATES:

Station-to-Station Charges:

6:30 A.M. to 8:30 P.M.

For Distances

More Than Miles	But Not More Than Miles	Initial Rate Is	Initial Period Is Minutes	Over-time Rate Is	Over-time Period Is Minutes	8:30 PM to 12 Midnight Rate Is	12 Mid-night to 6:30 AM Rate Is
0	6	\$.05	5	\$.05	5	Day Rate	Day Rate
6	12	.10	5	.05	3	Day Rate	Day Rate
12	18	.15	5	.05	2	Day Rate	Day Rate
18	24	.20	5	.05	2	Day Rate	Day Rate
24	32	.25	5	.05	1	Day Rate	Day Rate
32	40	.30	3	.10	1	\$.25	\$.25

Person-to-Person, Appointment, Messenger and Report Charges:

When Station-to-Station Rate Is	Completed Person-to-Person Rate Is	Completed Appointment and Messenger Rate Is	Report Charge Is
\$.05	-	-	-
.10	\$.15	\$.20	\$.05
.15	.20	.25	.10
.20	.25	.30	.10
.25	.30	.35	.10
.30	.40	.45	.10

The rates applicable to toll telephone service between points on the lines of the Company and points on connecting company's lines are the above rates, plus the connecting line rates for messages between the connecting point and the point of destination or origination on the connecting company's lines.

TELEGRAPH SERVICE - SCHEDULE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

SERVICE:

Applicable to Telegraph Service between points as listed below.

RATE:

Base Rates:

between	and	Malin	Merrill	Tule Lake	Stronghold	Liskey Bros.	Guthrie Camp #35	Guthrie Camp #42
Tionesta		30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Guthrie Camp #42		30	30	30	30	30	30	30
Guthrie Camp #35		30	30	30	30	30		
Liskey Bros. Ranch		30	30	30	30			
Stronghold		30	30	30				
Tule Lake		30	30					
Merrill, Oregon		30						

The above rates are applicable to Day or Night Messages of ten (10) words or less. The rate for each additional word of a Day or Night Message is 2½¢ when the base rate is 30¢.

Day Letters:

First 50 words or less, one and one-half (1½) base rate.  
Each additional ten words or less 9¢ when base rate for Day Message is 30¢

Day Letters are accepted and forwarded as a deferred service subordinate to the priority of transmission and delivery of full rate day messages.

Night Letters:

First 50 words or less, base rate.  
Each additional ten words or less 6¢, when base rate for Day Message is 30¢

Night Letters are accepted until 2 o'clock A.M. for delivery on the next following business day.

The rates applicable to telegraph service between points on the lines of the Company and points on connecting company's lines are the above rates plus the connecting line rates, between the connecting point and the point of destination or origination on the connecting company's lines.

SCHEDULE NO. \_\_\_\_\_

Other rates and charges as may be approved.