

Decision No. 25307.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of
NORTHWESTERN PACIFIC RAILROAD COMPANY
for an order authorizing it to close
the agency at Windsor Station, County
of Sonoma, State of California, during
the period November 1st to August 31st,
inclusive, of each year.

Application No. 18354.

Roy G. Hillebrand for Applicant.

W. H. Waterman for Shippers and Citizens of
Windsor.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this proceeding the Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company seeks authority to establish a seasonal agency at Windsor, Sonoma County.

A public hearing was conducted in this proceeding before Examiner Hunter at Windsor on October 18, 1932.

At present applicant maintains a full time agency at Windsor and it now proposes to operate this station as an agency during the months of September and October of each year, and as a non-agency during the remainder of the time.

Although the proposed period of operation as an agency is fixed in the application as two months during the normal time of harvesting grapes, which commodity represents the greater volume of carload shipments, it was shown that it is the company's plan to extend the time of agency operation if business justifies.

The following tabulation shows the results of operation at Windsor as shown on Company's Exhibit No. 1 and related testimony:

Items	For Year Ending		For Months of		Total for	
	April 30, 1932,		September and		Year Ending	
	Except Revenue during Months of September and October		September and October, 1931.		April 30, 1932.	
	Total	Charges	Total	Charges	Total	Charges
	Less	Interline	Less	Interline	Less	Interline
Carloads Forwarded,	\$2,238.	\$1,134.	\$52,903.	\$7,844.	\$55,141.	\$8,978.
Carloads Received,	3,790.	2,130.	400.	490.	4,190.	2,620.
Total Carload,	\$6,028.	\$3,264.	\$53,303.	\$8,334.	\$59,331.	\$11,598.
Less than Carloads Fwd.,	\$49.	\$47.	\$3.	\$3.	\$52.	\$50.
Less than Carloads Rec'd,	680.	601.	116.	92.	797.	693.
Total L.C.L. Fwd. & Rec'd,	\$729.	\$848.	\$119.	\$95.	\$849.	\$743.
Tickets, Local,	\$551.	\$551.	\$153.	\$153.	\$704.	\$704.
Tickets, Interline,	9.	9.	7.	7.	16.	16.
Total Tickets,	\$560.	\$560.	\$160.	\$160.	\$720.	\$720.
Milk & Cream,	\$164.	\$164.	\$19.	\$19.	\$183.	\$183.
Total less than Carload & Milk & Cream, & Tickets	\$1,453.	\$1,372.	\$298.	\$274.	\$1,752.	\$1,646.
Average per Month,	\$145.	\$137.	\$149.	\$137.	\$146.	\$137.
Total Revenue,	\$7,482.	\$4,636.	\$53,601.	\$8,608.	\$61,083.	\$13,244.
Average per Month,	\$748.	\$463.	\$26,800.	\$4,304.	\$5,090.	\$1,104.
Station Expense,	\$1,454.	\$1,454.	\$291.	\$291.	\$1,745.	\$1,745.
Average per Month,	\$145.	\$145.	\$145.	\$145.	\$145.	\$145.

Applicant's proposed plan of operation provides that during the time this station is conducted as a non-agency, less-than-carload shipments will be stored in the company's warehouse under lock and a custodian of the key appointed; said key to be made available to shippers. The company also offers to maintain a telephone at the station for the convenience of its patrons to communicate with either adjacent agency station on railroad matters.

With respect to taking care of the passenger business, it was shown that during the time of non-agency station operation passengers may purchase their tickets from the conductor on the train without extra cost. As for carload business, the proposed plan of operation provides that cars will be furnished upon telephonic request, personal contact with either adjacent agency, or through a request to conductor of train stopping at Windsor.

The nearest agency stations to Windsor are Healdsburg, located 5.1 miles to the north, and Fulton 4.4 miles to the south. These adjacent agents will notify consignees of the arrival of shipments either by phone or mail; shipments from the north will, under the Company's plan, be handled by the Fulton agency during the time the Windsor agency is conducted as a non-agency station, and likewise by the Healdsburg agency for shipments from the south.

A number of residents of Windsor and vicinity appeared in opposition to the granting of this application, taking the position that the shippers of Windsor would be seriously inconvenienced if applicant's plan to operate a seasonal agency were put into effect, in that they would have to do business with either of the adjacent agencies instead of having a man on the ground; that time would be consumed in securing the key to obtain or store shipments

in the Company's warehouse, and that the Company should consider the total earnings of the station rather than limit the consideration to the rather low less-than-carload revenue.

As shown in the tabulation given on Page 2 the total revenue credited to Windsor Station for the year ending April 30, 1932, less the revenue for the months of September and October, amounted to \$4,636., divided as follows: Carload business \$3,264. and less-than-carload, passenger tickets, milk and cream \$1,372. The direct station expense, without allowance for transportation and other expenses incidental to performing the service during this time amounted to \$1,454. which is greater than the revenue secured at this station for all business, excluding carloads.

In this case it appears that the carrying out of the Company's plan of seasonal agency at this point will not work a serious hardship on patrons of the line, since there is an agency station within some five miles in either direction and provision is made to take care of the various classes of service without serious inconvenience to the shippers. This conclusion is reached with the understanding that if additional business develops or the proposed time for maintaining a seasonal agency does not meet the reasonable requirements of the Company's patrons, a revised or extended time of maintaining the agency will be effected.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding, the matter having been duly submitted and the Commission being now fully advised and basing its order on the findings of fact as appear in the opinion which precedes this order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the applicant, Northwestern

Pacific Railroad Company, a corporation, be and it is hereby authorized to establish a seasonal agency station at Windsor, County of Sonoma, State of California, and to change its station records and tariffs accordingly, provided that said station be continued as an agency station during the time from approximately September 1st to October 31st of each year and as a non-agency station during the remaining period of each year, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Applicant shall each year notify the public ten(10) days in advance of the closing of said agency by posting a notice in a conspicuous place at said station, and also notify this Commission, in writing, that said agency is to be closed.
- (2) During the time the agency is conducted as a non-agency station less-than-carload freight shipments shall be stored under lock in company's warehouse and the company telephone located at this station shall be made available to patrons, the key to both warehouse and telephone to be obtainable from a custodian located at or near said station, notice of which shall be maintained at both warehouse and telephone advising prospective shippers and patrons where the key may be secured.
- (3) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the time hereof unless further time is granted by subsequent order.
- (4) The Commission reserves the right to make such further order in this matter as to it may seem right and ~~proper and to revoke its permission if, in its judgment, public convenience and necessity demand such action.~~

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 31st day of October, 1932.

C. C. Seaver
Leon Oubinsky
M. A. [unclear]
W. B. [unclear]
Fred G. [unclear]
Commissioners.