

Decision No. 11391

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application)
of R. B. YOUNG, doing business as)
the GRIZZLY ELECTRIC COMPANY for)
permission to operate his plant)
by giving half night service.)

Application No. 6742

R. B. Young in propria persona.

A. N. Waite, Secretary of Portola
Chamber of Commerce, for consumers.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this application R. B. Young, operating under the name of Grizzly Electric Company alleges that under present rates he cannot meet the expenses incidental to the all night operation of his electric generating plant and asks that the Railroad Commission authorize half night service. The plant in question consists of a 100 K.W. generator belt driven by an oil engine and electricity for lighting purposes is distributed to about 120 consumers in the town of Portola, Plumas County. Service is now furnished from sunset to sunrise.

A public hearing was held before examiner Satterwhite at Portola on May 27, 1922 at which Mr. Young submitted evidence in support of his position, and at which there were also heard many protests from consumers against the proposed reduction in hours of operation.

It appeared to be the consensus of opinion at the hearing that from the point of view of consumers it would be better to slightly increase rates than to curtail service.

It was agreed that a member of the Commission's Engineering Department should make an investigation of the plant and suggested sources of increased revenue and that his report should be submitted to Mr. Waite as a representative of the consumers and to Mr. Young for their comments. This report indicates that in the past, service has been unreliable and voltage has been poor, but that at the time of the inspection, steps were being taken to improve operating conditions. Past earnings do not appear to have been as large as Mr. Young might reasonably expect, but in the opinion of our engineer, this is largely due to the inadequate service supplied, and it is very probable that improvement in service will result in an increase in revenue sufficient to yield a satisfactory return. The report which was submitted to both parties to the hearing contained the following recommendation:

"In my opinion neither the curtailment of service suggested nor an increase in rates are advisable at the present time either from the standpoint of public service or of the growth and welfare of Mr. Young's system. If Mr. Young operates his system so that good service is supplied and the community does not then give the patronage necessary to result in an adequate return, he should be permitted to increase his rates if he believes that his revenues can be increased in that way, but reasonable service should be given before the community is asked to bear any additional burden."

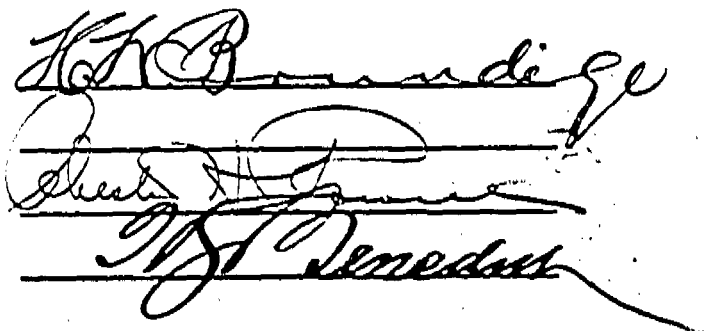
This conclusion is in harmony with the testimony taken at the hearing and its soundness as a basis for a decision has not been questioned. If Mr. Young fails to continue and complete the work of rehabilitation of plant and improvement of service which he has undertaken, this Commission is ready to provide such relief for consumers as circumstances show to be reasonable, while on the other hand, if improvement in service does not result in the anticipated support from the community and increase in revenue, consideration can be given to an application for authority to increase rates.

O R D E R

R. B. Young, doing business as Grizzly Electric Company, having applied to the Railroad Commission for permission to operate his plant by giving only half night service, a public hearing having been held, the matter being submitted and ready for decision, IT IS HEREBY ORDERED:

That this application be and the same is hereby denied without prejudice.

Dated at San Francisco, California this 23rd day of December, 1922.


Commissioners.