

Decision No.           

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the matter of the application of I. H. Skillman and D. W. Hill, partners under the name of BIDWELL ELECTRIC COMPANY for a declaration that public convenience and necessity require the exercise of certain franchise rights to construct and operate a certain electric line in Modoc County.

} Application No. 2406.  
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D. W. Hill for applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N.

I. H. SKILLMAN and D. W. HILL, partners under the name and style of BIDWELL ELECTRIC COMPANY, apply to the Railroad Commission for a declaration that public convenience and necessity require the exercise by applicants of the rights and privileges granted by Ordinance No. 62 of the County of Modoc on July 17, 1916, referring to the transmission and distribution of electric energy.

Applicants' electric generating equipment is installed in the flour mill of Empire Milling Company located about one mile north of Fort Bidwell, Modoc County, a town with a population of about 500.

The mill, which is operated but a few weeks each year, had an excess of power. It leased to applicants for ten years at a rental of \$20 per month, part of its building with use of its excess water power. The water is conveyed to the mill from Bidwell Creek by a ditch with a capacity of 150 miner's inches to a point about 400 feet north of the mill from which point it passes through an 18 inch pipe to a turbine wheel in the mill with a fall of 270 feet. Applicants have installed in the mill a 60 k.w. single phase 2200 volt generator.

The lessor has filed on 500 miner's inches of water which under the lease applicants may use without further compensation, except to sufficiently enlarge the ditch to carry it.

Applicants' transmission line is about one mile in length and is constructed on 35 foot tamarack poles carrying two No. 9 bare iron wires. This line will be operated at 2,200 volts. The distributing lines are of similar construction except for the conductors which are No. 6 B. & S. G. weather proof copper wire.

Applicants estimate the cost of plant and system when completed at about \$5,000.00.

Of seventy dwellings in town about forty have been wired for lighting service and all but ten are accessible to the distribution lines now under construction. Applicants have arranged to supply power to motors having an aggregate 20 horsepower and it is expected that there will be from 10 to 15 horsepower in motors which

may be secured. Nearly all the available commercial lighting has already been procured. The people have recently voted, 83 to 1, in favor of a municipal lighting district, which will produce a gross revenue for the new electric plant of about \$36 per month.

The rate proposed is 15 cents per k.w.h. for the first 20 k.w.h. per month; then 6 cents per k.w.h. for all excess. On July 17, 1916, the County of Modoc, by Ordinance No. 62, granted to applicants the right to use the roads, streets and highways of the three precincts of Bidwell East, Bidwell West and Lake City, all in Modoc County, for the transmission and distribution of electric energy. Applicants paid \$50 for this franchise.

Applicants contemplate extending their lines at some future time about 16 miles south of Fort Bidwell to Lake City, a town of about 300, where it is reported that there is considerable demand for electric service. No business has yet been solicited in Lake City.

No electric service is now being supplied to either Fort Bidwell or Lake City nor has other application been made therefor, and no objection to granting the present application has been made.

#### O R D E R.

A public hearing having been held in the above entitled proceeding and the matter having been submitted,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA hereby declares that public convenience and necessity require the exercise by I. E. Skillman and D. W. Hill, partners under the name and style of Bidwell Electric Company, of the rights and privileges conferred by Ordinance No. 62 of the County of Modoc, adopted July

17, 1916, provided said I. H. SKILLMAN and D. W. HILL shall first have filed with the Railroad Commission a stipulation declaring that Bidwell Electric Company, its successors and assigns will never claim before the Railroad Commission or any court or other public body a value for said rights and privileges in excess of the actual cost to said I. H. SKILLMAN and D. W. HILL of acquiring said rights and privileges, which said cost is represented by them to have been \$65. and provided they shall have received from the Railroad Commission a supplemental order declaring that such stipulation in form satisfactory to the Railroad Commission has been filed with the Railroad Commission.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this  
6<sup>th</sup> day of October, 1916.

Max Thelen

H. H. Howard

W. L. Gordon

Edwin O. Edgerton

Commissioners.