

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION  
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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In the Matter of the Application of  
THE SOUTHERN SIERRAS POWER COMPANY,  
an electrical corporation, for an  
order authorizing said company to  
raise certain of its scheduled rates  
for electric power service for pump-  
ing for irrigation purposes in the  
County of Riverside, and in the County  
of San Bernardino, south of the San  
Bernardino Mountains (excepting ter-  
ritory within incorporated cities and  
towns in said two counties), in the  
State of California.

Application No. 343.

Decision No. 445

I. B. Potter for applicant.

BSELEMAN, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N

The petition in this matter is filed under Section 63 of the Public Utilities Act and requests authority to establish certain new rate schedules for electric power service in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties.

On April 27, 1912, in compliance with the Commission's General Order No. 15, petitioner filed rate schedules applicable to Inyo, Kern, San Bernardino and Riverside Counties. It appears from the rate schedules filed that a certain "preliminary schedule of rates for pumping plants" of 15 E. P. and over was "in effect August 1st, 1911 in San Bernardino and Riverside Counties", and it is admitted by petitioner that business was solicited and contracts taken for service under these rates.

In connection with petitioner's said filing of April 27, 1912, there also appeared a "schedule of power rates in effect April 1st, 1912 in San Bernardino County, California, south of the San Bernardino Mountains (except the city of San Bernardino) and in Riverside County, California", designated as "Special - for

Pumping Plants" and providing for installations of 5 H. P. and over. In this schedule, the rates designated for installations of 15 H. P. and over were in excess of petitioner's rates as of August 1st, 1911. Business was also solicited and contracts for electric service entered into after April 1st, 1912 under this schedule.

On September 18th, 1912, petitioner filed an application to "reduce and modify its schedule of rates for electric power service in the Counties of San Bernardino and Riverside (except within incorporated cities and towns in said Counties)" and said petition, among other things, alleged as follows:

"That the said proposed new schedule, when in operation, will result in a substantially reduced price of current to the public, and will be in every respect more favorable to the public than the rates set forth in the schedules now in effect, and that the approval of said annexed schedule by your Commission will enable your petitioner to increase the number of electric consumers along the line of its distribution system at a time when the agents and canvassers of your petitioner are in the field, and will thereby save a considerable item of expense which your petitioner may be required to incur unless this new schedule can be immediately approved."

From a careful investigation of petitioner's ~~new~~ application, it became evident that, aside from a certain rate for electric cooking and heating service, no reductions were asked for, but, on the other hand, the power rates as set forth in the application actually tended to increase certain rates of petitioner in territory affected. The effect of the new schedule "for pumping plants for irrigation" was pointed out to petitioner, who was advised that it would be necessary to justify the increases before the permission of this Commission could be obtained to put such schedules into effect. Thereupon, petitioner prepared and filed the present application in this case "to raise certain of its scheduled rates" and said petition was heard before me at San Bernardino on January 27th, 1913.

It developed at the hearing that the Southern Sierras Power Company was organized in the year 1911 and, at the time of filing its original schedule of rates on April 27th, 1912, it had not completed its steam plant at San Bernardino, its hydro-electric plant on Bishop Creek in Inyo County, or its high tension transmission line

connecting these plants, and the "original or preliminary schedules" of rates which were prepared in advance of the completion of its system were arrived at merely by comparison and without any relation to or investigation of the actual cost of service to petitioner. Several contracts were entered into under petitioner's "tentative or preliminary schedule of rates" and service is at this time being supplied at the rates therein set forth. It further appears that no current was delivered from petitioner's steam generating plant in San Bernardino until January 3rd, 1912, and that no current whatever had been delivered from its hydro-electric plant up to the time of filing the application in this case.

From the testimony in this case and after a careful investigation of all the circumstances involved, it appears that no injustice to the public will result from permitting petitioner to establish the new schedules as set forth in the application, provided that all present contracts are carried out by petitioner pending any further action or order of the Commission in regard to such, and provided further that the rate for installations of less than 5 H. P. are provided for at a rate which will enable the small user of electric current to utilize same for irrigation service.

I therefore recommend that the application be granted on condition that Schedule No. 4-1E and Schedule No. 5-1E be so modified as to give a rate of 3¢ per K.W.H. to installations paying a monthly minimum of \$2.50 for six months of each year.

I submit the following form of order.

#### O R D E R.

The Southern Sierras Power Company having applied to this Commission for an order authorizing said company to raise certain of its scheduled rates for electric power service for pumping in the County of Riverside and in the County of San Bernardino, south of the San Bernardino Mountains (excepting territory within incorporated cities and towns in said two counties), and a hearing having been held and being fully advised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that applicant be permitted to establish and put into effect on and after February 15th, 1912, certain schedules of rates for power service, designated in Exhibits "A" and "B" of the application as Schedule No. 4-1E and Schedule No. 5-1E, on condition that said schedules be so modified as to allow a rate of 3¢ per K.W.H. to be given to installations paying a monthly minimum charge of \$2.50 for six months of each year, and providing that no contract heretofore entered into by petitioner for electric power at rates less than those herein authorized be cancelled without the express approval of this Commission.

This order is not intended to approve or recognize the justice or reasonableness of the rates hereby permitted, and is simply given to facilitate the transaction of business by the company pending any further action or order of the Commission in this matter.

The foregoing opinion and order are hereby approved and ordered filed as the opinion and order of the Railroad Commission of the State of California.

Dated at San Francisco, California this 6<sup>th</sup> day of February, 1913.

John M. Eshelman  
H. S. Leonard  
Edwin O. Edgerton

Commissioners.