

ORIGINAL

Dec No 5218

Decision No. ✓

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Service)
Standards of Gas Utilities. (

Case No. 1064.

- C. P. Cutten for Pacific Gas and Electric Company.
- Chickering and Gregory, by Allen L. Chickering,
for Western States Gas and Electric Company,
Santa Maria Gas and Power Company, Economic
Gas Company and San Diego Consolidated Gas
and Electric Company.
- H. F. Jackson for Coast Valleys Gas and Electric
Company.
- C. J. Goodell for Rochester Oil Company.
- R. H. Sterling for Santa Barbara Gas and Electric
Company and Ventura Light and Power Company.
- F. S. Wade for Southern Counties Gas Company.
- W. E. Houghton for Los Angeles Gas and Electric
Company.
- J. N. Jenson for Sacramento Gas Company.
- S. W. Coleman for Coast Counties Gas and Electric
Company and Contra Costa Gas Company.
- R. E. Matteson for Western Fuel, Gas and Power
Company.
- G. W. Satchell for Coalinga Gas and Power Company.
- B. E. Letang for Jackson Gas and Light Company.
- G. R. Kenny for San Joaquin Light and Power
Corporation and Midland Counties Public
Service Corporation.
- Z. T. Bell for Citrus Belt Gas Company.

THEILERN, Commissioner.

O P I N I O N.

This proceeding was instituted by the Railroad Commission on its own motion for the purpose of investigating the subject of service standards for gas utilities and of establishing, after full investigation and hearing, such service standards for gas utilities as might appear to be just and reasonable.

The proceeding was instituted on April 7, 1917, and all gas utilities in California were made parties thereto.

Prior to the hearing hereinafter referred to, the Gas and Electric Division of the Railroad Commission prepared 42 tentative rules of service standards which were printed and

mailed to all gas utilities for their consideration and suggestions in connection with this proceeding. These tentative rules cover the entire field of gas service standards, including, among other subjects, the maintenance of adequate maps and other records; the acquisition and use of testing equipment and facilities; meter readings and bill forms; extension of mains and installation of service connections; installation and maintenance of meters and regulators; the establishment and maintenance of heating value standards and of standards of pressure; the acquisition and use of appropriate calorimeter and pressure testing equipment; the testing of meters; and the adjustment of bills in cases of inaccurate meters.

Public hearings herein were held in San Francisco on August 20th and 21, 1917.

The testimony shows that the establishment and observance, of the rules as ^awhole would in normal times be desirable from the point of view of the gas utilities as well as their consumers.

While a number of the larger gas utilities are already complying substantially with most of the tentative rules, the testimony shows that a compliance therewith by all the gas utilities would result for most of them, including practically all the smaller companies, in increased capital and operating expenses.

If times and prices were normal, I would unhesitatingly recommend the adoption of the tentative standards prepared by the Gas and Electric Division, with such modifications as the testimony shows to be desirable. At the present time, however, when the nation's needs require the conservation of man power, material and funds and strict economy in both capital and operating expenditures, I believe that the promulgation and enforcement of these rules would not be in harmony with the nation's war requirements.

I, therefore, recommend that an order requiring the gas utilities to comply with the proposed service standards be not issued during the war or until the further order of the Railroad Commission. At the same time, however, I desire to suggest to the gas utilities of the state that it would be desirable for them to look to the proposed rules as the goal toward which they should work in service matters, even during the war, in all respects not involving major expenditures.

The order herein will, of course, not preclude the Commission from making such orders in service matters or otherwise in formal proceedings affecting gas utilities as may be found desirable and consistent with war conditions, or from taking up with the utilities informally in specific instances such service matters as may require adjustment.

I submit the following form of order:

O R D E R.

Public hearings having been held in the above entitled proceeding and the Railroad Commission finding that the promulgation and enforcement of the proposed service standards of gas utilities would not at this time be consistent with war conditions and war needs,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that further proceedings herein be suspended during the war or until the further order of the Railroad Commission.

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 22nd day
of March, 1918.

Max Thelen

J. H. Loveland

Wm. Gordon

Frank D. White

Commissioners.