

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

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ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of)
THE TRUCKEE RIVER GENERAL ELECTRIC)
COMPANY for increase and changes in)
certain of its rates.)

Application No. 4990.

Goodfellow, Bells, More & Orrick by C.J. Goodell,
for the Applicant.

Paul A. McCarthy, Northside Water Users' Association,
for Protestants.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In the above proceeding The Truckee River General Electric Company, an incorporated public utility, asks authority to increase its rates charged for water supplied by its Loon Lake ditch system in El Dorado County, California, for irrigation, industrial, mining and domestic purposes in Georgetown and vicinity. Said Company is engaged primarily in the business of hydro-electric generation and distribution of electric light and power to consumers in California and Nevada.

The application alleges in effect that the rates established October 1, 1911, are non-compensatory and do not produce sufficient income to meet the costs of maintenance, operation and taxes, and further, the revenue has been insufficient to meet said charges for a number of years.

Applicant asks that the schedule of increased rates attached to the application be authorized.

A public hearing in this matter was held by Examiner Westover at Cool at which all interested parties were notified and given an

opportunity to appear and be heard.

The Truckee River General Electric Company, a subsidiary enterprise of the Sierra Pacific Electric Company, a holding corporation with head offices in Boston, Massachusetts, about 1909, purchased all the water rights and properties of the Loon Lake Water and Power Company for a future hydro-electric development. Said properties included the ditch system herein under discussion.

The early history shows that these ditches were originally constructed from 1852 to 1870 for hydraulic mining purposes, which use has been discontinued, and the present use for other mining and industrial purposes is comparatively small. The main use at present is for irrigation purposes, which is in a development stage.

The water supply is obtained by diversion from the Gerle Creek, Little South Fork of Rubicon River and Pilot Creek. A storage of 7200 acre feet is provided in Loon Lake, elevation 6400, located at the head of Gerle Creek. Water is thereby supplied during the period of low flow of the streams. The water is delivered by gravity through about 125 miles of ditch and flumes, the flow being regulated by 7 small earthen reservoirs at and below Georgetown. Elevation at lower end of system is about 1300.

No appraisal of the properties was submitted at the hearing. The cost of the property of the Loon Lake Water and Power Company as of December 31, 1911, as shown on the books, was \$322,882.40.

A further consideration of a rate base in this proceeding is unnecessary in view of the fact shown by the evidence, that the ditch system originally built for hydraulic mining purposes, is overbuilt for its present uses and under the conditions obtaining applicant concedes that it cannot reasonably expect a rate schedule established which will produce a full return, to include interest on the capital invested, depreciation, and maintenance and operation ex-

penses. It was admitted such rates would be unduly and unjustly high.

The maintenance and operation expenses for the year 1918 totalled \$9,728.49, and for 1919 it increased to \$13,859.02, accounted for by increased costs of labor and materials and extra work in repairing flumes and clearing out ditches.

The total income received from the rate schedule in effect was \$10,167 for 1919. It is estimated that the rate schedule asked for in the application will yield approximately \$15,000 income, based on 1919 water use and adding for the probable new acreage to be irrigated in 1920.

It is evident therefore that applicant is entitled to an increase in rates, and further a comparison with the rates of similar ditch systems in the Sierra foothill region shows that the increased rates asked for are reasonable for like service.

The water users agree to the proposed rate increase providing the Company continue to render as good service as during the past season.

ORDER

The Truckee River General Electric Company having applied to this Commission for an order authorizing it to increase its rates, and a public hearing having been held, and the Commission being fully apprised in the premises,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT, that the present rate schedule of the Truckee River General Electric Company, in so far as it differs from the rate schedule herein set out, is unjust and unreasonable, and that the rates herein established are just and reasonable rates to be charged by said Company for water,

And basing its order upon the foregoing finding of fact, and the other statements of fact contained in the opinion preceding

this order:

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that the Truckee River General Electric Company be and it is hereby authorized and directed to file with this Commission within twenty (20) days of the date of this order, and thereafter charge the following rates:

<u>RATE SCHEDULE</u>	<u>Per miner's inch per day</u>
<u>For Irrigation purposes:</u>	
24-hour service continuous flow for irrigation season..	25 cents
24-hour service non-continuous flow during irrigation season.	30 "
Mining annual payment will be the equivalent of one quarter of a miner's inch continuous flow for the irrigation season.	

For Mining and Industrial purposes:

24-hour service continuous flow for the calendar year	20 cents
24-hour service continuous flow for irrigation season only.	25 "
24-hour service non-continuous flow during irrigation season only.	30 "
Service for months between irrigation seasons	20 "
Minimum annual payment will be the equivalent of these miner's inches, continuous flow for the irrigation season.	

The above rates are based on the California Statute Miner's inch, equivalent to 1/40 of a cubic foot per second.

FLAT RATES -

For Domestic use:

	<u>Per month</u>
1. Residences or tenements of not more than 4 rooms occupied by single families	\$1.00
For each additional room . . . . .	.10
For each bathtub or toilet . . . . .	.15
For each private barn, not more than 2 horses or cows . . . . .	.70
For each additional horse or cow. . . . .	.25
For each private garage where autos are washed on the premises . . . . .	.25
2. Sprinkling or irrigation of lawns, shrubbery, gardens, etc., payable every month in the year, per 100 square feet . . . . .	.10
3. Private boarding houses, for each boarder in addition to the family . . . . .	.10

	<u>Per month</u>
4. Hotels and lodging houses:	
Dining room, from	\$1.00 to \$3.00
For each room with water tap. . . . .	.20
For each room without water tap . . . . .	.10
For each private bathroom . . . . .	.25
5. Public toilets in hotels, lodging houses and public places,	1.25
For each additional toilet . . . . .	.50
6. For one public bathtub in hotels, lodging houses, barber shops and bathing estab- lishments.	1.25
For each additional public bathtub. . . . .	.50
7. Public urinals in hotels, pool rooms, schools, or any place, for each bowl where a drain is used	\$1.50 to 3.00
With automatic trap flusher	1.00 to 3.00
8. Photograph galleries, or where water is used for photograph printing and developing in addition to the store rate	1.00
9. Soda fountains, ice cream and lunch parlors, either alone or in connection with other business	1.00
10. Public garages, including water for washing cars - each automobile . . . . .	.30
Minimum payment	1.50
11. Livery stables and stock yards, per average number of stock fed, each . . . . .	.25
Minimum payment	1.25
12. Stores and shops not otherwise listed, in- cluding water for washing windows and sidewalks	1.00
13. Additional for each bathtub or flush toilet in 8 to 13 inclusive. . . . .	.25
14. For use of water for operating any apparatus by water power, according to use of water, . . .	75¢ to 4.00
15. For living rooms in connection with stores or shops in addition to the store rate. . . . .	.50

	<u>Per month</u>
16. Building work:	
For mortar or to dampen brick, per 1000 bricks. .	.20
For cement work and plastering, each barrel of cement or lime used . . . . .	.20
17. Each public watering trough,	1.00

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th
 day of ~~March~~ ^{April}, 1920.

Edwin A. Edgerton
H. L. Leonard
Frank P. Worley
H. B. Boudreau

Commissioners.