

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 8763

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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MRS. RUTH R. EASELTINE, et al.,)
)
Complainants,)
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- ve -)
)
CONTRA COSTA GAS COMPANY,)
a corporation,)
)
Defendant.)

Case No. 1499

A. S. Ormsby, for Complainants.
S. Waldo Coleman, for Defendant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Mrs. Ruth Haseltine et al, complainants herein, resi-
dents of Crockett, Contra Costa County, and consumers of domes-
tic gas sold and delivered by the Contra Costa Gas Company,
complain that for thirty days following August 14th, 1920 the
Contra Costa Gas Company failed to deliver gas for domestic
purposes to the complainants during those hours in which the
use of gas is most essential and on numerous occasions the
failure to deliver said gas extended over periods of from
three to six hours; That the gas when supplied was of infer-
ior quality and delivered at an extremely low pressure and

that these and numerous other defects of service due to negligent conduct on the part of the defendant caused a damage to the complainants in a sum equal to at least ten percent of the consumption of gas during the thirty days period above mentioned. The complainants request that the Commission order the defendant to credit the complainants with a sum equal to ten percent of the bills rendered for gas consumed during the thirty days following August 14th, 1920.

A hearing in this matter was held before Examiner Satterwhite and the matter submitted.

The defendant has withdrawn its opposition to this prayer and admits its inability to properly serve Crockett and vicinity at that time.

It is evident that the complainants were greatly inconvenienced and did suffer considerable damage, but it is practically impossible to estimate the amount of that damage and it is questionable to what extent the company may be legally held responsible for the full extent of that loss. However, it is certain that at times of poor pressure and frequent interruptions gas cannot be applied economically. Under these conditions the consumption of gas is greater than would be required under normal conditions to obtain the same results. It is the opinion of the Commission that the efficiency of the gas delivered under the pressure conditions prevailing at the time in question was not more than 90% of the normal and that, therefore, the company should refund to each of its consumers in Crockett and the contiguous territory thereto an amount equal to 10% of the bills rendered for gas consumed between the regular August and September meter reading periods.

O R D E R

Mrs. Ruth R. Haseltine et al having made formal complaint against the service rendered by Contra Costa Gas Company, a public hearing having been held, the matter submitted and being now ready for decision,

The Railroad Commission of the State of California hereby finds as a fact that the company was not able to render to its consumers in Crockett and contiguous territory proper service during the thirty days following August 14th, 1920, and that during this time poor gas pressure was so continuous and interruptions so frequent that the gas supplied could not be used as efficiently as under normal conditions.

Basing its order on the foregoing findings of fact and on the other findings of fact contained in the Opinion which precedes this Order,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Contra Costa Gas Company shall credit each gas consumer within the town of Crockett and contiguous territory thereto with an amount equal to 10 percent of the bills rendered for gas consumed between the first two regular monthly meter reading periods succeeding August 14th, 1920.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this

17th day of March, 1921.

Francis R. DeWitt
H. W. ...
... ..

Commissioners.