

Decision No. 9035

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION
OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

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In the Matter of the Application of)
JACKSON GASLIGHT COMPANY, B.E.Letang,) Application No. 6185
Owner, for permission to suspend ser-)
vice.)

B. E. Letang in propria persona.
W. G. Snyder, for Citizens of Jackson.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This is an application of Jackson Gaslight Company, B. E. Letang, owner, for permission to suspend operations until lower prices prevail for material and labor. Applicant alleges that he is operating his business under a deficit due to the high cost of materials and further, that all obligations of the Jackson Gaslight Company have been satisfied.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Satterwhite in Jackson on April 27th, 1921, and the matter thereupon submitted.

Applicant has been engaged in manufacturing and selling coal-gas in Jackson since 1885 and has, at the present time, the only coal-gas plant in the State of California. Applicant's manufacturing equipment is antiquated and uneconomical

and his distribution system is in a poor state of repair. It is evident that if gas service is to be continued at a reasonable cost, it will become necessary to make extensive improvements involving additional capital. This, applicant is not able to do.

The City of Jackson, in which applicant's business is located, depends largely upon the neighboring mines for its prosperity. Early in 1920 these mines caught fire and were flooded, necessitating a suspension of their operation, which is still continuing. This has caused a decrease in the business and population of Jackson, which has materially affected applicant's revenue.

The decline of applicant's business is shown in the following statistics taken from Annual Reports made to the Commission:

	<u>1916</u>	<u>1917</u>	<u>1918</u>	<u>1919</u>	<u>1920</u>
Gas Sold - M cu.ft.	1410	1691	852	1606	618
Consumers	290	275	275	170	60
Revenue	\$4983	\$5153	\$4505	\$3864	\$2486
Expenses	\$3983	\$7449	\$7547	\$6650	\$6079
Net	\$1000	\$2296*	\$3042*	\$2786*	\$3593*
Rate per M cu.ft.	\$2.50	\$2.50	\$2.50 4.00	\$4.00	\$4.00

* Deficit.

It appears from a study of the evidence before the Commission that satisfactory gas service cannot be rendered by applicant and that applicant cannot reasonably be required to continue service under existing conditions. Applicant should, therefore, be permitted to suspend service.

O R D E R

Jackson Gaslight Company. B. E. Letang, owner, having applied to the Railroad Commission for authority to suspend service, a public hearing having been held and the matter submitted, and the Commission being fully informed in the matter, and finding that applicant's request should be granted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, that Jackson Gaslight Company, B. E. Letang, Owner, be, and is hereby, authorized to suspend gas service in Jackson beginning July 1st, 1921.

Provided, that applicant send written notice to each of his consumers as to his intention of discontinuing service at least fifteen days prior to suspension of service and that a certified copy of such notification be filed with this Commission on or before ten days prior to such intended suspension.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 3^d

day of June, 1921.

H. B. Benedict
H. S. Leonard

H. B. Benedict

Commissioners.