

Decision No. 4168

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the matter of the Construction)
and Operation of Electric Utili-)
ties during the Emergency Created)
by War.)

Case No. 1176

In the matter of the Construction)
and Operation of Electric Utili-)
ties and the Distribution and)
Transfer of Electricity during)
the Present Emergency Created by)
the Power Shortage, on the Com-)
mission's Own Motion.)

Case No. 1426

BY THE COMMISSION.

SUPPLEMENTAL OPINION

The position of Power Administrator was created by the Commission in the above entitled proceeding, Case 1176, for the purpose of exercising a more effective regulatory control over the development, conservation, and use of electric power during the war emergency. Thereafter a serious water shortage, and consequent power shortage, developed, and the Commission, through its order of March 24, 1920, Case 1426, continued the work of the Power Administrator.

A most valuable service has been rendered to the consumers by the power companies through this feature of regulation. The possibility of serious interruptions in service or of complete shutdown, by reason of the abnormal conditions of war needs and of power shortage, has been avoided. This was due to the fact that the Power Administrator, with the co-operation of the power companies, virtually pooled all the power resources of the state, and thus was able to effectively supervise and regulate

the uses for which power was available. By shifting of loads, interchange of power, and reasonable restrictions on the less important uses, the highest efficiency and use of all available power has been accomplished. In this state where much of the agricultural as well as industrial development depends directly upon the availability of electric power it is of vital importance that a shortage in this all important commodity be avoided.

It is equally apparent that the collection of data and the co-ordination of power uses under the supervision of the Power Administrator have been of great value to the power companies themselves, and it would appear that this is a work which could well be continued to advantage by the companies. It is no longer necessary, however, since the emergencies of war needs and of power shortage have passed, that the Commission, in the exercise of its regulatory powers under the Public Utilities Act, should continue this work of supervision. The position of Power Administrator will therefore be discontinued. Should the occasion arise in the future the Commission can and will take appropriate action for the resumption of this feature of regulation.

Good cause appearing therefore,

SUPPLEMENTAL ORDER

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED, That the position of Power Administrator, heretofore created by the orders of this Commission of June 22, 1918, Decision No. 5503, and of March 24, 1920, Decision No. 7312,

be and the same is abolished.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day
of June, 1921.

H. B. Brundage

H. S. Loveland

J. F. Breaugh
Commissioners.