

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

---oOo---

In the matter of the Application of)
El Dorado Power Company, a corpora-)
tion, and Western States Gas and El-)
ectric Company, a corporation, for a)
certificate under Section 50-A of the)
Public Utilities Act, declaring that)
public convenience and necessity re-)
quire the construction of the power)
plants and project works mentioned)
herein, including power houses, dams,)
reservoirs, and other structures ap-)
purtenant thereto and necessary in)
connection therewith, including trans-)
mission lines.)

ORIGINAL

Application No. 6876

Chickering & Gregory for Applicants.

MARTIN, Commissioner:

O P I N I O N

Western States Gas and Electric Company and its subsidiary, El Dorado Power Company, apply for an order of the Railroad Commission certifying that public convenience and necessity require the construction by applicants of a hydroelectric power plant on the South Fork of the American River, together with the necessary transmission lines and the enlargement of the existing hydroelectric plant of the Western States Gas and Electric Company.

A hearing in this application was held in Stockton on August 13th, at which evidence was presented and exhibits filed showing in detail the proposed construction. The evidence before the Commission shows that Western States Gas and Electric Company now operates a comparatively small hydroelectric plant on the American River and a steam plant

in Stockton, but that the greater portion of the energy sold in the Stockton Division and all of the energy sold in the Richmond Division is purchased. The Company's business has increased steadily since 1911 and its growth is expected to continue. Plans have been made and property and water rights acquired to permit the construction of an additional plant in which energy for distribution by the Western States Gas and Electric Company may be generated and the large amount of energy purchased in the past correspondingly diminished.

These plans include the development of storage reservoirs on tributaries of the American River and the construction at a location approximately ten miles above the existing plant of a new hydro-electric plant which will have an ultimate capacity of 100,000 horsepower. The additional water resources so developed will also be available for the operation of the existing plant and it may be enlarged to a capacity of approximately 56,000 horsepower.

As a step of financing this development, the parties in interest have caused to be organized the El Dorado Power Company. It appears that the Western States Gas and Electric Company intends to acquire all of the stock issued by the El Dorado Power Company, and also issue jointly with, or guarantee the payment of bonds of the El Dorado Power Company. By organizing the El Dorado Power Company and having that company construct the new hydro-electric power plant, the bonds issued will be a first lien upon the properties. It is believed that this fact will facilitate the sale of these bonds.

By releasing for the use of other consumers the energy now sold to Western States Gas and Electric Company by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company and Great Western Power Company of California the proposed development will be of benefit

to the entire central portion of the State. It is proposed to carry the development on in units and there does not appear any likelihood of an over-development of hydroelectric power at any time on account of the program now contemplated.

I recommend the following form of order,

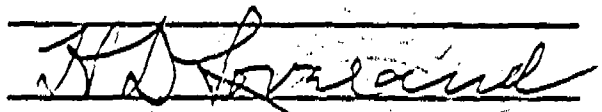
ORDER

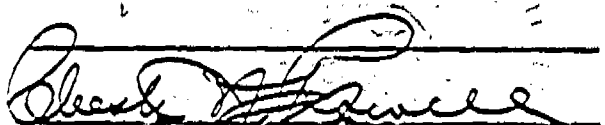
El Dorado Power Company and Western States Gas and Electric Company having applied to the Railroad Commission for an order certifying that public convenience and necessity require the enlargement of the existing hydroelectric plant of Western States Gas and Electric Company and the construction of a new hydroelectric plant, together with appurtenant dams, reservoirs, water conduits and transmission lines, a public hearing having been held and the matter submitted,

The Railroad Commission of the State of California does hereby certify and declare that public convenience and necessity require the construction by Western States Gas and Electric Company and El Dorado Power Company of additional reservoirs, water conduits and power plants and the enlargement of the existing plant of Western States Gas and Electric Company, all substantially in accordance with the plans as filed in this proceeding.

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, this 26th day of October, 1921.






Commissioners.