

Decision No. 27425.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of
VIDAL PUBLIC SERVICE COMPANY, a cor-
poration, for an Order granting to
it the right and privilege of sus-
pending operation of its electric
distribution and transmission system
within the City of Vidal, County of
San Bernardino, State of California, for
a period of ninety days from and after
the entry of said Order

Application No. 19606

E. H. Totten, Ruth Totten and
C. M. Einhart, for Applicant.
T. B. Shaw, for Vidal Chamber of Commerce.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

Vidal Public Service Company, applicant herein, asks the Railroad Commission for authority to discontinue the furnishing of electric energy to its consumers in the City of Vidal, San Bernardino County, for a period of ninety (90) days from and after the Commission's Order.

A public hearing was held before Examiner McCaffrey on September 26, 1934, in the City of Vidal, at which time testimony was introduced and the matter submitted for decision.

On July 24, 1933, Decision No. 26124, the Commission issued a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing applicant to exercise the rights and privileges granted to it by Ordinance No. 355 of the County of San Bernardino and to construct, operate and maintain an electric plant and distribution system for the supply and sale of electric service to the inhabit-

ants of the City of Vidal. The following excerpts from said Decision manifest the conditions under which applicant contemplated the supply and sale of electric energy within the City of Vidal and under which the application for a certificate was granted:

"The testimony shows that the City of Vidal, some seventeen miles west of the Colorado River and within close proximity to the southerly boundary line of San Bernardino County, is rapidly growing in population because of construction work being done in connection with the Colorado River Aqueduct by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California, the location of the aqueduct at this point being only five or six miles north of the City of Vidal. The testimony further shows that there are now 32 consumers within the said City of Vidal and it is estimated that within one year's time there will be from 150 to 200 consumers, with a possibility of 450 to 500 consumers as the project nears completion and the community develops. ***** but, owing to the limited needs of the existing community and the present cost of rendering service, applicant cannot justify 24-hour service and will restrict the hours of operation to approximately six hours per day (5:30 P.M. to 11:30 P.M.) until the load is such as to warrant 24-hour service."

The record in this proceeding shows that the growth in population and consumers anticipated in connection with the Colorado River Aqueduct construction work by The Metropolitan Water District of Southern California did not materialize but, to the contrary, consumers and revenues have decreased to a point where there are now only thirteen consumers receiving service and a monthly gross revenue of less than \$50.00. Applicant testified that since the first of this year gross revenues have decreased from \$94.81 for the month of January to \$47.65 for the month of August. The record further shows that during this eight-months period fuel cost and plant incidentals alone amounted to \$173.38 as compared with gross receipts amounting to \$555.99, thus leaving a balance of only \$382.61 to cover taxes, depreciation, wages and all other maintenance and operating costs. It is clear from the record that applicant is operating at an increasing loss and that, because of limited finances, operations cannot be continued under present conditions.

Mr. T. B. Shaw, speaking in behalf of the Vidal Chamber of Commerce, protested the granting of the application, stating that construction work in connection with the "open ditch" work on the aqueduct would soon be started and that this would mean the employment of between 700 and 1,000 men within reaching distance of Vidal. Reference also was made to new road work and potential mining developments, all of which, because of Vidal's favorable water and school conditions and its central location, would develop and greatly benefit the community. It was urged by Mr. Shaw that the application should be denied but that if the Commission granted the same the discontinuance of service should be made permanent in order that provision might be made for serving the community by other interests. While it is clear that applicant is operating at an increasing loss and cannot be compelled to continue operations under existing conditions, it is obviously unfair to the community to permit applicant to suspend service for a period of ninety days and at the same time retain the continued right to serve therein. If service is to be suspended the suspense should be made permanent so that the City of Vidal may be free to make other arrangements for the supply and sale of electric energy to the community. The Order herein will so provide.

O R D E R

The Commission having been asked to execute its Order, as indicated in the foregoing Opinion, and having considered applicant's request and the testimony in support thereof and being of the opinion that such request should be granted, as herein provided; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Vidal Public Service Company be and it is hereby authorized to abandon its electric plant and distribution system and to cease the supply and sale of electric energy to the inhabitants of the City of Vidal on and after October 25, 1934.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of October, 1934.

Leon A. White

M. A. C.

M. B. Hays

W. H. M.

Commissioners.