

Decision No. 32299.

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of
COAST COUNTIES GAS AND ELECTRIC
COMPANY, a corporation,
for authority to file and make effective
a change in its rate applicable to the
service of butane-air gas in the com-
munities of Dunsmuir and Yreka.

Application No. 22950.

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

This application of Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company requests authority to file certain new schedules pertaining to gas service in the cities of Yreka and Dunsmuir. The filing of these schedules also involves a change in service, as well as the sale of gas on the basis of therms rather than cubic feet.

The present 550 B.t.u. air-butane gas is supplied to consumers of Dunsmuir, Yreka and Arcata on the same rate schedule. Inasmuch as the service of gas and the method of billing in Arcata are not proposed to be changed, this present schedule is being re-filed to apply to Arcata alone.

The Applicant proposes to raise the B.t.u. value of gas served in Dunsmuir and Arcata from 550 B.t.u. to 1000 B.t.u. per cubic foot for the reason that, in its opinion, the following improvements in service will result:

- (1) Better flame characteristics of butane-air gas in appliances will result from increasing the heat content of the gas.
- (2) The capacity of both the producing plant and distributing systems will be increased, due to the lesser volume of gas required to be distributed. This will enable the Company to supply a considerably increased load above that which it could otherwise serve.
- (3) Production costs will be reduced, due to the lesser volume of the gas to be compressed.
- (4) In certain cases smaller services and meters will be required with the higher B.t.u. gas than are required with the present 550 B.t.u. gas.

In addition to the proposed increase in the heating value, Applicant asks that it be permitted to specify the rate charged in terms of therms, as contrasted to the present rate expressed in cubic feet. In so expressing the unit in therms, each therm unit is to be that quantity of heat which is equal to 100,000 B.t.u. Applicant has submitted, as Exhibit B attached to the application, a proposed new schedule of rates incorporating the therm as the rate unit and represents that the application of said rates will, on a heat basis, result in no increases to any customer and will as a matter of fact result in some slight reductions.

The Commission is of the opinion that the proposed increase in the heating value of the gas served is to the general interest both of the Applicant and of its customers and accordingly should be permitted.

In authorizing the adoption of the therm as the unit for billing in place of the cubic foot, the Commission is of the opinion that this should be considered as being granted on an experimental basis, in order to gain experience in the actual application of this unit. This is believed desirable as the

advantages of flexibility in the therm unit may be more than offset by customer resistance and possible increased costs in billing expense. Should this experience, in the opinion of the Commission, prove that the therm unit is unsatisfactory, an appropriate change to the cubic foot basis will necessarily be required.

The change in the heat content of the gas from 550 to 1000 B.t.u. will require adjustment of consumer appliances in order to afford efficient use of the higher heat gas. The following Order contemplates that Applicant will make such adjustment in an approved manner and at its own expense.

O R D E R

Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company having made application for authority to file certain schedules attached to and made a part of said application and it appearing to the Commission that such application should be granted without a public hearing thereon; therefore

Good Cause Appearing, IT IS ORDERED that Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company be and it is hereby authorized to file its proposed Schedule No. 2-B and proposed Schedule No. 3-B (both of which revise present Schedule No. 2-B - Sheet C.R.C. No. 336-G) applying to 1000 B.t.u. service, said schedules to be filed not less than five (5) days before their effective date and to be made applicable to gas delivered on or after the date of increasing

gas from 550 B.t.u. per cubic foot to 1000 B.t.u. per cubic foot.

The effective date of this Order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 6th day of September, 1939.

Raymond W. ...
Joseph ...
Ray J. Rice
...
Justus P. ...
Commissioners.