

Decision No. 32698

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
LIVINGSTON TELEPHONE COMPANY for an
order authorizing it to file and make
effective certain rates for service.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 23106

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application A. A. Herrington, owning and operating a telephone system in the City of Livingston and surrounding territory in Merced County, under the fictitious name and title, Livingston Telephone Company, requests authority to file and make effective certain rates and charges for telephone service.

Applicant proposes to establish a base rate area within which individual line, two-party line and four-party line telephone services would be furnished at uniform base rates, and outside of which these services would be furnished at the base rates plus mileage charges. These general service charges and mileage charges, which are set forth in Exhibits "A" and "C" attached to the application, are similar to those filed by other telephone public utilities for service under similar conditions. In Exhibit "B" is set forth a map of the proposed base rate area. The boundary of this proposed base rate area, which includes the Livingston municipal area, has been reviewed in the field by an engineer of the Railroad Commission and was found to be generally

satisfactory. It is believed, however, that the boundary should not follow the center line of streets, but should include the lots on both sides of the streets in the base rate area.

Livingston Telephone Company has at times collected a charge of five cents for a local message although it has no rate on file for such service. It is in the interest of the subscribers to service and to the general and transient public that such service be offered. The charge of five cents for a local exchange message is the lowest practicable charge for such service and is generally in effect in other exchanges. The proposed rate schedule for this service is set forth in Exhibit "D" attached to the application.

In this application it is also proposed to offer a subscriber coin box service generally called "Semi-public Service." This is a service generally offered by telephone utilities. The rates and charges set forth in Exhibit "E" are on a level similar to that of rates and charges for similar service elsewhere.

Applicant's "Moves and Changes" schedule now contains charges for a change from wall to desk set telephone or vice versa but does not contain any charge for a change to or from hand set service. It is the general practice of other telephone public utilities to make such charges. In Exhibit "F" a revised "Moves and Changes" schedule is set forth to add the charge of \$1.00 for a change to or from hand set service. The change charge of \$1.00 is the lowest level of such charges on file with the Railroad Commission. Coincidentally with the rate filings referred to above the Livingston Telephone Company would reduce its hand set rate from "desk set station rate plus \$0.25 per month" to "desk set station rate plus \$0.15 per month."

Applicant states that the making effective of the above rates and charges would not increase any rate or charge to any present subscriber nor result in any deviation from the filed rates.

The Commission has given consideration to the request of applicant and is of the opinion that the proposed rates and charges are justified and that the authority requested should be granted, and that this is a matter in which a hearing is not required, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Livingston Telephone Company shall:

- (1) Submit to the Railroad Commission of the State of California on or before February 1, 1940 the exchange service schedules and map set forth in Exhibits "A," "C," "D," "E," "F," and "B" modified as discussed above.
- (2) Make effective for service ten (10) days from and after the date of filing with the Railroad Commission the rate schedules and map referred in (1) above.

For all other purposes the effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California this 27th day of January, 1940.

Ray L. Riley
George Newton
Robert [unclear]
[unclear]
Justus J. Queney
Commissioners