

Decision No. 32291

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of

COAST COUNTIES GAS AND ELECTRIC
COMPANY, a corporation,

Application No. 23291.

for authority to file and make effective a change in its rate applicable to the service of butane-air gas in the communities of Calexico, Brawley, El Centro, Dunsmuir and Yreka.

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company, hereinafter sometimes referred to as Applicant, requests permission to make certain changes in the character of its gas service in the towns of Calexico, Brawley, and El Centro and to withdraw and refile certain of its rate schedules applicable in the territory involved.

Applicant states that at present it is distributing, in the communities of Calexico, Brawley and El Centro, a butane-air gas mixture of a heating value of 550 B.t.u. per cubic foot and that it now desires to replace this mixture with one of approximately 1000 B.t.u. per cubic foot.

In Decision No. 32299, dated September 6, 1939, this Commission granted a similar request of Applicant for the communities of Dunsmuir and Yreka, and the reasons for changing to the gas mixture of higher thermal content are set forth in detail therein. It is sufficient to state here that it is Applicant's

belief that the 1000 B.t.u. mixture gives better operating results, greater consumer satisfaction and affords certain savings in production expenses.

In addition to requesting permission to change to a gas mixture of higher heating value, authority is also sought to express the rates charged in terms of therms rather than in cubic feet. In this instance of employing a 1000 B.t.u. gas mixture a therm will correspond to 100 cubic feet, since a therm is that quantity of fuel equivalent to 100,000 B.t.u.

In accordance with the provisions of Decision No. 32299 referred to above, Applicant has proceeded with the substitution of the higher heat content gas in Dunsmuir and Yreka and has been gratified with the results obtained. Based on that experience it is its stated belief that the number of service calls per customer will be greatly reduced if and when the proposed changeover is made.

Applicant proposes to make all necessary adjustment in its customers' appliances and will bear the entire cost of the cut-over estimated at \$7200.

As a part of the proposed changeover it will be necessary for Applicant to withdraw and cancel and refile certain of its presently effective rate schedules. Applicant proposes to withdraw and cancel Schedule No. 1-B covering general service in Brawley, Calexico and El Centro; Schedule No. 4-B, a general service schedule for El Centro which has been closed to new customers since September 1, 1938 and presently does not serve any customers; and Schedule No. 6-B, the prepay meter schedule for general service in El Centro, Brawley and Calexico. Because of the desire to place all of its communities being served with a 1000 B.t.u. butane-air mixture on the same rates and on the

therm basis, Applicant also requests permission to withdraw its Schedule No. 3-B presently applicable in Dunsmuir and Yreka. Certain proposed schedules No. 1-B and 6-B, applicable to the communities heretofore set forth, are attached to and made a part of the application as Exhibit "B" and bring about the desired changes.

Applicant contends that the proposed rates set forth in Exhibit "B" will not result in an increase in billing to any customers in the territory involved but that reductions totaling \$2,330 per year in Calexico, Brawley and El Centro and \$685 per year in Dunsmuir and Yreka will be afforded.

The Commission is of the opinion that the authorization requested is in the best interests of both the Applicant and its customers and should be granted, and further, that a public hearing in the matter is not necessary; therefore good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company be authorized to institute in the communities of Calexico, Brawley and El Centro the distribution of a 1000 B.t.u. butane-air gas mixture in place of the 550 B.t.u. mixture being supplied at the present time, and that it be permitted to bill all customers served therein on a therm basis rather than a cubic foot basis as at present.

The authorization herein granted is subject to the following conditions and not otherwise:

1. Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company shall, coincident with the cut-over to the 1000 B.t.u. gas mixture, take meter readings and render closing bills based on existing rates to all consumers being served in Calexico, Brawley and El Centro.
2. Applicant shall withdraw and cancel the following presently effective rate schedules:

<u>Schedule</u>	<u>Sheets C.R.C. No.</u>
1-B	Revised 333-G
3-B	Revised 339-G
4-B	Revised 327-G
6-B	Original 310-G

3. Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company shall, upon one (1) day's notice to the Commission, make effective in Calexico, Brawley, El Centro, Dunsmuir and Yreka Schedule No. 1-B (Revised Sheet C.R.C. No. 352-G) and in Calexico, El Centro and Brawley Schedule No. 6-B (Revised Sheet C.R.C. No. 353-G) as they are set forth in Exhibit "B" attached to the application. The above schedules shall be applied, where applicable, to all monthly meter readings taken subsequent to the changeover to 1000 B.t.u. gas in Calexico, Brawley, and El Centro and to all monthly meter readings taken on and after April 1, 1940 in Dunsmuir and Yreka.

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

Dated at San Francisco this 21st day of February, 1940.

Ray L. Riley
James R. Smith
Raymond J. ...
Justin J. ...
Commissioners.