

Decision No. 32387

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
COAST COUNTIES GAS AND ELECTRIC COM-
PANY, a corporation, for authority to
file and make effective a change in
its rate applicable to the service of
butane-air gas in the community of
Arcata.

ORIGINAL

Application 23387

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 community of Arcata, Humboldt County, and to withdraw and refile certain of its rate schedules applicable in the territory involved.

Applicant states that at present it is distributing in Arcata 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. Also in Decision No. 32833 dated February 21, 1940 this Commission granted a similar request of Applicant for the communities of Calexico, Brawley, and El Centro. 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 Decisions No. 32299 and 52833 heretofore referred to, Applicant has proceeded with the substitution of the higher heat content gas in Dunsmuir, Yreka, Calexico, Brawley, and El Centro and has been gratified with the results obtained. Applicant points out that Arcata is the only remaining community of its system still being served with 550 B.t.u. gas and in the interest of uniformity desires to make the proposed change to the 1000 B.t.u. mixture. It is its stated belief from past experience that the number of service calls per customer will be greatly reduced if and when the proposed change 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 \$1,135.

As a part of the proposed changeover it will be necessary for Applicant to withdraw and cancel and refile certain of its presently effective gas rate schedules. Applicant proposes to withdraw and cancel Schedule No. 2-B covering domestic and general service in Arcata. This schedule is attached to the application and marked Exhibit "A." Because of the desire to place

all 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. 1-B, attached to the application as Exhibit "B," presently applicable in Dunsmuir, Yreka, Calexico, Brawley and El Centro. A proposed Schedule No. 1-B pertaining to domestic and general service and applicable to Arcata, Dunsmuir, Yreka, Calexico, Brawley, and El Centro is attached to and made a part of the application as Exhibit "C" and brings about the desired changes.

Applicant contends that the proposed rates set forth in Exhibit "C" will not result in an increase in billing to any customers in the territory involved but that reductions totaling approximately \$200 per year in Arcata 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 community of Arcata 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 being served therein on a therm basis rather than on 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 Arcata.

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 352-G
2-B	" 338-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, Yreka, and Arcata Schedule No. 1-B (Revised Sheet C.R.C. No. 355-G) as it is set forth in Exhibit "C" attached to the application. The above schedule shall be applied to all monthly meter readings taken subsequent to the changeover to 1000 B.t.u. gas in Arcata and to all monthly meter readings taken on and after June 1, 1940 in Calexico, Brawley, El Centro, Dunsmuir and Yreka.

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

Dated at San Francisco this 16th day of April,

1940.

Ray L. Riley
Frank Dever
W. Baker
James J. Cameron
Commissioners