

Decision No. 34287**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application of INTERSTATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY, a corporation, for authorization to establish, maintain and operate a telephone exchange and provide and render telephone exchange service in Pine Creek Canyon, Inyo County, California, and to file and make effective rates for exchange and toll telephone service in said Pine Creek Canyon area.

Application No. 24156

Willard G. Wade and E. M. Hammack, for Applicant.

BY THE COMMISSION:

O P I N I O N

In this application Interstate Telegraph Company, engaged in a general telephone and telegraph business in the Counties of Mono, Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino, in the State of California; and in the Counties of Nye and Esmeralda, in the State of Nevada, seeks authority to establish a telephone exchange in Pine Creek Canyon, to establish rates for toll telephone service thereto and therefrom, and to discontinue all present toll stations therein.

The proposed exchange area is situated in mountainous territory approximately seventeen miles westerly of Bishop, Inyo County, California. Pine Creek Canyon and the proposed exchange area at its lowest level begins in Section 27, Township 6 South, Range 30 East, M.D.M., and extends through six sections to an elevation of about 11,500 feet.

At the present time, telephone service on a toll basis is furnished the United States Vanadium Corporation, the Tungstar Corporation, and the Pine Creek Pack Station with a total of five toll stations. Service from these toll stations to and from Bishop and points beyond is available over a metallic toll circuit and a G-1 carrier circuit.

The United States Vanadium Corporation is constructing a 1000-ton mill, a part of which is already in service. When this new mill is in full

operation, about August 1, 1941, there will have been added about two hundred fifty new employees to the present force of two hundred seventy-five men now employed at the mine and mill. The Corporation will establish a new townsite with a two-story office building, a Staff house, four Company residences, and twenty-five residences for employees.

The Interstate Telegraph Company proposes to install unattended automatic or dial central office equipment in a specially designed sheet metal building with concrete foundation and floor, capable of withstanding the effects of the severe weather at the location selected at an elevation of about 7,300 feet. The present telephone lines, except the physical and the non-physical circuits to Bishop, will be utilized with additions for exchange services. It is estimated that the exchange would initially serve thirty primary stations. The net additions to the plant investment would be approximately \$5,350. The rates and charges proposed for exchange service in the Pine Creek exchange are on a similar level to those applicable in other exchanges of applicant. The toll rates would be established on the uniform air-line basis used by applicant throughout its service territory, and will be fixed with relation to the air-line distance of the central office location to other toll rates points.

Mr. Willard G. Wade, General Superintendent for Interstate Telegraph Company, explained in detail the plans to adequately provide the community with telephone service and the need for increased facilities.

Mr. Horace J. Joy, Industrial Relations Department for the United States Vanadium Corporation, testified that the present telephone facilities would be inadequate for the increased activities of the Corporation. In his opinion, the proposed telephone service arrangements will be necessary and should meet expected communication requirements.

Mr. J. Denman Jones, Mill Superintendent for the Tungstar Corporation, testified that the present telephone service arrangements would not be sufficient when the expansion projects in the Canyon are completed. He favored the installation of the exchange as planned.

No one has offered any objection to the telephone service arrangements and rates which have been proposed. The two mining companies estimate that their ore holdings are sufficient to require their operations for several years. The United States Vanadium Corporation has advanced the completion date for its enlarged plant on account of the need due to the Defense Program for increased quantities of tungsten, which the Corporation obtains from molybdenite ore from the mine located at an elevation of 10,700 feet.

We are of the opinion that Interstate Telegraph Company is justified in making the proposed expenditure so that the mining companies above referred to may not be handicapped by lack of communication facilities during the defense period, and subsequent thereto. There appears to be no objection to the proposed rates or to the territory included in the proposed exchange and base rate areas.

O R D E R

Interstate Telegraph Company having requested authority to establish a telephone exchange in Pine Creek Canyon and to establish exchange and toll telephone rates, a public hearing having been held before Examiner Fry on May 22, 1941 at Bishop, Inyo County, California, and the matter having been submitted for decision,

THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA hereby finds as a fact that the establishment of an automatic or dial telephone exchange by Interstate Telegraph Company at Pine Creek Canyon with the rates proposed is justified, and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Interstate Telegraph Company shall install an automatic or dial system at Pine Creek Canyon on or before September 1, 1941.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Interstate Telegraph Company may make effective in the Pine Creek exchange on and after the date of the establishment of the service therein, the rates and charges set forth in Exhibit "B" attached to the application, and may file the exchange area and base rate area maps shown in Exhibit "A" attached to the application, provided said schedules

and maps are filed with the Railroad Commission in accordance with General Order No. 68 on or before the tenth day immediately preceding the date of the establishment of said exchange.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Interstate Telegraph Company shall discontinue all toll stations in the Pine Creek exchange area as of the date of the establishment of the exchange.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that Interstate Telegraph Company may establish toll telephone service to and from Pine Creek exchange, with the central office location as the toll rate point, at rates and charges in accordance with the toll rate plan in effect throughout its system, effective as of the date of the establishment of the exchange.

Except as otherwise prescribed, the effective date of this Order shall be twenty (20) days from and after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of June, 1941.

Ray Kiley
Justin J. Casper
Francis D. Havens
Richard K. ...
Commissioners.