

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 35489

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 NEVADA COUNTY NARROW GAUGE RAILROAD)
 COMPANY for authority to abandon its) Application No. 24890
 entire line of railroad.)

BY THE COMMISSION:

O R D E R

In this proceeding Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Company requests authority to abandon its entire line of railroad between Colfax and Nevada City in Placer and Nevada Counties.

This company operates a narrow gauge railroad 20.5 miles in length extending from a connection with Southern Pacific Company at Colfax through Grass Valley to Nevada City. On-call service only is now provided as all regular freight and passenger service has been discontinued. The rail line has been used primarily for the transportation of heavy commodities, such as petroleum products, in carload lots from Colfax. All less-than-carload business has for a number of years been hauled by truck through a subsidiary of the railroad. It also provides passenger service by passenger stage from both Auburn and Colfax to Nevada City.

The Engineering Division of this Commission has made a study of the operations of this railroad and it is indicated that the carload business has been decreasing materially. In 1941 about 400 carloads of fuel oil and gasoline were hauled to Grass Valley and Nevada City, which constitutes more than half of the service rendered. Early this year, however, three of the petroleum companies have withdrawn this business from the railroad. The investigation shows that substantial expenditures are necessary if rail operation is continued, which consist of (1) painting the Bear Creek Viaduct, and (2) timbering the Town Talk Tunnel between Grass Valley and Nevada City. The cost of these improvements is estimated at over \$10,000.00. It is

quite clear that with the loss of petroleum haul the maintenance and operation of this narrow gauge railroad can be continued only with a severe loss.

There will continue to be service to the communities of Grass Valley and Nevada City through truck operations and passenger stage operations of the company.

No protests to the abandonment have been filed with this Commission and the Interstate Commerce Commission, by its order in Finance Docket No. 13687, dated May 21, 1942, authorized the abandonment of this railroad.

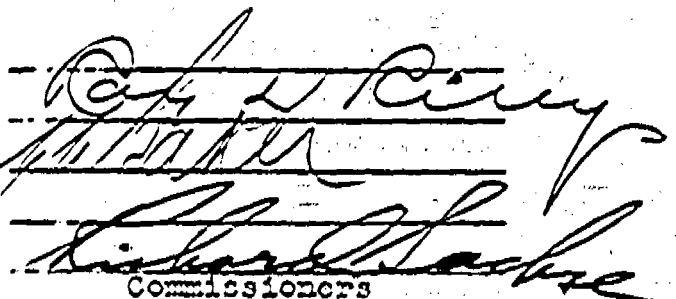
It appears that public convenience and necessity do not demand the continued operation of this railroad and that this is not a matter in which a public hearing is necessary and the application should be granted, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Nevada County Narrow Gauge Railroad Company is hereby authorized to abandon its line of railroad between Colfax and Nevada City in Placer and Nevada Counties, State of California, and to cancel in conformity with the rules of this Commission all rate tariffs and time schedules applying to said railroad, subject to the following conditions:

- (1) Applicant shall give not less than ten (10) days' notice to the public and the Commission of said abandonment.
- (2) Applicant shall, within thirty (30) days thereafter, notify this Commission in writing of the abandonment herein authorized and of its compliance with the conditions hereof.
- (3) The authorization herein granted shall lapse and become void if not exercised within one (1) year from the date hereof unless further time is granted by subsequent order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 16th day of June, 1942.


Commissioners