

Decision No. 36461 .

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA.

In the Matter of the Application of
VISALIA CANNING COMPANY, a corporation,
for permission for service of surplus
natural gas for industrial uses under
applicable surplus gas rate schedule or
schedules of Southern California Gas
Company, a public utility, without stand-
by fuel installations and supply.

Application No. 25641.

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application the Visalia Canning Company, a corporation, petitions the Commission for permission to be served with gas by the Southern California Gas Company under the applicable surplus rate schedule. The surplus gas is to be used in petitioner's canning plant in the dehydration of vegetables and fruits, in the City of Visalia, California.

The application shows that the Visalia Canning Company operates a canning business for processing fruits, vegetables and other agricultural products and said company, in the past, has used both oil and gas as fuels. The application further shows, and particularly through Exhibit "A," that petitioner has added, in 1943, two dehydrators for the purpose of dehydrating fruits and vegetables for the Army and the lend-lease program of the Federal Government; further, that on January 9, 1943, application was made to the War Production Board for the use of gas fuels in the dehydrators without the installation of stand-by fuel oil burning equipment.

Under Exhibit "B" of the application, the petitioner sets forth a letter from the War Production Board, under date of January 29, 1943, in which it was authorized to receive deliveries of gas not to exceed 90,000 cubic

feet in any one day and without the necessity of installing stand-by fuel burning equipment.

Petitioner states and affirms that the use of oil in the direct fired dehydrators would cause soot contamination of the products and the installation of such additional equipment would use critical materials and, further, that its operations are such that it can and will curtail or discontinue the use of gas when directed by the utility in case of a gas shortage.

The request herein made by petitioner is in the nature of a deviation from the requirements of this Commission's orders in Decisions Nos. 34797 and 35455, issued November 26, 1941, and June 9, 1942, respectively, under Case No. 4591, which orders, among other things, prohibit the sale of surplus gas to new customers or for new uses to old customers after December 16, 1941, unless adequate stand-by equipment and fuels are provided or unless approval first be obtained.

The Commission is of the opinion that a deviation from said orders is warranted under the circumstances (Exhibit "A" of the application indicates the utility has adequate capacity to supply the load) provided petitioner will scrupulously conform to the surplus tariff requirements and curtails gas usage when ordered; further, in the opinion of the Commission the deviation should not extend beyond the duration of the war plus six (6) months; and, further, in the opinion of the Commission no public hearing is required and good cause appearing;

It Is Hereby Found As A Fact that the operation of the two dehydrators, as set forth in Exhibit "A" of the application, warrants the Southern California Gas Company to render surplus service to the extent of approximately 90,000 cubic feet daily and without standby to be supplied by the Visalia Canning Company, therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern California Gas Company may render surplus gas service, under the appropriate filed tariffs and under the conditions

of such tariffs, to the extent found reasonable in the finding hereinbefore set forth, provided that the period of such service, without auxiliary stand-by equipment and fuels, shall not exceed the war period plus six (6) months, unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th day of June, 1943.

Francis H. Howen
H. B. Kelly

Richard L. Locke
Wm. W. Clark
Commissioners.