

Decision No. 36594

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
ROSENBERG BROTHERS & 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 standby fuel instal-
lation and supply.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 25754

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application Rosenberg Brothers & Company ask the Commission for permission to be served with surplus gas by the Southern California Gas Company under its applicable surplus gas tariffs without the necessity of providing standby equipment and fuels.

Applicants are engaged in the business of dehydrating fruits and other agricultural products at their plant near Farmersville in Tulare County, and that plant has been and now is being served with natural gas by Southern California Gas Company.

In order to cooperate in the current Government program of dehydrating larger volumes of raisin grapes, fruits and vegetables, they have added to their plant two dehydrating tunnels which will require an estimated additional 60,000 cubic feet of gas per day. They have applied to the United States War Production Board and received permission to deviate from that Board's Limitation Order L-31 by receiving the aforesaid daily volume of gas and using it in the proposed new tunnel of their dehydrating plant without the necessity of installing standby facilities. Copies of their application to the War Production Board and the permit issued are attached to this application and marked Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" respectively.

Applicants' operations will occur between April 1 and November 30 of each year when normally there is a sufficiency of gas, and are such that they can suspend them and cease using gas whenever required to do so by the supplying utility. To permit applicants to receive surplus gas service under these conditions will constitute a deviation from the utility's filed tariffs and this Commission's orders. Surplus tariffs of the Southern California Gas Company were closed to new customers and to new uses of old customers by Decision No. 36518 dated July 27, 1943, and by Decisions 34797 and 35455, previously made, gas service supplied on a curtailable basis required installation of an auxiliary fuel supply.

The Commission recognizes a shortage of suitable fuels for dehydration purposes, as well as the increased requirements of critical materials if the dehydration process is carried out through the use of fuel oils. The supply of natural gas in this area is likewise limited, but the Commission knows the necessity and the imperative need of the Government's program of carrying out an increased production in dehydrated foodstuffs. Necessity accordingly dictates the most efficient use of the fuels that are available, and since the dehydrating operations will occur for the most part during the period in which gas demands are not at their maximum, and Applicants will conform strictly to the shutoff and curtailment orders of the supplying utility, the Commission is of the opinion that a deviation is warranted and that the petition of Applicants should be granted. In view of the circumstances and interests involved, no public hearing is deemed necessary, and good cause appearing,

It Is Hereby Found As A Fact that the Southern California Gas Company is warranted in supplying gas to Rosenberg Brothers & Company in an amount of approximately 60,000 cubic feet per day on a surplus basis and without the necessity of the petitioner installing standby, and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern California Gas Company may render surplus gas service to Rosenberg Brothers & Company at their dehydrating plant

near Farmersville, without their providing standby equipment and fuels, and at the rates and under the conditions of applicable filed tariffs to the extent of 60,000 cubic feet per day, the amount permitted by the War Production Board, provided that the period of such service shall not exceed the duration of the present war plus six months unless otherwise authorized by the Commission.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of

September, 1943.

Francis D. Sullivan
J. H. Ball
Justin F. Craymer
Richard K. Ketchum
Thomas W. Denny
Commissioners