

Decision No. 36624

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 STUART KNOX THOMAS for permission to)
 obtain service of surplus natural gas)
 for industrial uses under the appli-)
 cable surplus gas schedule or sched-)
 ules of the Southern California Gas)
 Company, a public utility, without)
 standby fuel equipment and supply.)

Application No. 25796

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application Stuart Knox Thomas asks 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 stand-by equipment and fuels.

In order to cooperate in the current Government program of dehydrating larger volumes of raisin grapes, fruits and vegetables, Applicant has undertaken the construction of a dehydrating plant at Hanford in Kings County consisting of eight dehydration tunnels and one 90 horsepower boiler, which plant is nearing completion and will be ready to commence operations soon. This plant will require an estimated 260,000 cubic feet of gas per day.

He has 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 operation of his new dehydrating plant without the necessity of installing stand-by facilities. Copies of his application to the War Production Board and the permit issued are attached to this application and marked Exhibit "A" and Exhibit "B" respectively.

Applicant's operations will occur at times during each year when normally there is a sufficiency of gas and will be such that he can suspend

them and cease using gas whenever required to do so by the supplying utility. To permit Applicant 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 dehydrating 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 Applicant 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 Applicant 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 Stuart Knox Thomas in an amount of approximately 260,000 cubic feet per day on a surplus basis and without the necessity of the petitioner installing stand-by, and

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern California Gas Company may render surplus gas service to Stuart Knox Thomas at his dehydrating plant at Hanford, without his providing stand-by equipment and fuels, and at the rates and under the conditions of applicable filed tariffs to the extent of 260,000 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 27th day of September, 1943.

Frank Haven
[Signature]

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Commissioners.