

Decision No. 36979

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the
HIHN ORCHARD COMPANY for authority to
purchase natural gas from COAST COUNTIES
GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY on the latter's
Surplus Gas Schedule No. 11, without
necessity of installing standby facilities.)

Application No. 26045

ORIGINAL

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application, Hihn Orchard Company asks the Commission for permission to be served with gas under the applicable surplus gas tariff of Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company without the necessity of installing and providing standby fuel installation and supply.

Applicant respectfully shows that its place of business is Aptos, Santa Cruz County, where for many years it has operated a fruit packing plant. It represents that in order to meet the demands imposed by the Federal Government to process a larger volume of produce, it is now in the process of converting its packing plant into a fruit dehydrating plant by installing therein eight gas burners which will require an estimated 100,000 cubic feet of gas daily. In this latter respect, Applicant states and evidences by copies of its application to the War Production Board, and of that Board's reply, that it has been granted permission to deviate from said Board's Utilities Order U-7 to the extent that it may use the aforesaid daily volume of gas in the burners of its new dehydrating plant without the necessity of installing standby fuel equipment.

Applicant further represents that its operations will occur during the summer and fall months when normally there is a sufficient supply of gas and, further, that its operations are such that it will suspend and cease using gas whenever ordered to do so by the supplying utility.

The request made by Applicant represents a deviation from the utility's tariffs and this Commission's orders under Case No. 4591, wherein standby facilities are required as a precedent to receiving surplus gas service.

The Commission is aware that Applicant's petition is made in order to make possible an increased production of necessary food products and recognizes the inadvisability of requiring the use at this time of critical materials to provide adequate standby facilities.

The Commission is of the opinion that the requested deviation from said orders is justified under the present circumstances provided Applicant will conform strictly to the surplus tariffs and to the curtailment orders of the supplying utility, but that the deviation should not extend beyond the duration of the present war plus six months. It is of the further opinion that a public hearing in this application is not required and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company may render surplus gas service to Hihn Orchard Company at its plant in Aptos without its providing auxiliary standby equipment and fuels at the rates and under the conditions of appropriate filed tariffs to the extent of 100,000 cubic feet per day, the amount permitted by the War Production Board, provided that the period of such service shall not exceed the period 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 4th day of April,

1944.

Richard K. Kasse
Justus F. Coe
Francis D. Havens
Frank O. O'Connell
James H. Kowalski
(Commissioners)