

Decision No. 37057

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the Application of
APTOS FRUIT & VINEGAR COMPANY
for authority to purchase its entire
requirement of natural gas from
COAST COUNTIES GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY
on the latter's Surplus Gas Schedule
No. 11, without necessity of installing
standby facilities.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 26086

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application Aptos Fruit & Vinegar Company petitions the Commission for permission to be served with gas under the applicable surplus gas tariffs of Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company, without the necessity of installing and providing standby fuel installation and supply.

The Applicant respectfully shows that it is in the business of dehydrating fruit at its plant in Aptos, Santa Cruz County, and that said plant has been and now is being served with natural gas by Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company. It is further represented 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 enlarging its dehydrator by adding two new kilns, which will require an estimated additional 72,000 cubic feet of gas daily. In this latter respect, the 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 new kilns of its dehydrating plant, and without the necessity of installing standby fuel equipment.

Applicant further represents that its operations occur in the period between September 1 and December 15 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 Aptos Fruit & Vinegar 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 72,000 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 San Francisco, California, this 23rd day of May, 1944.

Richard L. Jackson
Justus F. Craven
Francis C. Haveman
Scott Russell
Commissioners