

Decision No. 37058

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of
C. B. GENTRY COMPANY for authority
to purchase its present and future
requirements of natural gas from
COAST COUNTIES GAS AND ELECTRIC COM-
PANY on the latter's Surplus Gas
Schedule, without necessity of
installing complete standby facilities.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 26118

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application C. B. Gentry 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 complete standby fuel installation and supply.

The applicant shows that it is in the business of dehydrating vegetables at its plant on Pacheco Pass Highway, near the city of Gilroy, California, and that said plant has been and now is being served with natural gas by Coast Counties Gas and Electric Company. Prior to January 3, 1944, this service was supplied at surplus rates: since that date it has been supplied at firm rates. It is further represented that in order to keep pace with the Federal Government's program of producing a larger volume of dehydrated foodstuffs, applicant is now in the process of enlarging its dehydrating facilities by adding six direct fired tunnel dehydrators, three pre-heat tunnels, and seven forced air furnaces, which will require an estimated additional 679,000 cubic feet of gas daily. Applicant is also in the process of installing additional Butane storage and burner facilities for standby purposes which will make possible the operation of the enlarged plant on a fifty per cent basis as long as may be necessary. Applicant further 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 burners of its dehydrating plant, provided it installs before October 1, 1944 standby equipment and substitute fuel supply sufficient to replace 340,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day during periods of curtailment.

Applicant agrees to accept curtailment when ordered by the supplying utility and, should its supply of butane fuel fail, it further agrees to cease operations until such time as natural gas is again available.

Applicant's request represents a deviation from the utility's tariffs and from this Commission's orders in 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 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 C. B. Gentry Company at its plant on Pacheco Pass Highway, three-fourths of a mile outside the city limits of Gilroy, California, at the rates and under the conditions of appropriate filed tariffs to the extent of 679,000 cubic feet per day, the amount permitted by the War Production Board, provided it shall before October 1, 1944, install standby equipment and thereafter maintain sufficient substitute fuel to replace 340,000 cubic feet of natural gas per day during periods of curtailment and provided, further, that the period of

such service shall not exceed the period of the present war, plus six months, unless otherwise authorized by this Commission.

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

Dated, San Francisco California, this 23rd day of May, 1944.

Richard L. Lusk

Justus J. Casner

Francis L. Havens

James H. Luce

Commissioners.