

Decision No. 37149

BEFORE THE RAILROAD COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

ORIGINAL

In the Matter of the Application of
SUPERIOR GLASS MANUFACTURING CO. for
permission to receive service under
the appropriate surplus schedule of
the Southern California Gas Company.

Application No. 26149

BY THE COMMISSION:

OPINION AND ORDER

In this application Superior Glass Manufacturing Co. asks the Commission for permission to be served with natural gas by Southern California Gas Company under its applicable surplus gas tariffs.

According to the application Superior Glass Manufacturing Co. is engaged in the business of manufacturing five-gallon glass water bottles which are sold at the present time to firms distributing drinking water.

It is the petitioner's contention that it is engaged in a semi-essential industry, in that the glass water bottles are used for distributing drinking water to various war industries, hospitals, doctors, schools, and others engaged in the war effort; further, that as soon as practicable it intends to manufacture glass food containers.

According to the information submitted in the application petitioner has standby fuel equipment installed having a capacity of about 4200 gallons of oil, and at the present time it is sufficient to operate the plant for approximately four days. We are informed by the petitioner that fuel oil standby facilities are installed for the operation of the glass tank and it is its intention, in the very near future, to equip the annealing ovens with standby fuel, thereby being in a position to operate its entire plant with standby fuel facilities in case of gas curtailment. Further, in the past this plant, which was operated under another name, was supplied under the surplus schedules by

the Southern California Gas Company; therefore the service is in accordance with the provisions of the War Production Board.

We understand that the glass tank will consume approximately one million cubic feet of gas per month, and the four annealing ovens will use approximately 360,000 cubic feet per month.

At the present time service is being rendered under the Gas Company's Preferred Essential Service Schedule PE-1A, and Applicant has requested that, if permission is granted by this Commission to receive service under the surplus schedules, the billing be adjusted to these tariffs for meter readings taken on and after May 9, 1944, the date on which this application was received for filing by the Commission.

The 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. Under Decisions Nos. 34797 and 35455, previously made, gas service supplied on a curtailable basis required the installation of an auxiliary fuel supply. To permit the Applicant to receive surplus gas service under these conditions will constitute a deviation from the utility's filed tariffs and this Commission's orders.

The supply of natural gas in this area is limited; however, the Commission recognizes the necessity of making the most efficient use of fuels that are available.

Under the circumstances it appears that permission should be given Southern California Gas Company to render surplus gas service to Applicant where adequate standby facilities have been installed and maintained in a satisfactory operating condition so that Applicant, when notified by the Gas Company during curtailment periods, will shut off the surplus gas being used by it and will not turn it on again until notified by the utility that a sufficient amount of gas is available for its operations, regardless of whether or not loss of materials is involved.

The Commission is therefore of the opinion that permission should be given Southern California Gas Company to render gas service to the Superior

Glass Manufacturing Co. under the appropriate surplus gas tariff and accordingly a deviation from the filed rules and regulations to permit this action is warranted. In view of the circumstances and interests involved, no public hearing is necessary and good cause appearing,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that Southern California Gas Company may render surplus gas service to the Superior Glass Manufacturing Co., 129 East Laurel Street, Compton, California, effective for meter readings taken on and after May 9, 1944, and at the rates and under conditions of applicable filed tariffs, 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 June,

1944.

Richard K. Lusk
Justice J. Casper
Francis R. Havenor
Francis W. ...
... ..
Commissioners