

Decision No. 40429

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of THE
PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY,
a corporation, for authority to discontinue
the operation of a telephone exchange at
Drytown, Amador County, California.

ORIGINAL

Application No. 28515

OPINION AND ORDER

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, a corporation, operating a telephone system in California and elsewhere, herein seeks authority to discontinue its Drytown exchange, Amador County, effective on or before December 31, 1947.

Drytown exchange, located in the western portion of Amador County, serves an area comprising sixteen square miles of sparsely-settled territory in the foothills of the Sierra Nevada Mountains. This area includes the small community of Drytown, comprising a general store and some six residences. Applicant states that in the past there was some mining activity in the area but for many years cattle grazing has been practically the only commercial activity; that the hilly terrain is not suitable for farming; and, therefore, little or no population increase appears likely within the predictable future. Applicant further states the Drytown exchange was established in 1898, that a maximum development of 17 stations, 14 of which were farmer line stations, was reached in 1931, and that at present there is only one subscriber to Drytown exchange service.

Applicant proposes to enlarge the exchange area of its Plymouth exchange, Amador County, to include the area now within its Drytown exchange, to provide Plymouth exchange service to the one subscriber, and to connect the public pay station presently in the Drytown central office with the Plymouth exchange, thereby furnishing continuous service instead of the present Drytown hours of service which are 7:30 a.m. to 12 m., 1 p.m. to 5 p.m., and 6:30 p.m. to 8 p.m.

Exchange charges to subscribers will be increased and there will be both increases and decreases in the toll charges. There were 436 originating toll messages and \$65.65 associated revenues in the six months' period from July 11, 1946 to January 10, 1947.

There are seven Plymouth residence foreign exchange farmer line subscribers within the Drytown exchange area. The inclusion of the present Drytown exchange area within the Plymouth exchange will permit the provision of regular Plymouth farmer line service to these subscribers, resulting in an annual saving of \$21 to said subscribers, and will make possible the elimination of two deviations which are presently effective.

Attached to the application are photostatic copies of letters filed by the subscriber and agent affected, agreeing to the change.

It appears there is no likely potential future requirement for separate exchange telephone service at Drytown. The public pay station connected to the Plymouth exchange should meet the needs of the general and transient public.

The Commission has given consideration to this application and is of the opinion that the authority requested should be granted and that this is a matter in which a public hearing is not required, therefore

IT IS ORDERED that The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company is hereby authorized on or before December 31, 1947, to discontinue its Drytown exchange, to cancel its rate schedules and map effective for exchange telephone service in the Drytown exchange area and, in lieu thereof, to include the present Drytown exchange area within the exchange area of the Plymouth exchange and provide Plymouth exchange service to the subscriber and the public pay station mentioned above.

IT IS FURTHER ORDERED that the necessary tariff schedules in accordance with General Order No. 96 shall be filed not less than fifteen (15) days prior to the provision of the Plymouth exchange service hereinabove authorized.

This Order shall become effective twenty (20) days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco California, this 24th day of June, 1947.

Harold P. Gule
Justin F. Gallen
Robert S. Powell
R. F. Johnson
Samuel T. Totten
Commissioners.