

Decision No. 41130**ORIGINAL**

## 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 permission  
 to publish, file and place in effect  
 exchange, interexchange and telegraph  
 rates at Bethel Island, Contra Costa  
 County, California.

Application No. 28982

O P I N I O N

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, operating a telephone system in California and elsewhere, proposes to establish a telephone exchange on Bethel Island, Contra Costa County, and requests authority to file and make effective rates for exchange service and for message toll and telegraph services.

Bethel Island is located in the San Joaquin River delta area in Contra Costa County, approximately ten miles airline distance southeast of Antioch and three miles northeast of Knightsen. Applicant alleges that a recreational and agricultural community has developed on Bethel Island adjacent to Frank's Tract near the junction of Taylor and Dutch Sloughs, and this community, with an estimated population of 200, is receiving telephone service at present by means of seven toll stations. The activities attributable to sport fishing, boating, agriculture and sale of fishing supplies have resulted in increased commercial and residential development on Bethel Island, and because of this increased development, Applicant believes that the establishment of an exchange will better meet the needs of the general public, the residents, and the commercial establishments.

In order to determine the potential subscribers to Bethel Island exchange service, Applicant has conducted a canvass of the residents and business men of Bethel Island. A total of 73 applicants signed service application cards for Bethel Island exchange service. The applicants and the class, type and grade of service applied for are shown in Exhibit A, attached to the company's application.

The Applicant proposes to furnish exchange telephone service to Bethel Island through the establishment of a separate community dial exchange. Under this plan, toll and all other traffic requiring the assistance of an operator will be furnished from the company's Pittsburg toll office, approximately 14 miles airline distance west of Bethel Island. The agents for the seven toll stations on Bethel Island have all signed service application cards for exchange service in lieu of the present toll station service.

The proposed rates for exchange service are set forth on Page 2 of Exhibit C attached to the application. These rates correspond to Rate Group 1, rates authorized for exchanges of similar size under the Commission's Third Interim Order, Decision No. 41021 (Application No. 28211). The principal exchange rates may be summarized as follows:

<u>Class of Service</u>	<u>Rate per Month*</u>	
	<u>Business Service</u>	<u>Residence Service</u>
One-party, flat rate	\$4.25	\$3.00
Two-party, flat rate	3.75	2.75
Four-party, flat rate	-	2.25
Ten-party suburban	3.50	2.75
Each extension station	1.25	1.00

\* Desk or Hand Set Station -  
Wall Set Station \$0.25 less.

The Applicant, in Exhibits D and G, presented the estimated revenues and expenses one year and five years after establishment of the proposed Bethel Island exchange, together with estimates of plant investment required to provide the proposed service. These exhibits indicate that after one year's operation of the Bethel Island exchange, the Applicant will have invested approximately \$41,655 in exchange plant in addition to approximately \$18,200 in toll facilities. Operating revenues during this period are estimated in the amount of \$7,765 with operating expenses of \$10,653. After five years of operation, the Applicant estimates an investment of \$51,834 in exchange plant and \$19,350 in toll facilities. It is estimated that after five years of operation, the annual revenue will be \$10,755 with annual expenses in the amount of \$14,210.

Exhibit E, as amended, sets forth the proposed message toll telephone and telegraph rates for the Bethel Island exchange, which are in accordance with the bases generally used throughout the state. Exhibit F is a map showing the proposed base rate and exchange area boundaries of the proposed Bethel Island exchange.

At various times in the past, Applicant has been consulted by residents and business men in the Bethel Island area regarding the establishment of a separate exchange to provide more and better service in the area. In addition, a communication was received by the Commission from the Businessmen's Club of Bethel Island, Inc., seeking advice and help in securing an improved telephone service.

The establishment of the proposed Bethel Island exchange should result in an improved service to that community.

ORDER

The Public Utilities Commission of the State of California, having considered Applicant's request and being of the opinion that a public hearing is not required and that the granting of the application would be in the public interest, therefore

IT IS ORDERED as follows:

1. The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company is authorized to file, on or before October 31, 1948, in accordance with General Order No. 96 and make effective in the Bethel Island exchange, coincident with establishment of the exchange and on not less than ten (10) days' notice, the rates for exchange telephone service, message toll telephone service, and telegraph service, and maps of the base rate and exchange areas as set forth in Exhibits C, E as amended, and F, respectively, attached to the application.
2. This Order shall become effective on the twentieth day after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 19<sup>th</sup> day of

January, 1948.

R. E. Dunning  
Justice F. Craven  
Clara H. Duggell  
Harold F. Kula  
Herbert Potter  
Commissioners.