

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 43046

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
INTERSTATE TELEGRAPH COMPANY, a cor-  
poration, for authority to establish,  
maintain and operate a Telephone  
Exchange at Boron, Kern County,  
California, and provide telephone  
exchange service in the Boron Exchange  
Area (Kern and San Bernardino Counties,  
California): and to file and make  
effective rates for telephone and tele-  
graph service in said Boron Exchange  
Area.

Application No. 30249

H. M. Hammack and Willard G. Wade, for applicant;  
Clarence H. Steussy for Committee on the Telephone  
Situation of Boron Co-ordinating Council.

O P I N I O N

In this application, Interstate Telegraph Company, engaged in a general telephone and telegraph business in the Counties of Mono, Inyo, Kern, and San Bernardino, and in the State of Nevada, seeks authority to establish a telephone exchange in the community of Boron, Kern County, California, formerly known as Amargo and Amargo City, and to discontinue all present toll stations therein.

At the present time, applicant interchanges toll telephone service with The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company, the connecting points for such interchange service being at San Bernardino, California, and at Mojave, California. Said applicant maintains and operates one metallic circuit and one carrier circuit between

Inyokern, California, and eight telephone toll stations located in the area comprising the proposed Boron exchange. Eleven toll circuits are maintained between Inyokern and the connecting point, San Bernardino, and five toll circuits between Inyokern and the connecting point, Mojave.

A public hearing was held before Examiner Rowe, at Boron, California, on June 2, 1949, at which time oral and documentary evidence was adduced and the matter was submitted for decision.

Mr. Willard G. Wade, Vice President and Manager of applicant, testified that the increasing development and activity in the Boron area has created a public necessity for exchange telephone service in the area. To meet this need, applicant has determined that the Boron area can best be served by means of an unattended dial telephone exchange, and proposes to equip such exchange with a one-hundred-line unattended dial automatic switchboard to be installed in a reinforced concrete and pumice block telephone exchange building, constructed on a parcel of land owned by Interstate Telegraph Company in the town of Boron.

The present toll line facilities will effect connection with the Inyokern switchboard. A map attached to the application as Exhibit "B" delineates the boundaries of the proposed Boron exchange and base rate area, and Exhibit "C" shows, in detail, the proposed Boron base rate area. The establishment of the proposed Boron exchange with the proposed conversion of toll stations to exchange service will not effect an increase or decrease in applicant's exchange rates or any change in any of its filed rules and regulations. Applicant sets forth in Exhibit H the results of a study made to determine the effect, on toll charges to the public,

of the withdrawal of the eight toll stations and the establishment of Boron as the toll rate center for the exchange. This study shows a net annual decrease of \$136.80 in toll charges to present subscribers in the Boron area. Only one subscriber's toll charges would be increased, amounting to \$6 per year.

The suggested schedules of exchange service rates to be made applicable to the proposed Boron exchange will be those set forth in applicant's presently filed exchange schedules for the lower levels of exchange flat rate service. Revised tariff sheets which include Boron in the preliminary statement showing the names of exchanges and types of exchange, toll, and telegraph service, are attached to the application as Exhibit "F".

The suggested schedules of toll telephone and telegraph rates applicable to the Boron exchange will be those set forth in applicant's presently filed toll and telegraph service schedules. The establishment of the proposed Boron exchange with its toll rate center, as located, necessitates the filing of a new base rate sheet for Boron. Such a tariff sheet is attached to the application as Exhibit "G". All present toll stations in the proposed exchange area will be discontinued with the opening of the exchange.

The owners or proprietors of the property wherein each of said toll stations is located and being served, desire exchange telephone service and each has executed application for the proposed exchange service, as have approximately 75 others.

Mr. Steussy, representing the Committee on the Telephone Situation of the Boron Co-ordinating Council, cross-examined the applicant's witnesses at considerable length regarding the quality and dependability of the service to be provided in the new exchange. He later stated at the hearing, that his committee would withdraw any objection or protest it may have had to the granting of the application in view of the assurances given thereat by Mr. Wade as to the

plans of the applicant for providing adequate telephone service.

Mr. Wade testified that the expenditures required for the installation of the proposed exchange would be made from funds in the treasury of applicant.

The Commission is of the opinion that establishment of the proposed Boron exchange will result in an improved telephone service in the area and, accordingly, the application will be granted.

O R D E R

The above-entitled application having been filed, a public hearing having been held, and the matter submitted for decision,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the increases in rates and charges which would result from a granting of the application are justified; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Interstate Telegraph Company is authorized to file on or before December 31, 1949, in accordance with General Order No. 96, and make effective in the Boron exchange coincident with the establishment of the exchange and on not less than fifteen (15) days' notice, the maps of the base rate and exchange areas, the preliminary statement, and the base rate tariff sheet as set forth in Exhibits "B," "C," "F," and "G" attached to the application.
2. Interstate Telegraph Company is authorized to discontinue the eight toll stations in the Boron area on or after the establishment of the Boron exchange.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty (20) days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 28<sup>th</sup> day of

June, 1949.

R. F. Johnson  
Justice F. G. Quinn  
Justice H. F. Powell  
Justice A. H. Kule  
Commissioners  
Commissioners.