

Decision No. 44854**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 authority
to discontinue operation of its tele-
phone exchange at Korbek and to include
the Korbek exchange area within its
Blue Lake exchange area.

Application No. 31715

O P I N I O N

By the above-entitled application, The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company seeks authority to discontinue operation of its Korbek exchange, enlarge the area of its exchange at Blue Lake, and furnish Blue Lake exchange service within the present Korbek exchange area, all in Humboldt County, California.

The Korbek exchange is located 1 mile southeast of Blue Lake and 6 miles east of Arcata. Telephone service was established at Korbek about the year 1903 to meet the requirements of the Northern Redwood Lumber Company. The lumber company owns all property within the community of Korbek and much of the surrounding timberland and has, as a subsidiary, the Arcata and Mad River Railroad Company which primarily transports lumber products between Korbek and Arcata. The central office equipment at Korbek consists of a magneto manual switchboard, attended from 8 a.m. to 6 p.m. on weekdays and holidays only, operated by the lumber company as agent for the telephone company. In addition to presently serving 27 lumber company telephones, the exchange serves one public telephone station, seven former line stations and one teletypewriter service.

There have been three telephone company circuits connected with the Korbek switchboard used for traffic to other exchanges. One of such circuits is connected with Korbek, Blue Lake, and Arcata and has been a so-called "free switch" circuit since about 1903. The other two circuits extend directly to the toll center at Eureka and are used for general toll purposes on calls to or from Korbek. In addition, a circuit owned by the lumber and railroad companies and primarily established as a dispatch line for the railroad, extends between Arcata and Korbek, and terminates in the central office switchboards at these points. The Commission is aware that, at times, considerable delay has occurred in completing calls over the "free switch" line and that such line has been frequently overloaded, thereby causing subscriber dissatisfaction with the general service provided the area. The limited hours of operation have also occasioned dissatisfaction.

Coincident with discontinuance of the Korbek exchange, the telephone company will provide (1) Blue Lake public telephone service at the site of the present Korbek public telephone station, (2) Blue Lake private branch exchange service and individual line service for the lumber company in lieu of the services now furnished it from the Korbek exchange, (3) Arcata business service for the lumber company at locations in the Arcata exchange in lieu of the present arrangements involving the use of four of the telephone company's telephones connected to the railroad's dispatch line, (4) teletypewriter exchange service to the lumber company, and (5) Blue Lake farmer line service to each of the present Korbek farmer line service subscribers. The present Korbek farmer line subscribers are served by two lines, one having five subscribers and the other having two subscribers. Under the telephone company's plan, these subscribers will lease company circuits between Korbek

and Blue Lake. Such an arrangement will make it unnecessary for the owners of the farmer lines to undertake any new construction in order to connect their lines to company-owned circuits.

Discontinuance of the Korbek exchange and placing in effect the above-described plan will increase exchange service charges and reduce certain toll charges. The effect on exchange service charges is as follows:

Service	Monthly Charge		
	Present	Proposed	Increase
Business Farmer Line	\$ 0.75	\$ 1.00	\$ 0.25
Residence Farmer Line	0.50	0.60	0.10
Teletypewriter Exchange Service	10.00	12.50	2.50
Northern Redwood Lumber Company 26 telephones, 1 operator headset ..	13.50		
Blue Lake private branch exchange and individual line, 4 Arcata sub- scriber stations		101.70	88.20
Total monthly increase	\$92.00		

The toll charge reductions will occur as a decrease of 5 cents in the initial period message toll rate from Korbek to the Trinidad exchange and as an elimination of the 10-cent initial period message toll rate now applicable between Blue Lake and Korbek to messages from other than subscriber stations.

Agreement with the telephone company's proposal has been indicated by the Northern Redwood Lumber Company and by each farmer line subscriber, as evidenced by letter or signed applications, photostatic copies of which are attached to the application and marked as Exhibits A and B, respectively. In addition, the City Attorney of Blue Lake has informed us that the City Council of the City of Blue Lake has no objection to the proposal and urges speedy granting of the telephone company's request.

It appears that the telephone company's proposal will provide continuous hours of service to present Korbek subscribers, that telephone operations will be simplified through consolidation

of exchange operations, that waiting applicants for service may be accommodated with Blue Lake exchange service, and that discontinuance of the Korbek exchange and coincidentally placing into effect the above-discussed plan will be in the public interest, and increases in charges resulting therefrom are justified. An order will be entered granting applicant's request.

O R D E R

The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company having applied to this Commission for an order authorizing it to discontinue operation of its telephone exchange at Korbek and to include said Korbek exchange area within its Blue Lake exchange area and whereas such discontinuance and inclusion will result in certain increased charges to its subscribers in the present Korbek exchange, and the Commission being of the opinion that a public hearing in the matter is not necessary,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the increase in rates and charges authorized herein are justified; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company is authorized on or before April 1, 1951, to discontinue its Korbek exchange, to cancel its rate schedules and map effective for telephone service in the Korbek exchange area and, in lieu thereof, to include the Korbek exchange area within the exchange area of the Blue Lake exchange and to provide Blue Lake exchange service to the subscribers mentioned above.

IT IS HEREBY 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 Blue Lake exchange service.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 3rd day of October, 1950.

R. Z. Johnson
James J. Calver
John S. Howell
Harold H. Hill
Kenneth P. Potter
Commissioners