

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 46789

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA GAS)
COMPANY, a corporation, and)
SOUTHERN COUNTIES GAS COMPANY OF)
CALIFORNIA, a corporation, under)
Section 50 (a) of the Public)
Utilities Act, for a certificate)
of public convenience and neces-)
sity for the construction and)
operation of pipeline facilities.)

Application No. 32528

ORDER SETTING ASIDE SUBMISSION
AND REOPENING FOR FURTHER HEARING

Southern California Gas Company and Southern Counties Gas Company of California on November 2, 1951, filed an amendment to the above application requesting that this Commission issue an order granting a certificate of public convenience and necessity and authorizing the construction and operation of the natural gas pipe-line facilities described in the amended application after applicants shall have filed the definitive contract for the additional gas supply from the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

A public hearing was held by Commissioner Huls and Examiner Crenshaw in Los Angeles on July 19, 1951, on the original application, in which applicants requested a certificate of public convenience and necessity and authorization to construct approximately 81 miles of 30-inch diameter pipe line from the terminus of an existing loop pipe line at Whitewater, California, eastward to a point approximately 4 miles east of Desert Center, and another segment of approximately 6 miles of 30-inch pipe line extending eastward from Blythe Compressor Station, and to install additional

compressor capacity, all of which is to be used in transmitting the additional 150,000 Mcf per day of gas which applicants expect to receive from the El Paso Natural Gas Company.

The matter was submitted contingent upon applicants submitting within 120 days a comprehensive and definitive contract between Southern California Gas Company and Southern Counties Gas Company of California, buyers, and the El Paso Natural Gas Company, supplier, covering the additional 150,000 Mcf per day, which was to be given Exhibit No. 8 when received by the Commission.

Applicants subsequently submitted an amended application setting forth changes in its proposed construction program, in that only 39 miles of 30-inch pipe line would be installed easterly from the terminus of the existing loop line at Whitewater, and that a second section of 30-inch diameter loop pipe line approximately 6 miles long would be installed eastward from the Blythe Compressor Station to connect with the present 30-inch line just west of the suspension bridge over the Colorado River, which is the California-Arizona boundary.

In addition to the proposed paralleling of a portion of the so-called existing Texas pipe line, it is proposed to install two additional 1,760 hp gas engine driven compressors at the Blythe Compressor Station, together with the necessary auxiliary equipment; also, a new 5,000 hp gas turbine driven centrifugal compressor will be installed near Desert Center. It is further stated that the necessary contracts and orders have been placed with various firms for the delivery of this equipment.

The reasons for changing the type of the proposed facilities, as stated by applicants, are as follows:

- (1) Since the original application was filed in this proceeding, the Secretary of the Interior has issued a new regulation (Section 244.53 of Part 244 of the Department's Regulations)

requiring a more burdensome common carrier stipulation from owners of gas pipe lines crossing public lands.

- (2) A large portion of the originally proposed 87 miles of 30-inch diameter pipe line for this project would have crossed public lands.
- (3) Applicants are unwilling to sign the stipulation now required by the Secretary of the Interior, as a prerequisite to permission to cross public lands.
- (4) The supply of pipe for the gas industry is less than its requirements, and the Applicants' new proposal to use 45.3 miles of 30-inch diameter pipe in place of the originally proposed 87 miles would benefit the nation by using a lesser tonnage of steel.

Applicants have not as yet been able to consummate a contract with the El Paso Natural Gas Company for the additional 150,000 Mcf and have requested that they be given an extension of time in which to submit the contract.

Applicants advise that copies of the amended application have been properly served on all appearances of record in this case, being the representatives of the San Diego Gas and Electric Company, the City of Los Angeles, and the Eleventh Naval District.

In view of the above conditions it appears advisable that the matter be reopened for further hearing and that the submission on July 19, 1951, be set aside.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that the submission heretofore entered in the above-entitled matter be set aside and the matter reopened for further hearing before Commissioner Huls and Examiner Crenshaw to be held in the Commission's Court Room in Los Angeles at 10 a.m. on Wednesday, March 19, 1952.

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that the time limit for the filing of a comprehensive and definitive copy of a contract

between Southern California Gas Company and Southern Counties Gas Company of California, buyers, and the El Paso Natural Gas Company, supplier, covering the additional 150,000 Mcf of gas per day, be extended to March 19, 1952.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 26th day of February, 1952.

R. F. [Signature]
President.
Justus F. [Signature]
Harold P. [Signature]
[Signature]

Commissioners.