

Decision No. 48009

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the matter of the application)
of the Kernville Telephone Company)
for permission to abandon service)
to Greenhorn Mountain.)

Application No. 33667

OPINION AND ORDER

Donovan F. Gouldin, operating a telephone system under the name of Kernville Telephone Company in Kernville and vicinity, Kern County, by the above-entitled application requests authority to abandon telephone service to Greenhorn Mountain. Applicant's facilities for furnishing telephone service to Greenhorn Mountain consist of approximately 12 miles of open wire line extending from Kernville to the summit of the mountain. For the year 1951 the applicant reported operating revenues of \$11,914.60, operating expenses and taxes of \$14,034.37, with net operating loss of \$2,119.77. Applicant reported his investment in plant and equipment at \$29,930.46, with a reserve for depreciation of \$6,054.50 as of December 31, 1951.

The application shows that the applicant desires to discontinue service to Greenhorn Mountain for the following reasons: (1) approximately one half of the 12 miles of line would require complete reconstruction; (2) the applicant is not in a position to rebuild the line because of difficulties encountered with respect to the Isabella reservoir area; (3) the line is impossible to maintain during the winter months as the road on the Kernville side of the mountain is not open; (4) it is economically unsound to provide the service; and (5) only two of the five subscribers served by the line continued service during the winter months.

Each of the five subscribers affected by this proposed abandonment was notified in writing of the applicant's request and advised to submit comments with respect thereto to the Commission by October 15, 1952. Two subscribers responded. Herman W. Riese, Assistant Superintendent of the Kern County Parks Department, advised that a Forestry Service radio was located in Greenhorn Mountain Park but could be used only for emergency messages when a park attendant was available to send messages. Mr. Riese also indicated he had no objection to the abandonment of the line if another telephone company were permitted to serve in Greenhorn Mountain Park. Velna Martin of the Alta Sierra Resort advised that telephone service was essential to her business and that she would be willing to maintain the lines to continue the service.

It appears that toll service-station service, wherein the subscriber would maintain the line to the telephone company's switchboard, would meet the telephone requirements of the Alta Sierra Resort. If application to Donovan F. Gouldin is made by the Alta Sierra Resort for this type of service, the Commission will require applicant Gouldin to make appropriate tariff filings therefor.

The Commission is cognizant that exchange telephone service in the Kernville exchange was discontinued November 16, 1952, because of the United States Government's requirement that telephone facilities be removed from the Isabella Dam flood control reservoir area.

It appears that the applicant has been unable to maintain service to Greenhorn Mountain and that this service is uneconomical for this utility. If the applicant abandons service to the Greenhorn Mountain area, as hereinafter authorized, the Commission

will require the applicant to exclude such territory from his service area so that another utility, if it desires, may seek authority from this Commission to serve the territory.

The Commission has considered this matter and is of the opinion that a public hearing thereon is not necessary, and that the application should be granted as herein provided; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Donovan F. Gouldin, doing business as Kernville Telephone Company, after the effective date hereof and on or before March 1, 1953 may abandon telephone service to the area now served by the Greenhorn Mountain line.
2. If the authority herein granted is exercised, Donovan F. Gouldin, shall file in accordance with General Order No. 96 on not less than five (5) days' notice to the Commission and to the public, a revised map of the Kernville exchange area excluding therefrom the territory lying west of a line one mile west of the range line between Range 32 East and 33 East, Mt. Diablo Meridian, such revised map to become effective coincident with the abandonment of telephone service to the Greenhorn Mountain telephone line.
3. If applicant abandons exchange telephone service to the area served by the Greenhorn Mountain telephone line and an application for toll service-station service is received from the Alta Sierra Resort by the applicant, Donovan F. Gouldin shall make appropriate tariff filings for such service in accordance with General Order No. 96.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9th day of December, 1952.

R. T. [Signature]
President.

Justus J. [Signature]

Harold P. [Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
Commissioners.