

**ORIGINAL**

Decision No. 48293

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Application of	)	
The California Oregon Power Company	)	Application No. 33734
for authority to make certain	)	
adjustments in its electric rates.	)	

Appearances for applicant: Brobeck, Phleger and Harrison, by George D. Rives.

Protestants: Scott Valley Chamber of Commerce by Don Avery; Town of Fort Jones by Ernest P. Smith; Scott Valley Airmen's Association by Robert A. Davis; Klamath River Hall Association by Ralph Hauser; group of farmers on Scott River by Harry B. Tozier; Siskiyou County Farm Bureau by Hearst Dillman; people of Horse Creek, Hamburg and Scott Bar areas by D. L. Thompson; Kenneth V. Johnson in propria persona; Samuel R. Friedman for Harry Tozier farmer group, Scott Valley Chamber of Commerce and Lions Club, Ernest P. Smith and Scott Valley Airmen's Association.

Interested parties: California Farm Bureau Federation by Eldon N. Dye; Paul S. Visher in propria persona.

Other appearances: L. R. Knerr of the Commission's staff.

INTERIM OPINION

The California Oregon Power Company, operating a public utility electric system in the northern portion of the State of California and the southern portion of the State of Oregon, filed the above-entitled application on September 16, 1952, requesting authority to increase residential service electric rates by an estimated \$61,567 annually based on the level of business for the year 1952. Applicant's proposed rates are set forth in Section C of Exhibit No. 1 in this proceeding. After due notice, a public hearing was held on this application before Commissioner Kenneth Potter and Examiner M. W. Edwards on December 11, 1952 at Yreka, California.

Nature of Evidence

Evidence was presented by three witnesses on behalf of the applicant. In addition, several customers or their representatives placed oral statements in the record. Applicant's witnesses were cross-examined by the staff of the Commission and by certain of the protestants and interested parties.

Several of the protestants opposed the proposed increase principally on the basis that the type of service being received did not warrant any increase in rates. Representatives from the Etna, Scott River, Hernbrook and Fort Jones areas told of conditions of service interruption, low voltage and high voltage. One representative suggested that the applicant eliminate certain dead-end lines by looping, and another suggested relocation of the main line closer to a road to facilitate maintenance and repair. A representative from Happy Camp testified that he had to install a standby plant because of the protracted service interruptions. The representative from Fort Jones supplied a chart from a recording voltage meter, received as Exhibit No. 17 in this proceeding, for the purpose of showing the fluctuations in service voltage in the area.

Applicant's witness testified that a part of the service difficulty has been due to unusually heavy snowfall and severe storms during the past two winters. The question of rebuilding applicant's lines and adding additional circuits was discussed. This witness expressed concern over the economics involved in attempting to supply the standard of service requested by protestants in a mountainous and rural territory.

Conclusion

After reviewing the record herein and giving full weight to the statements and protests made by the interested parties and the protestants it is concluded that the applicant must promptly advance plans for service improvement. Applicant did not show its <sup>inter-state</sup> earnings position in California in relationship to over-all earnings, and by this order will be directed to do so pending consideration of the rate application.

*Q.2.7*

INTERIM ORDER

The California Oregon Power Company having applied to this Commission for an order authorizing increases in electric rates and charges, public hearing having been held, the matter having been submitted,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Applicant shall prepare a study and submit a report within forty-five days after the effective date of this order summarizing the various service deficiencies noted in the record herein, and setting forth applicant's plan for service improvement.
2. Applicant shall submit a statement showing its earnings position within the State of California segregated from its over-all earnings position. *inter state Q.2.7*
3. Copies of the above reports shall be served upon all parties of record in this matter.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17th day of February, 1953.

[Signature]  
President.  
Justus F. Calmes  
Harold F. Hills

[Signature]  
[Signature]  
Commissioners.