

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 48776

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
PURITAN ICE COMPANY, a corporation, :
to sell, assign and dispose of the)
whole of its Atascadero plant used :
and useful in the performance of its)
duties to the public and to discon- :
-tinue service as a public utility)
and to cancel rates. :
-----)

Application
No. 34428
(and Amendment)

OPINION AND ORDER

In this proceeding Puritan Ice Company seeks authorization to sell real property and improvements used by it in its public utility cold storage business at Atascadero and to discontinue service as a public utility and to cancel rates.

It appears that Puritan Ice Company is, and for many years has been, engaged in the public utility cold storage business in Atascadero and in nonutility operations, that its public utility service constitutes but a small part of its total operations, that such public utility operations have been conducted at a loss, and that applicant now desires to sell its real property and its cold storage plant to A. L. Ruso Inc., a corporation, and Antone Ruso, an individual, for the sum of \$85,000, and to discontinue the public utility service now conducted in said plant.^{1/} It appears that the purchasers do not intend to operate the premises as public warehousemen.

^{1/} Applicant's 1952 annual report shows its public utility revenues at \$8,244.87 and its nonutility revenues at \$529,474.53. Exhibit A filed in this proceeding shows net operating losses from public utility service, before provision for taxes, during the last five years as follows:

| | |
|------|-------------|
| 1948 | \$14,130.66 |
| 1949 | 16,091.96 |
| 1950 | 10,560.09 |
| 1951 | 16,388.08 |
| 1952 | 17,658.05 |

The application shows that applicant now is furnishing public utility service to only eight patrons, that said patrons have filed with the Commission their written consents to the abandonment of the cold storage operations and cancellation of the tariff. In addition, the Atascadero Chamber of Commerce has notified the Commission that the withdrawal of applicant's warehouse as a public utility in no way will work a hardship on the community of Atascadero.

In passing on this application we are making no finding of the value of the properties. It is our opinion that the proposed transfer, with the abandonment of the service, will not be adverse to the public interest and that applicant's request should be granted; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Puritan Ice Company may sell the property and facilities referred to in this application to A. L. Puso Inc. and Antone Puso, and upon such sale and on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public, shall cancel its rates, rules and regulations applicable to public utility service in the premises herein authorized to be sold.

2. The authority herein granted will become effective 20 days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th day of June, 1953.

R. J. [Signature]
President

[Signature]

[Signature]
[Signature]

Commissioners