

ORIGINALDecision No. 49418

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA EDISON COMPANY)
 for a certificate that present and)
 future public convenience and neces-)
 sity require, and will require, the)
 construction, operation and mainte-)
 nance by applicant of a new reservoir,)
 to be known as the Vermilion Valley)
 Reservoir, to be located on Mono)
 Creek, tributary to the South Fork)
 of the San Joaquin River, in the)
 County of Fresno, State of)
 California, and the structures,)
 facilities, appliances and roads)
 necessary or convenient for the)
 construction, operation or mainte-)
 nance of said reservoir.)

Application No. 34688

Bruce Renwick, Rollin E. Woodbury and
 Harry W. Sturges, Jr., by Harry W.
 Sturges, Jr., for applicant.

OPINION

Southern California Edison Company, by the above-entitled application, requests a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to construct, operate and maintain a new reservoir to be known as Vermilion Valley Reservoir, which is to be located on Mono Creek, tributary to the South Fork of the San Joaquin River in the County of Fresno. A general map of the project is attached to the application and marked Exhibit "A." A public hearing on this application was held before Examiner C. E. Cronshaw on November 23, 1953, in Los Angeles, California.

Applicant plans to construct an earth-filled dam across Mono Creek in the SW 1/4 of Section 25 and the SE 1/4 of Section 26, T. 6 S., R. 27 E., M.D.B.& M. in the County of Fresno, which will have a crest length of approximately 4,350 feet and a height of approximately 160 feet from the stream bed to the top of the spillway gates.

The reservoir is estimated to have a gross capacity of 125,000 acre-feet of water when filled to the top of the spillway gates, which at said level will flood approximately 1,890 acres of land.

The total cost of the project is estimated to be \$8,650,000, a detail of which is set forth in applicant's Exhibit No. 2. Of this amount \$4,026,000 is estimated for the earth-filled dam.

Applicant has obtained a license from the Federal Power Commission, a copy of which was presented as applicant's Exhibit No. 1 in this proceeding and designated as Project No. 2086.

The license for the construction of the reservoir was authorized September 25, 1953, and issued September 29, 1953. Applicant accepted the license on October 20, 1953.

It is applicant's contention that the installation of the Vermilion Valley Reservoir would provide a storage capacity sufficient to firm up the hydro generating capacity by approximately 76,000 kilowatts; would produce an estimated 122 million kilowatt-hours per year during an average water year; or, in the case of a dry year, by releases from the reservoir, would produce approximately 440 million kilowatt-hours. The additional kilowatt-hours thus generated would offset kilowatt-hours now generated by steam, resulting in an over-all saving to customers generally on applicant's system.

At present the water from Vermilion Valley flows down Mono Creek channel to applicant's existing Mono Creek diversion works, from which water is diverted through the Mono conduit into the Mono-Bear siphon, which in turn empties into the Ward tunnel which conducts the water to Huntington Lake Reservoir. These facilities are not of sufficient capacity to utilize the volumes of water flowing in Mono Creek during heavy rainfall seasons. From

Huntington Lake Reservoir the water could be diverted to Shaver Lake Reservoir. With the installation of the Vermilion Valley Dam, water may be stored during heavy rainfall seasons and may be withdrawn as necessary to meet applicant's requirements for the use of such water for generation of electric energy and other uses incidental thereto at applicant's hydroelectric generating plants and certain requirements of downstream users. Such water will be conducted from the Vermilion Valley Reservoir by means of the channel of Mono Creek to applicant's Mono Creek diversion works, whence said water will be conducted by means of applicant's existing works to Huntington Lake Reservoir, and then to and used through applicant's Big Creek Powerhouse No. 1 and Big Creek Powerhouse No. 2, or from Huntington Lake Reservoir it will be conducted in whole or in part to Shaver Lake Reservoir and then to and used through applicant's Big Creek Powerhouse No. 2A, and thereafter it will be conducted to and used through applicant's Big Creek Powerhouse No. 8, Big Creek Powerhouse No. 3, and Big Creek Powerhouse No. 4. Any water which may be made available from the operation of the Vermilion Valley Reservoir in excess of the capacities of the above-mentioned works may be conducted from the Vermilion Valley Reservoir by means of the channel of Mono Creek and of the South Fork of the San Joaquin River, to and used through applicant's proposed Mammoth Pool Project, and thereafter to and used through applicant's Big Creek Powerhouse No. 3 and Big Creek Powerhouse No. 4.

Applicant proposes to finance the construction of this development from its available funds and from funds obtained, or to be obtained, from the issuance of securities. Applications for such issuance will be filed with this Commission. It is estimated that the project will be completed in November 1954, and that storage will be available in 1955.

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that a certificate of public convenience and necessity be and it is hereby granted Southern California Edison Company to construct, operate, and maintain a dam and reservoir, and facilities, to be known as the Vermilion Valley Reservoir, for the storage of water within the territory hereinbefore described.

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

Dated at San Francisco, CA, California, this 15th day of December, 1958.

R. E. Anderson
 President

Justice J. Casper

W. H. Pottel

John E. McMillen

Gene Higgins
 Commissioners