

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 49505

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application )	
of D. S. Taggart, an individual )	
doing business as The Butte )	
Meadows Telephone and Telegraph )	Application No. 34916
Company, for authority to discon- )	
tinue operation of toll telephone )	
service in Butte and Tehama )	
Counties. )	

OPINION AND ORDER

By the above-entitled application filed on December 1, 1953, D. S. Taggart, an individual doing business as The Butte Meadows Telephone and Telegraph Company, seeks authority to discontinue toll telephone service in Butte and Tehama Counties and to cease operation as a public utility.

The application shows that since 1937 the applicant has operated a toll line extending generally between Chico and Butte Meadows. Applicant's property consists mainly of a pole line and metallic circuit extending from Chico in a northeasterly direction for a distance of 17 miles to a toll station designated Cedar Station No. 1; then continuing on as a pole line and ground return circuit in a northeasterly direction to toll stations in the vicinity of Butte Meadows, a distance of approximately 14 additional miles.

Applicant provided telephone service to 10 toll stations as of October 23, 1953 as shown by Exhibit A attached to the application. It appears that 8 of these toll stations, all located north of toll station Cedar Station No. 1, require service during the summer months only.

Applicant shows that his gross revenues for the 10-year period 1943 to 1952, inclusive, have amounted to \$7,027.10 compared to his total expenses for the same period of \$13,770.68. In 9 of the past 10 years, applicant shows his expenses have exceeded revenues. For the 3 years 1950 to 1952, inclusive, total revenues and total expenses are reported as follows:

<u>Year</u>	<u>Total Revenues</u>	<u>Total Expenses</u>
1950	\$486.59	\$1,561.09
1951	854.35	1,285.84
1952	521.26	1,658.26

Applicant states that he is no longer able to underwrite losses or to perform the maintenance work necessary to keep the physical plant in operating condition and that he has been unsuccessful in his efforts to find a purchaser willing to buy and operate the telephone system. It is for these reasons that the applicant seeks authority to discontinue service and to cease operation as a public utility.

Applicant plans to rehabilitate the line from Chico to Cedar Station No. 1, to accommodate farmer line service from the dial central office to The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company at Chico and to abandon the ground return circuit north of Cedar Station No. 1.

The application shows that the United States forest service and the Diamond Match Company maintain private line facilities between Butte Meadows and Stirling City and that these facilities should be available for emergency service during the summer months.

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 that D. S. Taggart, doing business as The Butte Meadows Telephone and Telegraph Company, after the effective date hereof and on or before March 31, 1954, may abandon his property devoted to public utility service, cancel all filed tariffs, and cease operation as a public utility. R3.23

IT IS HEREBY FURTHER ORDERED that if the authority herein granted is exercised, the applicant shall, not less than ten days prior to actual discontinuance of service and operations, file an appropriate advice letter in conformity with General Order No. 96 cancelling all filed tariffs effective as of the date of discontinuance of operations.

This order shall become effective twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 5<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1954.

R. S. Taggart  
President

JUSTICE D. CHILLEN

W. M. POTTER

W. E. HILL

D. S. TAGGART  
Commissioners