

**ORIGINAL**Decision No. 49817

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of The Western Telephone )	
Company for authority to revise its )	
method of establishing toll stations )	Application No. 34568
and rates applicable to its toll )	(As Amended)
stations on a zone basis instead of )	
an individual basis. )	

OPINION AND ORDER

By this application, filed on July 22, 1953, and as amended February 24, 1954, The Western Telephone Company, furnishing telephone service in portions of Trinity, Humboldt, and Mendocino Counties, seeks authority (1) to establish toll station service areas each containing one or more toll stations; (2) to establish a single toll rate point for each toll station service area; (3) to establish toll rates for toll telephone traffic involving toll stations within the toll station service areas; and (4) to enlarge Covelo exchange area to include 27 square miles of additional territory.

The company serves approximately 425 toll stations from its exchanges at Weaverville, Garberville, Laytonville and Covelo.

Applicant alleges that the present large number of individual toll stations which it serves in these areas requires excessive administrative and clerical effort when each station is a separate toll rate point. For example, in order to show the rates for messages between each toll station and all other toll rate points, it has been necessary for applicant to file two tariff sheets for each station or a total of approximately 850 tariff sheets. Applicant states that preparation of tariff filings required for

136 toll station changes in 1952 consumed 181 man-hours of work and that material savings in time would result under the proposed arrangement. Toll stations within close proximity of one another can be grouped as toll station service areas to reduce the number of rate points on its system to about 45. Each such area would then have one toll rate point and message toll telephone rates would be the same for all stations within a single area, thus substantially reducing the number of tariff sheets required.

The company indicates further that its proposed arrangement would greatly reduce the number of tariff revisions now occasioned by location or name change of individual toll stations. Under its proposal, toll station changes within an area would not affect the toll rate point; therefore, a tariff change would be unnecessary. However, if a toll station should be established outside any toll station service area, a tariff filing would be needed to expand an existing toll area or to establish a new one.

The establishment of new toll rate centers for each toll station service area and the discontinuance of the toll rate centers of each toll station will result in some increased charges over certain routes and in some decreases over other routes for message toll telephone traffic. It is estimated that the aggregate of these changes will result in gross annual revenue increases of \$175 and decreases of \$305, or an over-all reduction in annual revenue of approximately \$130.

Applicant indicates that the proposed changes will tend to reduce its plant investment requirements. Laytonville and Covelo exchanges are scheduled for conversion to dial operation in 1954 and in conjunction with dial operation of these exchanges applicant intends to provide automatic toll ticketing equipment. Since, under applicant's proposal, each toll line would serve only those toll

stations located in the same toll area, the resulting reduction in toll rate points from 425 to 45 will simplify the automatic ticketing equipment. Further, the proposed serving arrangement will be compatible with the nationwide toll dialing program.

Applicant's request for an expansion of its existing Covelo exchange area will permit the ready granting of exchange service to prospective subscribers for such service within the expanded area. Such proposal would appear to be in the public interest and will be authorized.

The Commission has considered the above-entitled matter and is of the opinion that the establishment of toll station service areas and the expansion of the exchange area at Covelo, as proposed, will simplify operations, permit certain economies, and offer additional service to the public and that the application should be granted as herein provided. Being of the further opinion that a public hearing thereon is not necessary,

IT IS HEREBY FOUND AS A FACT that the increases in rates and charges herein authorized are justified and that the present rates, in so far as they differ from those herein prescribed, for the future are unjust and unreasonable; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Applicant after the effective date of this order and on or before June 30, 1954, may discontinue all toll station rate points and cancel tariff schedules applicable to specific toll stations as listed in its Schedule No. B-1 coincident with the establishment of toll station service areas and applicable toll rates as hereinabove discussed.
2. Coincident with the establishment of toll station service areas, applicant is authorized to continue presently effective basic rates and rules applicable to its message toll telephone operations, except that the tariff schedules shall be modified as specifically set forth in Appendix A attached to this order.

- 3. Applicant is authorized to expand the Covelo exchange area as set forth in Exhibit H attached to the amended application.
- 4. Necessary tariff filings, including revised maps, shall be made in conformity with General Order No. 96 on not less than ten days' notice to this Commission and to the public.

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

Dated at Southampton, California, this 23rd day of March, 1954.

A. F. [Signature]  
President

Justus J. [Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]  
Commissioners

APPENDIX A

Applicant's filed tariff schedules shall be modified as specifically set forth below:

Map of Territory, Toll Rate Points, and Toll Station Service Areas

Original sheet shown in Exhibit D attached to the amended application is approved.

Map of Laytonville and Covele Territory and Exchange

Approved as shown in Exhibit H attached to the amended application canceling Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. 1367-T.

Revised Cal. P.U.C. Sheet No. 492-T

The conditions of Schedule No. B-1 will be revised to add the following:

14. Toll station service areas and toll rate points are as shown in the "Map of Territory, Toll Rate Points, and Toll Station Service Areas" which is filed as part of the tariff schedules.
15. The rate point of a toll station is that rate point which is designated for the toll station service area in which the toll station is located.

Legal Description of Toll Rate Centers

Original sheets as shown in Exhibit E attached to the amended application are approved without change.

Legal Description of Each Toll Station Service Area, Showing Sections Included

Original sheets as shown in Exhibit K attached to the amended application are approved without change.

Toll Rate Point Block and Section Numbers

Approved as shown in Exhibit F attached to the amended application canceling Cal. P.U.C. Sheets Nos. 1827-T through 1830-T.

Table of Air-Line Distances between Toll Rate Points

Original sheet approved as shown in Exhibit I in the amended application except that the title of the sheet shall be revised to read as follows:

"Air-Line Distances Between Company Toll Rate Points"

Table of Station to Station Initial Period Rates between Toll Rate Points

Approved as shown in Exhibit J attached to the amended application canceling Cal. P.U.C. Sheets Nos. 493-T through 1358-T, 1371-T through 1442-T, 1508-T through 1557-T, 1565-T through 1598-T, 1605-T through 1742-T, 1749-T through 1760-T, 1777-T through 1790-T, and 1797-T through 1826-T.