

at

Decision No. 54739

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of Maude M. Langdon, owner of the)
Petrolia Telephone Company, for an)
order authorizing the sale of her)
telephone property to Petrolia)
Telephone Company, a corporation.)

Application No. 38786

OPINION AND ORDER

Maude M. Langdon, doing business as Petrolia Telephone Company, applicant herein, is engaged in operating a public utility telephone system giving service in and about the communities of Petrolia and Upper Mattole, Humboldt County. In this application she reports that she no longer is able to devote her time to the operation of the system and that she has made arrangements, and herein seeks authorization, to sell the telephone system to Petrolia Telephone Company, a corporation, for the sum of \$1,000.

The application shows that Petrolia Telephone Company, a corporation, has been organized by Robert D. Johnston, Judy Arlene Johnston, and William E. Johnston for the express purpose of receiving the telephone properties and business and thereafter of rehabilitating and expanding the plant and of continuing the operations. Information filed with the Commission shows that the incorporators are familiar with the telephone business and that financially they are in a position to take over the operations and to continue them. They intend to advance to the corporation the \$1,000 necessary to complete the purchase and the corporation intends, at a later date, to file an application for authorization to issue its shares of stock and to engage in Rural Electrification Administration financing.

Upon the basis of the information now before us, we are of the opinion that the proposed transfer will not be adverse to the

public interest and that it should be approved by an ex parte order in this proceeding. The action taken herein shall not be construed to be a finding of value of the properties herein authorized to be transferred or construed as indicative of amounts to be included in a future rate base for the purpose of determining just and reasonable rates; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED as follows:

1. Maude M. Langdon may sell the telephone properties and business to which reference is made in this proceeding to Petrolia Telephone Company, a corporation, and thereafter may withdraw from her public utility telephone operations.

2. On or before the date of actual transfer, Maude M. Langdon shall refund all deposits which customers are entitled to have refunded. Any unrefunded deposits shall be transferred to and become the obligation for refund of Petrolia Telephone Company, a corporation.

3. The rates and rules of Maude M. Langdon, now legally on file with this Commission, shall be refiled within thirty days after the date of transfer under the name of Petrolia Telephone Company, a corporation, in accordance with the procedure prescribed by General Order No. 96, or, in lieu of such refiling, Petrolia Telephone Company, a corporation, may file a notice of adoption of said presently filed rates and rules. No increase in the present lawfully filed rates and rules shall be made unless authorized by this Commission.

4. On or before the date of actual transfer of the physical properties herein authorized, Maude M. Langdon shall transfer and deliver to Petrolia Telephone Company, a corporation, and the latter shall receive and preserve all records, memoranda and papers pertaining to the operations of Seller, as more specifically described in this Commission's General Order No. 28.

5. If the authority herein granted is exercised, Maude M. Langdon, within thirty days thereafter, shall notify the Commission in writing of the date of the completion of the transfer herein authorized and of her compliance with the conditions hereof.

6. The authority herein granted will become effective on the date hereof.

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this 26th day of March, 1957.

R. E. Fitchell
President

Paul W. Winter

Madeline D. Doolen

P. H. Hurd

E. Lynn Fox

Commissioners