

Decision No. 55486**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 SACRAMENTO NORTHERN RAILWAY for)
 authority to reduce the agency) Application No. 39099
 stations of Sutter in Sutter County)
 and Colusa in Colusa County to)
 non-agency status.)

Otis J. Gibson, for applicant.
I. S. Wilson, for The Order of Railroad
 Telegraphers; Richard H. Fudge, for
 Farmers Public Warehouse, and Hi & Dri
 Warehouse, Inc., protestants.
 Edward G. McLane, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

By this application filed May 27, 1957, Sacramento Northern Railway requests authority to discontinue the agency at Colusa and at Sutter stations. As justification for the request it is alleged that the volume of business on this branch which terminates at Colusa is not sufficient to justify continuance of these two agencies. During 1956 the business at Sutter is alleged to consist of 198 carload shipments of freight forwarded, 78 received and five shipments of less-than-carload shipments forwarded and four received. At Colusa for that same period the figures show much less business being 20, 82, 0 and 6, respectively.

After due notice public hearing was held in Colusa on July 30, 1957, before Examiner Rowe at which time evidence both oral and documentary was received and the matter submitted for decision.

No passengers are transported over this branch. According to the evidence of record the amount by which the cost of handling Colusa traffic exceeds the revenue during the 12 months ending April 30, 1956, was \$4,416 and ending April 30, 1957, the figure was

\$2,682. By contrast at Sutter the revenue exceeded expenses for the same periods in the amounts of \$1,421 and \$529, respectively. The annual station agency expense at Sutter is \$4,905 and at Colusa \$5,783.

The uncontradicted evidence indicates that at the Sutter station a railroad representative will be required to come from Yuba City frequently to seal freight cars and sign bills of lading if that agency is closed. Occasionally this may also be required at Colusa and at Tarke, another station presently served by the Sutter Agent. The expense of such trips was not estimated but apparently it will be substantial and also will require much time on the part of the Yuba City personnel.

Upon full consideration of the facts of record the Commission is of the opinion and finds that the expense of maintenance of applicant's agency at Colusa is not justified; that the service will not be materially affected by the discontinuance of this station as an agency, and that as to such station the application will be granted. As to the Sutter station it appears that the assertion of lack of financial justification for maintaining this station has not been substantiated. The agent at Sutter should be in a better position also to take care of the requirements of the shippers and receivers of freight in the Colusa area more efficiently and economically than the personnel from Yuba City.

O R D E R

A public hearing having been held and the above matter having been duly submitted,

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That Sacramento Northern Railway is hereby authorized to discontinue agency service at Colusa, Colusa County, California, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Sacramento Northern Railway shall maintain said station in a non-agency status.
- (b) Applicant shall give not less than ten days' notice to the public of discontinuance of agency service by posting notice thereof at the station.
- (c) The authorization herein granted shall expire if not exercised within ninety days after the effective date hereof.
- (d) Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized applicant shall notify this Commission thereof and of compliance with the above conditions.

(2) Except as specifically granted by ordering paragraph numbered (1) Application No. 39099 is denied.

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

Dated at Los Angeles, California, this 27th day of August, 1957.

 President
Ralph W. ...

B. ...

E. ...

 Commissioners

Matthew J. Dooley
Commissioner Matthew J. Dooley being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.