

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 56550

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of Application of
 BURBANK REFRIGERATING CO., CALIFORNIA
 ICE AND COLD STORAGE CO., CRYSTAL
 COLD STORAGE WAREHOUSE, FEDERAL ICE &
 COLD STORAGE CO., IMPERIAL ICE COMPANY,
 LOS ANGELES COLD STORAGE CO. D.B.A.
 LOS ANGELES ICE & COLD STORAGE CO.-
 MERCHANTS ICE & COLD STORAGE CO., of
 LOS ANGELES - PASADENA ICE CO. -
 POMONA VALLEY ICE CO.), NATIONAL STORAGE
 CO., NATIONAL ICE & COLD STORAGE CO. of
 CALIFORNIA, PACIFIC COLD STORAGE INC.,
 SERVICE COLD STORAGE CO., TERMINAL RE-
 FRIGERATING CO., TRIANGLE COLD STORAGE
 CO., UNION ICE AND STORAGE CO., U.S.
 GROWERS & SHIPPERS SERVICE INC., for
 authority to establish a new accessorial
 charge for unloading rail cars, in the
 Counties of Los Angeles, Orange, River-
 side, San Diego and San Bernardino in
 the State of California.

Application No. 39514

OPINION AND ORDER

Applicants are engaged in public utility cold storage operations at various locations in Southern California. They seek authority to establish a charge of \$3.00 per man per hour for the unloading of certain rail cars. At present they make no charge for this service.

Applicants state that they have been unloading rail cars without charge since 1933; that in 1933 the hourly wage rate for a warehouseman was 50 cents an hour with no fringe benefits; and that under prevailing wage contracts the wage rates for warehousemen range from \$2.15 to \$2.45 per hour plus fringe benefits such as pension allowances, and health and welfare benefits of approximately

55 cents an hour. Applicants further state that by their proposed charge they are seeking to recover only the direct labor costs per hour incurred in the actual unloading of the cars and are not attempting to receive any revenue for supervision, overhead or other related costs. They allege in effect that establishment of the car-unloading charge will not result in excessive earnings. They submitted estimates to show that with the sought charge in effect their average rate of return under present expense levels would be 3.16 percent and their average operating ratio would be 96.10 percent.

According to the application, notice of the proposed charge was sent to each of applicants' patrons who shipped by rail car to any of the applicants herein during the period from January 1, 1956, through June 30, 1957. The notices were mailed September 27, 1957, to approximately 500 patrons. Up to January 20, 1958, but one letter in opposition to the charge was received. This opposition was subsequently withdrawn.

Public hearing of this matter is not necessary in the circumstances shown.

The Commission is of the opinion and finds that establishment of the sought charge has been shown to be justified. The application will be granted.

Good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Applicants Burbank Refrigerating Co., California Ice and Cold Storage Co., Crystal Cold Storage Warehouse, Federal Ice and Cold Storage Co., Imperial Ice Co., Los Angeles Cold Storage Co. (d.b.a. Los Angeles Ice & Cold Storage Co. - Merchants Ice and Cold Storage Co. of Los Angeles - Pasadena Ice Co. - Pomona Valley Ice Co.), National Storage Co., National Ice & Cold Storage Co. of California, Pacific Cold Storage Inc., Service Cold Storage Co., Terminal Refrigerating Co., Triangle Cold Storage Co., Union Ice and Storage Co., U. S. Growers & Shippers Service Inc. be and they hereby are authorized

- (a). To establish a rule in Cold Storage Warehouse Tariff No. 2-E, Cal. P.U.C. No. 148, Jack L. Dawson, Agent, to govern certain car-unloading services which they perform, said rule to read as follows:

"Unloading Cars - The charge for handling goods from rail car to warehouse platform in warehouse spur track will be \$3.00 per hour per man."

- (b). To amend Rule 5 E (Application of Rates) of Cold Storage Warehouse Tariff No. 12, Cal. P.U.C. No. 87 (L. A. Bailey series), Jack L. Dawson, Agent, to reflect the establishment of the charge specified in paragraph (a) above.

2. The authority herein granted shall expire unless exercised within sixty days after the effective date of this order.

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

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

[Signature]
 President
[Signature]
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 Commissioners