

Decision No. 58707

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of )  
 Sierra Telephone Company, Inc., a )  
 California corporation, for an order )  
 authorizing it to withdraw the )  
 offering of telegraph service over )  
 its own lines. )

Application No. 41147

OPINION AND ORDER

By the above-entitled application, filed May 19, 1959, Sierra Telephone Company, Inc., seeks authority to cancel its Telegraph Service Schedule No. C-1 and to withdraw the offering of telegraph service between any two points on its lines, on or before July 1, 1959.

Applicant states that for a number of years there has been no telegram traffic between points within the company's service area, since the rate for telephone service between these points is equal to or less than the rate for a 10-word telegram. However, applicant states there has been a considerable amount of telegraph traffic between points beyond Madera and a resort area within applicant's territory. This traffic is stated to be virtually all incoming and directed to transients who are not subscribers to applicant's telephone service. These telegrams are mailed from applicant's Raymond office via Madera and take from 24 to 48 hours to be delivered. In addition, applicant states that the majority of telegraph traffic occurs during the summer season when message toll telephone traffic is at its greatest volume. The time

consumed by applicant's operators at the Raymond central office in writing out telegrams transmitted by telephone from Madera, according to applicant, impairs the handling of telephone traffic.

Applicant believes that withdrawal of telegraph service as requested in its application will result in improved telegraph service to transients in its service area, since The Western Union Telegraph Company could mail telegrams to addressees directly from Madera. Telegrams to addressees who are subscribers to applicant's telephone service can be telephoned directly from Madera.

Applicant estimates that withdrawal of telegraph service will have a negligible effect on its net operating revenues.

The Western Union Telegraph Company, by letter dated June 10, 1959, confirmed that it would handle telegrams to and from individuals located within the service area of the Sierra Telephone Company, Inc., without any additional charges to the customers.

The Commission having considered this matter and being of the opinion that a public hearing thereon is not necessary and that the granting of the application as herein provided will not be adverse to the public interest; therefore,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Applicant is authorized, after the effective date hereof and on not less than five days' notice to this Commission and to the public, to withdraw its offering of telegraph service between points on its lines.

2. Applicant is authorized to file in quadruplicate with this Commission after the effective date hereof, in conformity with General Order No. 96, tariff schedules revised to reflect the withdrawal of telegraph service as authorized hereinabove.

3. The authority herein granted will expire unless exercised on or before December 31, 1959.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 7<sup>th</sup> day of July, 1959.

Ernest R. Page  
President  
W. L. Mitchell  
Matthew J. Conley  
E. J. Fox  
Theodore J. Jones  
Commissioners