

ORIGINALDecision No. 59532

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of THE RIVER LINES, INC.,)
 a corporation, for an order author-)
 izing increases in rates and charges) Application No. 41790
 for transportation by water.)

Application of J. C. FREESE COMPANY,)
 a copartnership, for an order author-)
 izing it to increase and revise its) Application No. 41793
 rates within the State of California.)

INTERIM OPINION AND ORDER

Applicants are engaged in the transportation of property as carriers by water between points on San Francisco Bay, the Sacramento and San Joaquin Rivers, and tributaries thereto. By these applications, filed December 23 and 24, 1959, they seek authority to increase their rates applicable to the transportation of petroleum products in bulk by barge by 21 per cent.

Applicants state that their operations were completely suspended by a strike of their employees from May 15, 1959 to November 29, 1959. They also state that the labor agreements resulting from settlement of the strike will increase their labor costs by 40 per cent. Applicants aver that it is imperative that they have an immediate rate increase if they are to continue operations. Applicants have notified their shippers of the proposed rate increases. No objection has been received.

A study made by the transportation engineers of the Commission staff indicates that immediate relief is necessary, and that an increase of 12 per cent will approximately offset the immediate effect of the increased wages now being paid. Other expenses have been and will be increased, the full extent and effect of which cannot immediately be determined.

An interim increase of 12 per cent in the rates and charges is found to be justified and will be authorized. Applicants will be permitted to publish such increase as a surcharge by supplement to their tariffs on one day's notice. The applications will be set for public hearing to determine what further adjustment of the rates may be justified.

Therefore, good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that The River Lines, Inc., and R. F. Conway and C. C. White, doing business as J. C. Freese Company, be and they are hereby authorized to publish and file, on not less than one day's notice to the Commission and to the public, supplements to their tariffs establishing a surcharge of 12 per cent applicable to the rates and charges for the transportation of petroleum products in bulk; and to depart from the provisions of Tariff Circular No. 2 to the extent necessary to carry out the effect of the order herein.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 15th day of January, 1960.



President




Commissioners