

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 60243

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

MONROE-HAZARD PROPERTY OWNERS
ASSOCIATION,

Complainant,

vs.

Case No. 6380

PACIFIC WATER COMPANY,

Defendant.

Paul B. Harder, for complainants.
Moss, Lyon and Dunn, by George C. Lyon, for
defendant.
James E. Black, for City of Westminster.
C. O. Newman, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

By the complaint herein filed with this Commission on November 12, 1959, the Monroe-Hazard Property Owners Association (complainants), consisting of residents of Midway City, Orange County, California, residing along or owning property along the 8000 to 8300 block on Hazard Avenue and the 8400 block on Sterling Way, request an order of this Commission requiring defendant, in its New Westminster service area, to increase the pressure to the minimum standards prescribed by this Commission, eliminate dirty water in the lines, and install fire hydrants.

A public hearing on the complaint was held in Midway City, Orange County, California, before Examiner Kent C. Rogers,

on April 27, 1960. Evidence was presented and the matter was submitted subject to the filing of an exhibit. This exhibit has been filed and the matter is ready for decision.

The area

The area containing the complainants' residences is in defendant's Westminster service area (Exhibit No. 4). The properties of the individual complainants are shown on Exhibit No. 3 and Exhibit No. 5. Prior to November 1959, the complainants received water from Well No. 24 (Exhibit No. 4) located near Cedarwood Avenue and 14th Street, via a 3½-inch and 4-inch line (Exhibit No. 3). This well collapsed on November 6, 1959, at 5 p.m. Thereafter a temporary connection was made to the lines of County Water District No. 5 on November 11, 1959. In September 1959 a 10-inch line had been started from Well No. 19 located near Canary Street and McClure Street (Exhibit No. 4). After the failure of Well No. 24 this line was extended and a connection was made to the Well No. 24 line on Hazard Avenue on November 17, 1959.

The water pressure

Exhibits Nos. 6 and 7 show the pressures in the Hazard Avenue main at a point midway between Huntington Beach Boulevard and Monroe Street (Exhibit No. 3) before and after November 17, 1959.

Mr. Nance, the president-chairman of the complaining group, testified that on the morning of the hearing (April 27, 1960,) the pressure at his home, one lot west of Monroe Street on Hazard Avenue (Exhibit No. 3) was down to about 20 pounds at 9 a.m.

The records on the line on Hazard Avenue about 300 feet west of Mr. Nance's property show that at 9 a.m. the pressure was about 40 pounds to 60 pounds and that at no time during the day did the pressure go below approximately 36 pounds.

There was also some complaint of fluctuating pressure, but it appears that this is not a gravity system but is a pressure system with well pumps set to go on at 40-pound and off at 60-pound pressures.

The complainants' secretary stipulated that since November 17, 1959 the water pressure has been adequate.

Sediment in the water

Several of the water users complained of dirty water. Exhibit No. 2 herein is a wash rag which Mr. C. P. Proctor placed over his tap and ran water through on the morning of the hearing. Others complained of the dirty water and sediment. The witness said his house was built in about 1860, but the pipes were renewed in 1950 except for some outside piping. He has, he said, a two-year-old glass-lined hot water heater and this must be drained twice a week to keep sediment from clogging the valves. He had a strainer from his kitchen faucet which showed colored sediment from the water.

Mr. Harder, the secretary, testified that last summer (before the line was replaced in November 1959) his washing machine stopped working and he found the entire input screen covered with a brown and white sediment.

The defendant's engineer testified that it has no record of complaints relative to the quality of the water, and that a good deal of the sediment, if any, in the system would be eliminated by the alternating flow resulting from the fact that there are now two wells in use to serve the complainants' homes.

Exhibit No. 9 is a late-filed engineering report submitted by Pacific Water Co. Among other things, the report states that the company will install a flush-out valve near 8102 Hazard Avenue to provide a means of flushing the line in this area.

Fire Hydrants

There are no fire hydrants in the complainants' area. It appears that the size of the mains would permit the installation of fire hydrants in each area.

Neither fire hydrant nor fire protection services are presently offered by defendant as is evidenced by an examination of its filed tariff schedules. Should additional facilities be required to furnish fire protection service, the terms for the installation of such facilities should be arranged between defendant and the local fire protection agency or district, giving consideration to appropriate remuneration to the defendant for its participation in the costs of installation and operation. In the event that such service is to be furnished by the defendant, the rates therefor, together with a showing of justification, should be properly filed with this Commission in accordance with the procedure prescribed by General Order No. 96. Any special agreement believed necessary to be entered into for the installation of special facilities for fire protection service in excess of that

to be available from the normal operation of the system for domestic service is required to be first authorized by the Commission before it may be made effective.

Conclusions

From the record herein it appears that at present the pressure is reasonably adequate, that the lines in the area contain excessive sediment, and that there are no fire hydrants. We will order the defendant to flush the mains periodically on Hazard Avenue and report the establishment of a procedure to accomplish this to the Commission; to keep daily charts of the pressure in the line on Hazard Avenue at the existing check point until October 31, 1960, and forward such charts to the Commission; and we will require the defendant to commence negotiations immediately with the local fire protection agency or district relative to the installation of fire hydrants in the area, and to advise the Commission of the results of such negotiations.

O R D E R

A complaint having been filed, a hearing having been held thereon, evidence having been presented, and the Commission having made the foregoing findings and based on said findings:

IT IS ORDERED:

(1) That defendant shall maintain, until October 31, 1960, pressure records at the existing check point on Hazard Avenue between Huntington Beach Boulevard and Monroe Street, shall make daily recordings of the pressure and shall forward copies of said recordings to this Commission monthly. Said copies of recordings

