

**ORIGINAL**

Decision No. 62674

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of the SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WATER COMPANY to extend the grace period prescribed in Section VI, Paragraph 6, Sub Paragraph b (4) of General Order No. 103.

Application No. 43260

In the Matter of the Application of CALIFORNIA WATER SERVICE COMPANY, a corporation, for an order extending from 5 to 10 years the grace period authorized under Section VI 6.b.(4) of General Order No. 103 within which Applicant may adopt a test period for the periodic test of water meters, size two inches and smaller.

Application No. 43468

In the Matter of the Application of CALIFORNIA WATER & TELEPHONE COMPANY, a corporation, extending the grace period authorized under Section VI, Paragraph 6, Subparagraph 6.b.(4) of General Order No. 103, for an additional five years for Applicant to determine and adopt a periodic testing program for water meters.

Application No. 43572

O P I N I O N

Each of the applicants in the above-entitled proceedings has requested an extension of the initial five-year grace period within which to adopt a test period for the periodic test of water meters, such grace period having been established by the issuance of General Order No. 103 by the Commission. Inasmuch as these three proceedings are related, they have been consolidated for decision.

Application No. 43260 was filed on March 27, 1961, by Southern California Water Company and requests a three-year extension of the initial grace period in order to provide the time necessary

to complete a further study of the various rates of usage of customers and the effect of this on the accuracy of meters. For this purpose, applicant has obtained the use of 15 recording meters and plans to keep these meters in continuous use on customers' meters for the next three years. Information in the application and data included with a letter dated May 31, 1961, from this utility to the Commission (which letter and accompanying data have been made a part of the record in these proceedings) indicates that this applicant makes periodic tests of meters but that there is no apparent uniformity in the periods of such tests as between its several separate systems.

Application No. 43468 was filed on June 2, 1961, by California Water Service Company and requests a five-year extension of the initial grace period. This utility has undertaken a program of installing test meters in series (tandem) with the regularly installed service meters provided customers. Applicant believes that the data it has accumulated to date would, on the average for all of its separate systems, justify the periodic test period of between 22 and 24 years for its water meters. However, until 1958, applicant utilized a 12-year to 14-year test period and therefore states that an additional five-year extension of the initial grace period is necessary in order to obtain additional data with which to make a more definitive determination of the most economic test period. It appears that this utility has not been making periodic meter tests at all since 1958.

Application No. 43572 was filed on June 30, 1961, by California Water & Telephone Company and requests a five-year extension of the initial grace period in order to provide the time necessary to study the effect of various customer usage rates on the accuracy of meters. Applicant has obtained nine recording meters and proposes to keep them in continuous use in its separate water

systems over the next three years and to work with an industry committee to develop and recommend uniform methods and procedures to be used in determining the most economic period for the removing, testing and replacing of water meters. The application and data presented with a letter dated July 19, 1961, from applicant to the Commission (which letter and accompanying data have been made a part of the record in these proceedings) disclose that, although recently about 700 meters had been tested for the specific purpose of determining the accuracy of meters of various ages in service in each of applicant's separate systems, it has not yet established a periodic meter testing program.

The initial five-year grace period was provided for the purpose of allowing additional time for economic studies by those water utilities which applied for authorization for other than a nominal ten-year period for the periodic test of their meters. This grace period expired on June 30, 1961. Applicants in these three matters had made application prior to the expiration date of the initial grace period and have presented adequate justification for a four-year extension of the initial grace period for all three utilities, therefore, each will be granted an extension of such grace period to and including June 30, 1965.

However, applicants have not presented conclusive evidence to support definitive interim test periods; in fact, the lack of such basic data is the principal basis for the requests for granting the extension of the initial grace period. Therefore, each of these utilities will be required to place into effect a 15-year periodic meter testing program immediately. The 15-year test period will be required until changed by further order of the Commission.

In order that applicants may continue their programs of testing limited numbers of meters which have been in service for longer than 15 years, each applicant also will be authorized to retain in service, in each separate system, up to 80 meters for progressive testing through June 30, 1965.

The Commission hereby finds to be reasonable for each applicant (1) the extension of the grace period hereinafter authorized, (2) an interim 15-year periodic meter testing period, and (3) the retention in service for longer than such 15-year period those certain meters which are to be tested by not later than June 30, 1965.

O R D E R

The Commission having considered the above-entitled applications and having determined that a public hearing is not necessary and that the applications herein should be granted in part; therefore,

IT IS HEREBY ORDERED that:

1. Southern California Water Company, California Water Service Company and California Water & Telephone Company are granted an extension of time until June 30, 1965, as an additional grace period within which to determine the most economic test period for the periodic test of water meters applicable to each utility as a whole or to each well-defined separate water system therein.

2. Each of the applicants herein shall, on or before January 1, 1962, initiate a 15-year test period for the periodic test of water meters applicable to each utility as a whole or to each well-defined separate water system therein, such periodic test program to remain in effect until changed by further order of the Commission.

3. Each applicant is authorized to retain a maximum of 80 meters in service for longer than the 15-year period prescribed herein, for the purposes hereinabove set forth, through June 30, 1965, provided one-fourth of such meters shall be tested during each of the yearly periods ending on June 30.

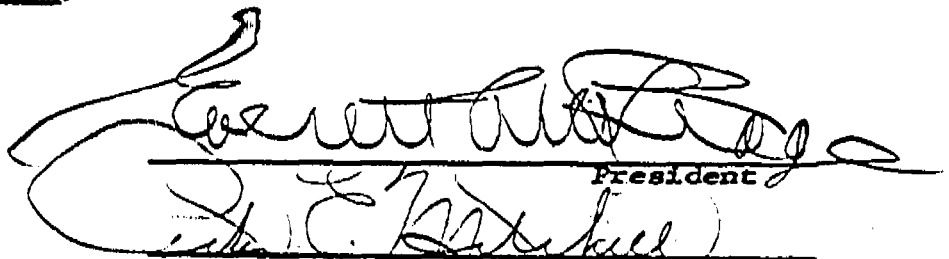
4. Each applicant shall report to the Commission in writing on or before July 1 each year through July 1, 1965, as follows:

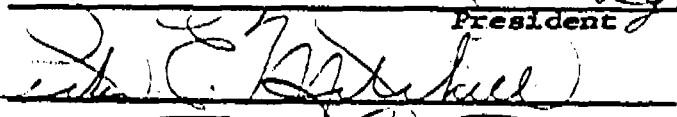
- (a) The number of well-defined separate water systems established for the purpose of adopting test periods therefor.
- (b) The number of meters in service longer than 15 years on each of said separate water systems.
- (c) A report providing a summary of the results of the periodic meter test study, which report shall include the number, size and age of the meters for which the flow rates have been analyzed annually.


Except as specifically provided in the above order, herein, each of these applications is denied.

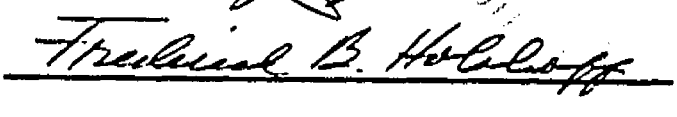
The effective date of this order shall be 20 days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 17<sup>th</sup> day of OCTOBER, 1961.

  
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President

  
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Commissioner

  
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