

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 62977

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 BECKMAN EXPRESS & WAREHOUSE CO. for) Application No. 43680
 authority to increase certain rates.)

OPINION AND ORDER

Beckman Express & Warehouse Co. operates as a highway common carrier between points in the San Francisco Bay area. By this application, filed August 16, 1961, it seeks authority to increase certain hourly rates applicable to emergency service requiring a special trip of carrier's equipment.

Applicant proposes to establish a uniform basis of charges for such emergency service performed for a single shipper or consignee at rates ranging from \$7.50 to \$10.00 per hour depending on the capacity of equipment used. According to the application, at the present time no such charge is provided in applicant's tariff for shipments transported between points in the East Bay Cities, and the regular weight rates would apply. Between other points, served prior to 1960, a lower scale of hourly charges, ranging from \$5.51 to \$8.26 per hour now apply. Additional points were served starting in 1960, and the published tariff charges for emergency service between these points are the same as those proposed herein for uniform application. The lower scale of rates now in effect was established in 1952 when applicant first commenced operating as a highway common carrier and have not been increased since then.

Applicant states that it is desirable to have a uniform basis of charges applicable for its entire operations. A study attached to the application shows that applicant's hourly operating

costs for equipment of the capacities involved correspond closely with the proposed hourly rates.

The present charges for emergency service apply when a special trip is required for a single shipment. As so worded, these charges would not apply if a shipper tenders two or more shipments. Applicant seeks to modify the item so it would apply on such trips for a single shipper or consignee to take care of those instances where more than one shipment is offered.

An examination of applicant's tariff discloses that the East Bay area tariff (Tariff No. 6-E) now provides, in Item No. 540, hourly rates applicable to shipments not reasonably susceptible to handling on a weight basis at rates set forth in other sections of the tariff. Examples of such shipments are set forth in the item. While these examples do not specifically include "emergency service requiring a special trip", it appears that such emergency service is not reasonably susceptible to handling on a weight basis and therefore the hourly rates in Item No. 540 would apply to "emergency service". Accordingly, this portion of the application will be denied.

One of applicant's tariffs provides for an additional charge for service performed at other than regular working hours at the request of the shipper or consignee. This charge is equal to the additional cost of the overtime labor. Applicant seeks authority to include the same provision in its other tariff.

Applicant notified, by letter, the seven shippers who make frequent use of this service of the proposed increase. Six of those shippers informed applicant that they had no objection to the proposed increase. One shipper did not reply.

In the circumstances it appears, and the Commission finds, except as indicated above, that the increases in rates and charges

herein proposed are justified. The application will be granted to that extent. A public hearing is not necessary.

Therefore, good cause appearing,

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Beckman Express & Warehouse Co. be and it is hereby authorized to publish and file, on not less than five days' notice to the public and to the Commission, the increased rates and charges as proposed in Application No. 43680, except as provided in paragraph 2 hereof.

2. The authority sought in paragraph II(b) of Application No. 43680, in so far as it relates to Pacific Motor Tariff Bureau Freight Tariff No. 6-E, P.U.C. No. 17 (Leland C. Smith, Agent, series), be and it is hereby denied.

3. The authority herein granted shall expire unless exercised within sixty days after the effective date hereof.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of DECEMBER, 1961.

[Signature]
President

[Signature]

Fredrick B. Holshoff

[Redacted]
C. Lyn Fox

Commissioner _____, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

Commissioners