

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 63105

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of:)

A. R. PEARSON TRUCK CO., INC. for  
authority to increase tariff rates  
and provisions.

) Application No. 43918  
) (Filed November 15, 1961)

OPINION AND ORDER

A. R. Pearson Truck Co., Inc., operates as a highway common carrier for the transportation of general commodities within a prescribed area in southern California.<sup>1</sup> Applicant specializes in transporting industrial and heavy machinery and other commodities of abnormal size and weight which, because of such size and weight, require the use of and are transported on low-bed trailers. In addition to the transportation, applicant performs specialized and diversified accessorial services in the placement, rigging and dismantling of articles of unusual size and weight.

By this application, authority is sought to increase hourly rates, charges for additional labor and escort service, and charges for specialized nontransportation services, as more specifically set forth in the application. Authority is also sought to include December 24 as a holiday requiring overtime rates for services performed on that day and to make the proposed adjustments effective on less than statutory notice.

Applicant alleges that since the last adjustment in its rates, the cost of transporting property by motor vehicle has

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<sup>1</sup> The area is described in Appendix A of Decision No. 55827 in Application No. 36197.

increased substantially, and will be increased further in the near future. Such increases in costs have resulted, and will result, principally from increases in wage rates. Applicant states that as a result of contract negotiations recently completed, the wage rates of truck drivers, helpers, mechanics, maintenance employees and clerical employees have been increased by substantial amounts. Such increases in wage rates have become, or will become, effective at various dates. Many of the major recent increases, applicant says, were subject to retroactive effective dates. In addition to wage increases, applicant alleges it has experienced increases in various other items of operating expense since the last adjustment of its tariff.

Applicant asserts that as a result of such increases in costs, including particularly the items of labor and added labor benefits, which applicant believes to result in a net increase of sixty-one cents per man hour, its tariff charges are now, and will be in the immediate future, unreasonably low. Immediate increases in applicant's rates and charges assertedly are necessary to bring such rates and charges to a reasonable level.

Applicant states that it is one of the few, if not the only, "low-bed carrier" to be certificated within the southern California territory involved. According to the application the proposed rates and charges are on substantially the same level as those currently being assessed by competitive noncertificated "low-bed carriers" whose operations are exempted by the minimum rate orders of this Commission.<sup>2</sup> Applicant further states that no carrier or shipper will be adversely affected by the increase in rates as herein proposed. No objections to the granting of this application have been received.

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<sup>2</sup> The rates used by the noncertificated carriers, according to the application, are set forth in a Low-Bed Truck Operators' Rate Memorandum No. 100, published by Western Motor Tariff Bureau, Inc., Agent.

In view of all of the circumstances, it appears, and the Commission finds, that the proposed increases are justified. This is a matter in which a public hearing is not necessary. The application will be granted.

Good cause appearing,

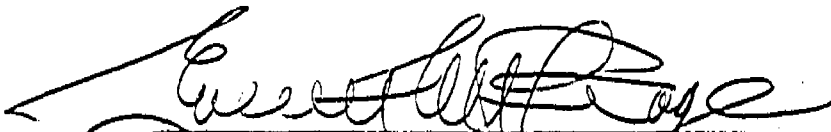
IT IS ORDERED that:

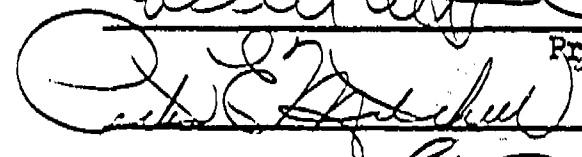
(1) A. R. Pearson Truck Co., Inc., is hereby authorized to publish, on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public, the proposed rates, rules and regulations set forth in Exhibit A of the above-entitled application.

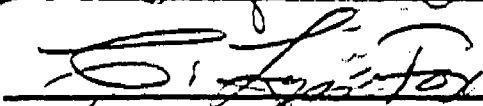
(2) The authority herein granted shall expire unless exercised within ninety days after the effective date hereof.

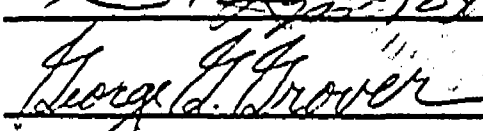
This order shall become effective twenty days after the date hereof.

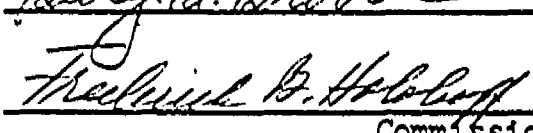
Dated at San Francisco, California, this 9<sup>th</sup> day of January, 1962.

  
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President

  
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Commissioner

  
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Commissioner

  
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Commissioners