

Decision No. 68207

**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of PAXTON TRUCKING COMPANY to increase charges for Low-Bed Services under Sections Nos. 454 and 491 of the California Public Utilities Code.

Application No. 46573  
(Filed April 20, 1964)  
(Amended October 7, 1964)

O P I N I O N

Paxton Trucking Company, a corporation, operates as a highway common carrier for the transportation of certain specified commodities generally statewide. Under its certificate of public convenience and necessity applicant transports 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. For this specialized service applicant maintains rates and accessorial charges on an hourly basis. Minimum rates for such transportation have not been established in Minimum Rate Tariff No. 2.

Authority is sought to increase such hourly rates and accessorial charges and to publish them on five days' notice. Applicant proposes to increase the hourly rates for various categories of labor and for equipment and driver in varying amounts, but in no event more than 8½ percent. Adjustments in the weight brackets for equipment and driver are also proposed which will result in no change in rates or in reductions.

As justification for the proposed increases, the application states that since the last adjustment in these rates, increases have taken place in the pay scales of the labor involved in performing the service and in operating costs other than labor. The amended application states that pursuant to Decision No. 67443, dated June 24, 1964, in Case No. 5432, Petition No. 323, the rates in Minimum Rate Tariff No. 2 were increased and highway common carriers were authorized to increase their class rates for transportation of commodities for which minimum rates have not been established. However, authority was not granted to highway common carriers to increase their commodity rates applicable to transportation of commodities for which minimum rates have not been established. The application alleges that, among other increases prescribed by Decision No. 67443, the Commission authorized increases in the minimum hourly rates for oil, water, and gas well supplies and equipment of 8½ percent. Authority is sought in this application to increase the exempt hourly rates for low-bed trailer service on the same basis that nonexempt hourly rates on oil-field equipment were increased. The application states that the justification for the increases in minimum hourly oil-field rates is applicable also to low-bed hourly rates maintained by applicant.

Applicant avers that it is the policy of the Commission, as stated in Decision No. 62915, dated December 5, 1961, in Case No. 5432, Petition No. 323,

" . . . that it is appropriate and proper that general commodities for which rates have not been established should bear their fair share of the increased cost of performing the transportation service . . ."

The application states that the increases are urgently needed to

allow applicant, when transporting commodities requiring the use of low-bed equipment, to be compensated for its services on a basis that will provide a fair return and so that such specific type of transportation will not be a burden on other traffic.

The application shows that copies have been furnished to all shippers of low-bed freight which are presently using applicant's service or which have used applicant's service in the past, and upon the California Trucking Association. The latter organization supports the proposed increase. No objection to the granting of the application has been received.

The Commission finds that the proposed increases are justified. A public hearing is not necessary. The application will be granted. The proposed rates will be authorized to be published on ten days' notice.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Paxton Trucking Company is authorized to establish the increased rates and charges and other provisions proposed in Application No. 46573, as amended. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of the order herein may be made effective not earlier than ten days after the effective date hereof on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public.

2. The authority granted herein shall expire unless exercised within ninety days after the effective date of this order.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 10th day of November, 1964.

Fredrick C. Hallock  
President  
John R. [Signature]  
George J. Grover  
William M. Bennett  
Commissioners