

**ORIGINAL**

Decision No. 69341

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of GOLCONDA UTILITIES )  
COMPANY, a corporation, for itself )  
and as operator of HINKLEY VALLEY )  
WATER COMPANY, for emergency )  
authority to establish new rates. )

Application No. 47259  
(Filed January 15, 1965)

SECOND INTERIM OPINION AND ORDER

Decision No. 67347, dated June 10, 1964, in Application No. 45772, among other things authorized applicant Golconda Utilities Company to file a temporary schedule of flat rates limited to then existing flat rate customers in its Ersul Tariff Area. Although that schedule expired December 31, 1964, applicant has failed to install meters for twelve of the flat rate customers.

Decision No. 67347 also authorized applicant to file a schedule of flat rates limited to residential customers and certain specified nonresidential customers in its Keeler Tariff Area. Although that schedule makes no provision for flat rate service to the Keeler Elementary School, such flat rate service is being rendered.

On April 28, 1965, this Commission issued Decision No. 68981 herein, authorizing interim increases in rates for applicant's Ersul and Keeler Tariff Areas. No provision was made for increasing flat rates in the Ersul area, inasmuch as applicant was no longer authorized to provide such service. Applicant had not yet disclosed that it was providing flat rate service to Keeler Elementary School.

Concurrently with Decision No. 68981, the Commission issued an order instituting investigation, Case No. 8166, to determine, among other things, whether applicant was charging for service at rates other than those set forth in its filed tariffs, in violation of Section 532 of the Public Utilities Code.

On May 7, 1965, applicant filed a petition herein requesting authority to file a schedule of flat rates for its Ersul Tariff Area and a revised schedule of flat rates for its Keeler Tariff Area to include a charge of \$6 per month for Keeler Elementary School. No information was provided by applicant as to the size of service pipes, size of premises or probable use characteristics of the twelve remaining unmetered services in the Ersul area and the school in the Keeler area.

Inasmuch as applicant's proposed Ersul flat rates are \$4.20 for a single-family residence or first unit of a multiple residence and \$3.15 for each additional residential unit, it is reasonable to assume that the twelve unmetered premises are residential. Prudent management would not have left heavy users until last in applicant's metering program. In the absence of a showing that the twelve customers will use more water than the quantities included for the minimum charges in applicant's meter rates, we find that the limited temporary flat rate should be the same as the lowest minimum charge applicable under applicant's meter rates.

Inasmuch as applicant's present Keeler tariffs permit flat rates to various residential, commercial and industrial users, including a \$6 flat monthly rate for service stations, grocery stores, barber shops and drug stores, we find that the \$6 flat monthly rate requested for Keeler Elementary School is reasonable.

This is equal to the charge, under applicant's Keeler meter rates, for 1,500 cubic feet of water per month through either a 5/8 x 3/4-inch or a 3/4-inch meter. It is also equal to the minimum monthly charge for a 3/4-inch meter under the Keeler meter rates.

We conclude that flat rate schedules should be authorized as set forth in the order which follows.

IT IS ORDERED that, within thirty days after the effective date of this order, applicant Golconda Utilities Company shall file the rate schedules attached to this order as Appendix A and, concurrently, withdraw its present Schedule No. KE-2. Such filing shall comply with General Order No. 96-A. The effective date of the revised schedules shall be the date of filing. The schedules shall apply only to service rendered on and after the effective date thereof.

The effective date of this order shall be the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29<sup>th</sup> day of JUNE, 1965.

WILLIAM M. BENNETT Dissent:

I dissent. I find no basis in the opinion here or anything which has come before which permits the conclusion that the rate herein authorized is reasonable. It may well be reasonable but there is no basis before us or stated in the order or in the proceedings to date from which such can be concluded.

William M. Bennett  
Commissioner

Frederick B. Holdhoff  
President  
George G. Trover  
Augustor  
Commissioners

Schedule No. ER-2LX

Ersul Tariff Area

RESIDENTIAL FLAT RATE SERVICE

APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all residential flat rate water service furnished on a limited temporary basis.

TERRITORY

Tract No. 3309, and vicinity, near the City of San Bernardino, San Bernardino County.

RATE

Per Month

For each service connection ..... \$3.05

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. Service under this schedule shall be limited to the premises being served as of the effective date of this tariff sheet.
2. This schedule shall be effective only to and including September 30, 1965, and will thereafter be withdrawn.
3. For service covered by the above classification, if the utility or the customer so elects, a meter shall be installed and service provided under Schedule ER-1, General Metered Service.
4. All service not covered by the above classification shall be furnished only on a metered basis.

APPENDIX A  
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Schedule No. KE-2

Keeler Tariff Area

GENERAL FLAT RATE SERVICE

APPLICABILITY

Applicable to all water service furnished on a flat rate basis.

TERRITORY

Keeler and vicinity, Inyo County.

RATES

	<u>Per Service Connection</u> <u>Per Month</u>	
1. For a single-family residence or first unit of a multiple residence, including premises .....	\$4.80	
a. For each additional residence, residential unit or house trailer located on the premises and served from the same service connection ...	2.70	
2. For each service station, grocery store, barber shop, drug store or school .....	6.00	(T)
3. For each restaurant, bar or eating place, with a seating capacity of 15 or less...	8.40	
a. For each additional seat in excess of 15 seats .....	.18	
4. For the Sierra Talc Company, manufacturing plant .....	12.00	

SPECIAL CONDITIONS

1. All service not covered by the above classifications will be furnished only on a metered basis.

2. Meters may be installed at option of utility for above classifications, in which event service thereafter will be furnished only on the basis of Schedule No. KE-1, General Metered Service.