

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 70015

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's
own motion into the operations,
rates, tariffs, contracts, practices,
equipment, facilities, and service
of Robert E. Shields doing business
as TAHOE PINES WATER CO.

Case No. 8030
(Filed October 2, 1964)

Robert E. Shields, in propria persona.
F. B. Sederberg, for Tahoe Pines Association;
Mrs. Edith C. Cline, in propria persona;
interested parties.
W. B. Stradley, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

The above-entitled investigation was instituted by the Commission for the purpose of determining whether the operations, rates, tariffs, contracts, practices, equipment, facilities and service are reasonable or adequate for the purpose of rendering water service to the public, and for the further purpose of determining whether respondent should be ordered to continue such service throughout the winter.

The Commission, in Decision No. 68249, dated November 24, 1964, concluded that the respondent Robert E. Shields is not required to furnish winter water service and ordered that the matter be set for further hearing on the remaining issues.

Hearing in this matter was held before Examiner Gillanders at Tahoe City on September 7, 1965, and the matter was submitted on that date. Evidence was adduced at this hearing by respondent, the Commission staff, and the fire chief of Tahoe City.

An engineer from the Commission staff presented in evidence Exhibit 3, summarizing the results of a field investigation made of respondent's water system facilities, and containing recommendations concerning improvements therein. The exhibit also sets forth a list of improvements initiated by respondent and a statement of improvements planned by him. The recommended improvements were considered by the witness to be the minimum necessary to furnish reasonable service to existing customers and to accommodate further additions. The staff recommendations assertedly give consideration to necessary improvements to benefit the greatest number of customers, to assure the adequacy of a continuous flow of potable water to existing customers and to the financial ability of respondent to make such improvements.

At the initial hearing (October 13, 1964) a preliminary report (Exhibit 2) prepared by a firm of consulting engineers was presented by respondent. The recommendations contained in the staff engineer's report assertedly are not as extensive as those contained in Exhibit 2, but are compatible therewith.

Respondent testified concerning the improvements in service initiated by him since the opening of this proceeding, to improvements planned for the future, and to the costs of such improvements. Respondent had in progress, or consented to, the principal staff recommendations herein. Respondent requested that any improvements in his water system ordered by the Commission be spread out over a period of time so that respondent could acquire the capital to pay for such improvements, and in order that respondent might have an opportunity to negotiate the sale of the system to Tahoe Pines Association.

The fire chief of Tahoe City testified concerning improvements necessary in respondent's system to meet fire fighting requirements. Commission general orders governing construction of water

systems do not establish any minimum standards designed to meet fire fighting requirements, and the additional improvements which would be required for this purpose, in view of their expense, will not be required of respondent.

Based upon the evidence of record, the Commission finds that:

1. Respondent's water system fails to meet the requirements of General Order No. 103 of the Commission.
2. Respondent's water system does not meet the minimum requirements necessary to provide reasonably adequate service to present and prospective customers.
3. The improvements recommended by the Commission staff are reasonable, and the needs of respondent's customers require that such improvements be completed by December 30, 1966.
4. It is in the public interest that the Commission be kept informed monthly of the progress of respondent's construction of improvements.

The Commission concludes that the respondent should be directed to take the actions set forth in the following order.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. On or before April 30, 1966, Robert E. Shields, respondent, shall install a pump in Lake Tahoe with approximately 100 gpm capacity against approximately 200 feet of head or provide another source of supply and facilities with equivalent capacity.
2. On or before June 30, 1966, Robert E. Shields shall complete the following improvements:

- a. Install a main not less than 4 inches in diameter on Poplar Avenue between Rubicon and Grand and connect at both ends to existing distribution mains; connect services on Poplar to the new main; disconnect and abandon existing 1-inch main.
- b. Install a main, not less than 4 inches in diameter, on Walnut Avenue between Rubicon Avenue and Grand Avenue and connect both ends to existing mains; connect services on Walnut Avenue to the new main; disconnect and abandon the old mains.
- c. Replace approximately 300 feet of 1-inch main on Cedar Avenue immediately south of Park Avenue with a main of not less than 4 inches in diameter; connect the new main to the existing 2-inch main on Cedar Avenue and 4-inch main on Park Avenue; disconnect and abandon existing 1-inch main.

3. On or before December 30, 1966, Robert E. Shields shall construct a tank with capacity of not less than 50,000 gallons at base elevation not lower than 6,400 feet in the general vicinity of Tamarack and Sierra Vista Avenues, and connect this tank to the existing 4-inch diameter mains at that location.

4. On or before May 15, 1966, Robert E. Shields shall do the following:

- a. Retain, for receiving of routine and emergency calls, a local service man as company representative, who should have the capability of making minor repairs and adjustments, connecting new services, and generally handling the day-to-day operation of the utility system and be available for such service without undue delay. Inform all customers by

written notice of the location and telephone number of such representative and advise them as to the representative's functions and responsibilities.

- b. File with the Commission a tariff service area map showing all of its service area and an up-to-date set of rules governing customer-utility relations.
- c. Prepare and maintain a copy of the map required by paragraph 1.10.a. of General Order No. 103, and file two copies of the map with the Commission.

5. Respondent shall file with the Commission monthly reports of work in progress and work completed in connection with the matters covered by ordering paragraphs 1 through 3 hereof, beginning with April 30, 1966 and continuing until all such work is completed.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th day of November, 1965.

Frederick B. Holliday
President

George H. Grover

William C. Blair

Commissioner A. W. Gatov, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.