

Decision No. 71770

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Investigation on the Commission's)
own motion into the operations and)
services of Northwestern Pacific)
Railroad Company in connection)
with the Puerto Suello Tunnel,)
San Rafael, California.)

Case No. 7907

ORDER EXTENDING TIME

By Decision No. 67889 dated September 22, 1964, the Commission issued the following order:

"IT IS ORDERED that:

"1. Within thirty days after the effective date hereof Northwestern Pacific Railroad Company shall commence reconstruction of Tunnel No. 4 (Puerto Suello Tunnel) and shall complete said reconstruction with all dispatch, and in no event longer than one hundred fifty days from the date of commencement."

Following various stays granted by reviewing courts construction commenced on March 3, 1966. By its order dated July 19, 1966, the Commission extended the time within which to complete construction to and including December 31, 1966. By its petition filed December 12, 1966, respondent requests that the time to complete reconstruction of Tunnel No. 4 be extended to June 30, 1967.

It is alleged that 700.5 feet of the tunnel have been reconstructed to date and that 547.4 feet remain to be reconstructed; the north end of the tunnel requires so-called soft dirt mining, which requires bracing to prevent disturbed earth and rock from

falling or being pushed by side pressure into the tunnel; to date 212 feet of tunnel have been reconstructed in this area at the progress of about four feet per day; the south end of tunnel has extended to a total of 488.5 feet; the pressure in this area was greater than anticipated causing timbers to twist and split; 447 feet of the south end will be concreted, which means reconstructing some footings, the addition of steel sets to hold the tunnel until reinforcing steel can be erected and concrete poured; because it is not possible for mining operations to be conducted while concreting is in progress further mining in this area will be delayed until approximately March 15, 1967, although mining will continue from the north end of the tunnel; it has been indicated that the center sections of the tunnel also collapsed during the time of the fire and will require a soft mining technique to reconstruct; and work will continue on the tunnel with all dispatch.

IT IS ORDERED that the time within which to complete reconstruction of Tunnel No. 4 (Puerto Suello Tunnel) is hereby extended to and including February 28, 1967.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 29th day of DECEMBER, 1966.

[Signature]
President
George J. Crow
Frederick B. Holhoff
[Signature]

Commissioners

Commissioner William M. Bennett, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.