

Decision No. 75533**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of)
 THE ATCHISON, TOPEKA AND SANTA FE)
 RAILWAY COMPANY, a corporation, for)
 authority to discontinue agency)
 service at their station at Escalon,)
 County of San Joaquin, State of)
 California.)

Application No. 50295
 (Filed June 10, 1968)

John J. Schimmenti, for applicant.
E. R. Hicks, Sr., for Transportation
 Communication Employees Union;
Leonard A. Owens, for Escalon
 Chamber of Commerce; and Jesse L.
 Wright, for Wrights Dehydrated
 Feeds, Inc., protestants.
Stanley L. Cook, for Escalon Times;
 and William N. Reynolds, for
 Escalon Grange, interested parties.
Kenneth G. Soderlund, for the Commis-
 sion staff.

O P I N I O N

By this application, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company, requests authority to discontinue its agency service at Escalon, San Joaquin County.

A duly noticed public hearing was held before Examiner O'Leary at Escalon, on February 6, 1969, and the matter was submitted. Evidence in support of the application was presented by seven witnesses for applicant. No witnesses in opposition to the application were presented. Protestants, interested parties and a member of the Commission's staff participated in the development of the record through cross-examination of applicant's witnesses.

The evidence adduced discloses that the station at Escalon is staffed by a single employee who is on duty from 8:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m., five days a week. The station is closed one hour a day for lunch.

Under the proposal to close the Escalon agency the services presently available through the agent will be available through applicant's agency station at Riverbank, which is located approximately six miles from Escalon. Toll-free telephone service will be afforded Escalon patrons for the purpose of contacting the Riverbank station. The station at Riverbank is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. The applicant will furnish a box with a lock where the shippers can place the bills of lading which will be signed by the conductor of the train picking up the freight cars. The shippers' copies will be left in the box for later pickup by them.

The volume of business handled at the Escalon station for the years 1966, 1967 and the first nine months of 1968 was as follows:

	<u>1966</u>	<u>1967</u>	<u>1968*</u>
Carload Shipments:			
Originated	71	56	36
Terminated	67	30	29
Less-than-Carload Shipments:			
Originated	1	1	0
Terminated	11	19	2

* January through September.

No change in train schedules is contemplated should the application be granted. Santa Fe Trail Transportation Company, a subsidiary of applicant, presently serves Escalon three days per week. Its assistant traffic and sales manager of the Western Division testified that his company intends to change its schedule to Escalon to two days a week, regardless of whether or not the instant application is granted. Western Union and passenger service are not provided by applicant at Escalon.

Applicant estimates that elimination of the agency will result in annual savings in excess of \$8,000.

After consideration the Commission finds that public convenience and necessity no longer require the maintenance by The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Lailway Company of an agency at Escalon and concludes that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Escalon, San Joaquin County, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) The Atchison, Topeka, and Santa Fe Railway Company shall maintain said station in a nonagency status for the receipt or delivery of freight in any quantity, carloads or less.
- (b) Within one hundred twenty days after the effective date hereof and not less than ten days prior to the discontinuance of the agency at Escalon, San Joaquin County, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company shall post a notice of such discontinuance at the station and within one hundred twenty days after the effective date hereof and on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public, The Atchison, Topeka and Santa Fe Railway Company shall file in duplicate amendments to its tariffs showing the change authorized herein and shall make reference in such notice and tariffs to this decision as authority for the changes. In no event shall the agent be removed, pursuant to the authority hereinabove granted, earlier than the effective date of the tariff filings required hereunder.

(c) Within thirty days after discontinuance of service as herein authorized, applicant shall, in writing, notify this Commission thereof and of compliance with the above conditions.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 8th day of APRIL, 1969.

William Symons-J
President

Augustine

Jeffrey M. Monahan
William

Commissioners