

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 79349

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE MATTER OF THE APPLICATION OF:)

RIVER LINES COMPANY under the Shortened)
Procedure Tariff Docket, to make increases)
in commodity rates and accessorial charges)
named in Local Freight Tariff No. 4-A,)
Cal.P.U.C. No. 5 (issued in the series of)
THE RIVER LINES, INC.), as more fully set)
forth in EXHIBIT "A" attached hereto and)
by reference thereto, made a part of this)
Application.)

Shortened Procedure
Tariff Docket
Application No. 52836
(Filed September 1, 1971)

AND)

For authority to depart from the terms of)
Section 454 of the Public Utilities Code)
in accomplishing proposed publication.)

OPINION AND ORDER

River Lines Company operates as a common carrier by vessel for the transportation of property between points on San Francisco, San Pablo and Suisun Bays and the San Joaquin and Sacramento Rivers and their tributaries. By this application, authority is sought to increase by 20 percent commodity rates applicable to the transportation of grain, paddy rice and safflower seed. Applicant also seeks authority to: (1) increase from 20 cents to 24 cents the charge to return empty pallets at shipper's request; (2) increase the additional charge of \$20.00 per hour to \$24.00 per hour for service performed on Saturdays, Sundays or Holidays; and (3) increase the barge demurrage daily charges from \$100.00 to \$120.00 for dry cargo and from \$250.00 to \$300.00 for bulk cargo.

Applicant states that the rates on grain and paddy rice have not been increased since August 9, 1965, and the rates on safflower seed since November 6, 1968. Applicant further states that it has been faced with steadily rising costs during the above period since the rates were last increased. Applicant alleges that such increased costs range between 17 percent for fuel to 40 percent for labor on vessel repair. It cites increases of 35 percent for dry docking and repair materials, 26 percent for insurance, 35 percent for ship stores, viz., paints, rope, etc., 28 to 33 1/3 percent for crew labor and 27 percent for rent, utilities, office supplies, etc. Applicant contends that the increased rates are required to continue to operate in a financially healthy condition to serve the public.

Applicant avers that the increases resulting from the proposal herein would not increase its California intrastate gross revenue by as much as one percent.

The application was listed on the Commission's Daily Calendar of September 2, 1971. The certificate of service shows that on or about August 30, 1971, a copy of the application was served on interested shippers and to various chambers of commerce. No objection to the granting of the application has been received.

Commission staff analysis discloses that the sought increases in rates and charges would apply to specialized water transportation and that applicant experiences additional increased labor cost when service is performed on Saturdays, Sundays and Holidays. It also discloses that the overall cost of operation since 1965 has continued upward, while applicant's rates on grain and paddy rice have not changed. The staff recommends that the application be granted by ex parte order.

In the circumstances, it appears, and the Commission finds, that the proposed increases are justified. A public hearing is not necessary. The Commission concludes that the application

should be granted.

IT IS ORDERED that:


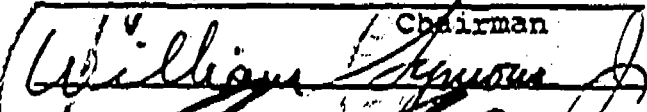
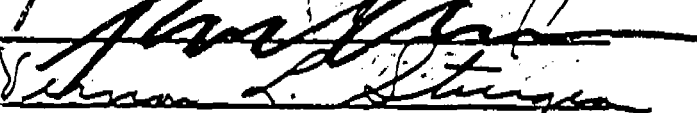

1. River Lines Company is authorized to establish the increased rates and charges as proposed in Exhibit "A" of Application No. 52836.

2. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of the order herein may be made effective not earlier than thirty days after the effective date of this order on not less than thirty days' notice to the Commission and to the public.

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

This order shall become effective twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of
NOVEMBER, 1971.


Chairman



Commissioners