

Decision No. 81240**ORIGINAL**

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of  
 Southern Pacific Transportation  
 Company for authority to discontinue  
 agency and to remove station building  
 and appurtenances from public service  
 at Lincoln, County of Placer, State  
 of California.

Application No. 53613  
 (Filed October 16, 1972)

Harold S. Lentz, Attorney at Law, for Southern  
 Pacific Transportation Company, applicant.  
Harry Hillier, for the City of Lincoln, protestant.  
Paul A. Burket, for the Commission staff.

O P I N I O N

Applicant has applied for authority to discontinue its agency in Lincoln, Placer County, and to move the agent formerly employed in Lincoln to the Roseville station. The Lincoln agency is located in a rented office on the main street, so there are no agency buildings to be removed. Applicant will serve its Lincoln shippers from the Roseville agency, located 13 miles away.

A public hearing was held at Lincoln, California, on February 8, 1973 before Examiner Fraser and the matter was submitted.

Notice of hearing was posted and published as required by the Commission rules.

Four letters of protest were received and three of which were withdrawn prior to the hearing. The remaining protestant is the city of Lincoln. Applicant provided testimony by three witnesses and eleven exhibits. Exhibit 4 shows an estimated saving of \$13,000 (including the \$9,900 salary of the agent who will be employed at Roseville) if the Lincoln agency is closed. Exhibit 7 reveals that during 1971 Lincoln shipped 879 carloads (44,359 tons) and received 732 carloads (30,240 tons) thus providing applicant

with a total revenue of \$859,324; the last three months of 1972 are included in the same exhibit with 487 (26,204 tons) outgoing cars and 584 (27,464 tons) incoming cars for a total revenue of \$666,296. A witness for applicant testified that the Lincoln agent works five days a week from 8:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon and from 1:00 p.m. to 5:00 p.m.; when he leaves the office it is closed and there is no one to answer the phone. The Roseville agency is open seven days a week, from 7:00 a.m. to midnight, and is tied into a computerized system which can answer shipper's questions in eight to 15 seconds. Lincoln shippers will be able to call the Roseville phone number without charge. Under the present system inquiries are referred to Roseville by the Lincoln agent. The Roseville agency employs 10 people and there is always someone in the office to answer the telephone. Testimony based on Exhibit 6 emphasized that the local agent's principal function is handling waybills, bills of lading, and car orders, along with occasional freight claims and miscellaneous duties, which can all be handled more efficiently out of the Roseville office. He stated that the nearby stations of Ewing and Sunset-Whitney Ranch are nonagency and serve eight large shippers without difficulty or complaint. An analyst from applicant's San Francisco office testified that the estimated savings on the closing of the Lincoln Station were understated. Wages have increased since the exhibit was prepared and other expenses are higher. He testified the Lincoln agent's salary is listed as being saved if the station is closed because a man would be hired at that salary for the Roseville agency if the Lincoln agent is not transferred. Applicant's division superintendant testified that the Lincoln shippers will obtain better service from Roseville. This agency is operating more hours and days every week, has a first-class communications network, and personnel always available. He advised the Lincoln agency was first established in 1861, during a period when railroad stations were spaced ten miles apart, a days ride by a horse drawn wagon. Many of these closely spaced stations are no longer needed and the applicant is making an effort to eliminate obsolete stations and agencies.

The other parties presented no evidence. The representative of the city of Lincoln made a statement for the record. He advised Lincoln shippers require the personal service provided by a local agent and that applicant decided to move out without consulting or notifying Lincoln or its residents. He noted that several large shippers in the vicinity are using the Lincoln agency more than in the past and it is not logical to close it.

No protests were filed by the shippers who will be most affected by the proposed move to Roseville. Applicant's position that better service can be provided from Roseville has not been contested. The application will be granted.

Findings and Conclusion

1. Adequate and convenient service is available for Lincoln agency customers at the Roseville agency 13 miles away.
2. Operating the Lincoln facility as a nonagency station will result in a considerable annual saving to the applicant and will not inconvenience the public.
3. All of the work and duties of the present agent at Lincoln can be handled at Roseville, California, without any increase in personnel or expenses.
4. Public convenience and necessity no longer require the Southern Pacific Transportation Company to provide an agent at Lincoln, California.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted. Applicant will be required to maintain its Lincoln facility as a nonagency station.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Southern Pacific Transportation Company is authorized to discontinue its agency at Lincoln, Placer County, subject to the following conditions:

- (a) Applicant shall maintain said station in a nonagency status for the receipt or delivery of freight in any quantity.

- (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 Lincoln, applicant 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, applicant 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 10th day of APRIL, 1973.

Vernon L. Sturgeon  
President  
William J. Lyons, Jr.  
[Signature]  
[Signature]  
Commissioners

Commissioner J. P. Vukasin, Jr., being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.