

ORIGINAL

Decision No. 81701

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application of }  
THE EUREKA ICE AND COLD STORAGE }  
COMPANY for an Increase in Rates. }

Application No. 53926  
(Filed March 28, 1973)

O P I N I O N

The Eureka Ice and Cold Storage Company, a corporation, operates as a public utility warehouseman at Eureka for the storage of commodities requiring refrigeration. It also is engaged in non-utility business. By this application, it seeks authority to increase its rates and charges for freezing, storage, handling, and other services incidental thereto by 20 percent.<sup>1/</sup>

Applicant's rates and charges have not been increased since July 11, 1970. Revenue and expense data submitted with the application indicate that the public utility warehouse operations yielded revenues of \$77,329.83, incurred \$98,110.43 in expenses, and resulted in a loss of \$20,780.60 and an operating ratio of 126.9 percent for 1972; and that under the proposed rates and current costs, the revenues would have been \$92,795.80 which would have resulted in a loss of \$5,314.63 and an operating ratio of 105.6 percent for the year. It also shows a loss of \$9,047 for 1971.

The application states that while the proposed rates would not produce satisfactory operating results, they would allow applicant to remain in business without a heavy financial drain on the profits from its nonutility business; that there has been a substantial drop in the tonnage of business handled by applicant during the past two

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<sup>1/</sup> Applicant's present rates and charges and the rules and regulations applying in connection therewith are set forth in The Eureka Ice and Cold Storage Company Cold Storage Warehouse Tariff 7 and California Warehouse Tariff Bureau Cold Storage Warehouse Tariff 12.

years due to changes in the fishing industry and a reduction in the storage period for fish products; and that applicant can foresee no improvement in the tonnage outlook for 1973 and 1974.

The application asserts that a notice was mailed to all storers of record on March 23, 1973 informing them of the proposed increase. The application was listed on the Commission's Daily Calendar. A protest was received from a meat company. However, it indicated that it was not interested in a public hearing. No other objections to the granting of the application have been received. The application states that applicant has less than 60 employees and is, therefore, exempt from Federal Price Control Regulations.

The Commission finds that the increases in the rates and charges proposed in the application are justified, and that since applicant qualifies under the small business exemption set forth in Title 6, Economic Stabilization, Section 101.51, Subpart E, findings pursuant to Rule 23.1 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure are not necessary or required. A public hearing is not necessary. The Commission concludes that the application should be granted as provided in the ensuing order.

Applicant will be authorized to publish the tariff pages on not less than five days' notice to the Commission and to the public. In authorizing the increases as proposed, the Commission does not make any finding of fact as to the reasonableness of any particular rate or charge involved herein.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Applicant is authorized to establish the increased rates proposed in Application No. 53926 in its Cold Storage Warehouse Tariff No. 7, Cal. P.U.C. 7. In incorporating the increases into the specific rates and charges, fractions shall be disposed of as follows:

Drop fractions of less than one-half cent and increase fractions of one-half cent or greater to the next whole cent.

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

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

The effective date of this order shall be August 8, 1973.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 31<sup>st</sup> day of JULY, 1973.

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President  
*William J. ...*

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*[Signature]*

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Commissioners  
*[Signature]*

Commissioner Vernon L. Sturgeon, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.

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