

Decision 89 05 007 MAY 1 0 1989

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of the Bear Trap
Enterprises Water Company, a
California corporation, CIS I.D. No.
U-237-W, for a certificate of public
convenience and necessity to extend
water service to an area adjacent to
the existing service area in Tulare
County.

MAY 1 0 1989

Application 88-06-042
(Filed June 24, 1988)

OPINION

The application of Bear Trap Enterprises Water Company (BTE), as originally filed, requested certification for an extension of approximately 46 acres located adjacent to the existing service area. The property proposed for certification was to be developed to a density of approximately one family per acre. Subsequently, BTE, by letter dated December 9, 1988, requested the assigned Administrative Law Judge (ALJ) to revise the proposed service area and extension to 25 acres with three connections per acre. The estimated size of the lots will be 12,500 to 15,000 square feet each.

BTE's service area is located 30 miles east of Ducor, Tulare County. The service area is adjacent to the Sequoia National Forest and is residential. Currently there are 20 customers of which six are permanent residents in an area of approximately 14 acres subdivided into 38 residential lots. The water comes from two wells producing 38 gallons per minute (gpm). The system also has two new steel storage tanks each having a capacity of 20,000 gallons, one old redwood storage tank having a capacity of 22,000 gallons, approximately 5,000 feet of distribution and transmission mains, and one 2,000 gallon steel pressure tank.

A formal application is necessary because of a restriction imposed in Decision (D.) 68559 (see the History discussion below).

BTE proposes to serve the service area extension by drilling a well, constructing new transmission and distribution mains, installing a booster system, and erecting storage tanks which will be located within the requested service area extension and built in accordance with Tulare County's development standards and State of California standards. BTE has already constructed a substantial portion of the proposed improvements in anticipation of serving the extended service area.

BTE proposes to finance the new water facilities through advances from developers using Main Extension Rule No. 15. BTE will serve all of the new development at the current flat rates now in effect.

History

BTE, then named Bear Trap Ridge Water Company, was granted a certificate of public convenience and necessity (CPCN) by D.68559 dated February 9, 1965 conditioned upon a showing that it had developed an adequate water supply. Also the decision specifically ordered that BTE shall not extend distribution facilities nor furnish water outside the certificated area without further order of the Commission. D.70039 dated December 7, 1965 accepted proof from BTE that an adequate supply of water had been developed and established the effective date of D.68559 as December 7, 1965.

D.87-05-023 dated May 23, 1987 authorized BTE's present rates. It ordered BTE to file with the Water Utilities Branch of the Commission Advisory and Compliance Division (Branch) a plan and timetable to institute system improvements. In compliance with this order, BTE submitted plans evaluating the system storage facilities and requirements, the adequacy and operation of the redwood tank, the acquisition of an additional source of supply,

production of the well, and the steps necessary to improve system pressure. The plans and recommendations were prepared by a registered professional engineer.

These plans and recommendations have been reviewed by the Branch and certain improvements such as a new well and 40,000 gallons of additional storage have been installed. Service to existing customers has now been substantially improved.

Investigation

Branch inspected BTE's existing facilities and the site of the proposed extension. It reported that the system has had good maintenance, is in good condition, and, with the exception of production meters at each well, meets the requirements of General Order (GO) 103. The information gathered and Branch recommendations are reflected in the findings. A copy of this report was furnished to applicant on January 13, 1989. Applicant has not objected to any feature of the report.

Findings of Fact

1. In order to provide adequate service to the new extension applicant needs four 20,000 gallon steel storage tanks, one 22,000 gallon redwood storage tank on standby, a new well, and a booster system.

2. Two of the 20,000 gallon steel tanks and the new well have already been constructed and are in use to serve the existing service area.

3. As recommended by the Tulare County Health Department, BTE is operating the existing system with controls on the existing 22,000 gallon redwood tank which isolate it from the system but which can also be quickly operated to utilize the storage during emergencies. BTE plans to continue this type of operation in the future.

4. BTE's existing system is in good condition and, with the exception of the lack of production meters on the two wells, meets the requirements of GO 103.

5. The total water supply available (38 gpm from two wells) together with existing and proposed storage (102,000 gallons) will meet the minimum GO 103 standards for service to 113 customers.

6. BTE is unable to meet more than minimum standards for service to 113 of customers because of low total production from the two wells.

7. It is reasonable to allow extension despite low production because of the anticipated slow growth of customers and the likelihood that the area will never fill in.

8. Because of the low production available from the two wells, a contingency plan should be developed to provide a third source of supply should serious problems arise.

9. Required system pressure cannot be maintained from storage alone should Well No. 1 be down.

10. A booster system is required to provide required pressures in the system at all times.

Conclusions of Law

1. BTE should be authorized to file an advice letter with a new tariff map to extend its service area to the proposed 25 acres with 3 connections per acre when the conditions of 4, 5, and 7 below have been met.

2. BTE should be ordered not to extend its water system or water service outside the new service area without further order from the Commission.

3. BTE should not be allowed to expand beyond 113 total connections without further order of the Commission.

4. All four steel storage tanks and the booster system as proposed in the application should be in place and operational before any connections to customers in the new extension are made. An alternate to the booster system should be allowed if previously approved by the Branch. All new construction should be in accordance with GO 103 standards.

5. The existing 22,000 gallon redwood tank should have controls which allow it to be isolated from the new and existing distribution systems but will also allow use of its storage during emergencies.

6. BTE should develop a contingency plan for providing a new source of supply to be implemented if and when problems arise with the existing two wells. This plan should be submitted to the Branch for review within 1 year of the effective date of the decision.

7. BTE should comply with GO 103 by installing a meter or other suitable measuring device to determine water production at each source of supply.

8. Since this order is non-controversial it should be effective today.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Bear Trap Enterprises Water Company (BTE) is authorized to file an advice letter with a new tariff map to extend its service area to the proposed 25 acres with three connections per acre.

2. BTE shall not extend its water system or water service outside the new service area without further order from the Commission.

3. BTE shall not expand beyond 113 total connections without further order of the Commission.

4. All four steel storage tanks and the booster system as proposed in the application shall be in place and operational before any connections to customers in the new extension are made. An alternate to the booster system should be allowed if previously approved by the Branch. All new construction shall be in accordance with GO 103 standards.

5. The existing 22,000 gallon redwood tank shall have controls which allow it to be isolated from the new and existing distribution systems but will also allow use of its storage during emergencies.

6. BTE shall file with the Branch a plan for providing a new source of supply to be implemented if and when problems arise with the existing two wells, within one year of the effective date of the decision.

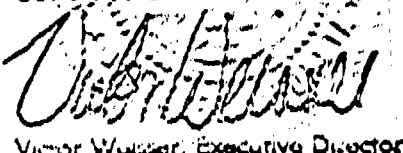
7. BTE shall install a meter or other suitable measuring device to determine water production at each source of supply.

This order is effective today.

Dated MAY 10 1989, at San Francisco, California.

G. MITCHELL WILK
President
FREDERICK R. DUDA
STANLEY W. HULETT
JOHN B. OHANIAN
PATRICIA M. ECKERT
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE
COMMISSIONERS TODAY.



Victor Wulster, Executive Director

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