

ORIGINAL

Decision 82 07 030 JUL 21 1982

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Paul K. Montgomery, )  
 )  
 Complainant, )  
 )  
 vs. )  
 )  
 James Water Company, Inc., )  
 a California corporation, and )  
 B. Clinton James, )  
 )  
 Defendants. )

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Case 10815  
 (Filed December 21, 1979;  
 Petition for Extension of Time  
 filed April 2, 1982)

ORDER EXTENDING TIME

Decision (D.) 93585 dated October 6, 1981 in Case 10815 found that the James Water Company, Inc. (James) is a public utility. James' April 2, 1982 petition requests a 120-day extension of time from the effective date of D.93585 to comply with that decision. That date would have been on March 4, 1982. By letter dated April 14, 1982, James modified its proposal to ask for a 120-day extension of time from the effective date of this order to improve or transfer its system.

The petition alleges that James has worked diligently and in good faith in an attempt to comply with D.93585; it drilled two new wells and engaged a civil engineer to determine what distribution system improvements it would have to install to comply with D.93585. James' engineer estimates the cost of upgrading the system would be \$135,000 if James has to meet a

500-gallon-per-minute (gpm) fire-flow requirement or \$173,000 if it has to meet a 1,000-gpm fire-flow requirement.<sup>1/</sup>

James is negotiating with Kernville Domestic Water Company (KDWC) to take over its public utility operations. James does not know if KDWC will require it to be in compliance with D.93585 as a precondition for a total or partial transfer of its public utility operations. KDWC was waiting for receipt of well test information before proceeding with negotiations.

In its April 14, 1982 letter James states that the water in both of its new wells contains approximately four times the allowable standard concentration of magnesium; its engineer is exploring methods for treating its well supplies to meet the standards of the County Health Department.

#### Discussion

If the two water systems were integrated, the available water supply and storage (including fire-flow storage) of the existing KDWC system could be used to meet the requirements of James' customers. Integration could reduce overall construction costs and is the preferable option for providing service within James' service area. The second best option is to have KDWC extend its main to or within James' service area primarily for fire protection purposes. A metered connection from a KDWC fire main to James could be used to meet James' alternate supply requirements. An independent James system is the least desirable option for providing that service.

James has been making good-faith efforts to comply with Ordering Paragraph 3 of D.93585. A 120-day extension of time should be authorized.

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<sup>1/</sup> Fire protection standards are outlined in Section VIII of General Order 103 based on land use or the requirements of a governmental agency. The amended fire protection standards are contained in Appendix B of Interim D.82-04-089 dated April 21, 1982 in OIR 7.

Findings of Fact

1. James drilled and tested two wells and caused an engineer to prepare estimates for construction of a system to meet the requirements of General Order 103.

2. James is seeking agreement with KDWC to transfer its utility service to KDWC.

Conclusions of Law

1. An extension of time should be authorized to permit James to further pursue its negotiations with KDWC to have KDWC take over its utility operations or, in the alternative, to work out arrangements with KDWC to provide fire flow and/or an alternate supply for the James system.

2. If James' negotiations with KDWC are unsuccessful, it should submit its plans, cost estimates, and scheduling for upgrading its system.

IT IS ORDERED that James Water Company, Inc. shall comply with Ordering Paragraph 3 of Decision 93585 within 120 days after the effective date of this order.

This order is effective today.

Dated JUL 21 1982, at San Francisco, California.

JOHN E. BRYSON  
President  
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE  
VICTOR CALVO  
PRISCILLA C. GREW  
Commissioners

Commissioner Leonard M. Grimes, Jr.,  
being necessarily absent, did not  
participate.

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