

Decision No. 86703

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of ELECTROPAGE, INC., a California)
Corporation, for a Certificate to)
Construct Additional Radiotelephone)
Utility Facilities and for)
Authority to Exercise Rights Not)
Yet Secured Pursuant to Rule 20 of)
the Rules of Practice and)
Procedure.)

Application No. 56695
(Filed August 17, 1976)

O P I N I O N

By this application Electropage, Inc. (applicant) is requesting a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing the construction and operation of additional radio-telephone utility transmitters to augment and improve the service to applicant's subscribers over presently assigned frequencies.

Applicant currently owns and operates a certificated radiotelephone utility providing one-way paging service to the Sacramento area over assigned frequencies of 43.22 MHz and 43.58 MHz. These facilities transmit from 1127 11th Street, Sacramento. It is intended to offer this improved service over the same frequencies with new transmitters. The new transmitters are necessary in order to relay messages in the area sought to be certificated. The new antennas will be located on a site presently in use by a private radio system and will have no significant effect on the environment.

It is applicant's intent to conduct the control and dispatch functions for the new facilities from its existing offices which have adequate room for any additional equipment or personnel which might be necessitated by expansion. The new transmitters will be operated by remote control.

Exhibit A attached to the application is a map showing the 43 dbu contour of the existing and proposed facilities. It shows that service will be extended to the Roseville and Carmichael areas.

The application states that the need for the additional facilities applied for derives from the unprecedented growth which has occurred in the northeast quadrant of applicant's existing service area over the past few years and that previously underutilized sectors have become the site of shopping malls, hospitals, and industrial complexes. As a result, many of the almost-one-thousand present subscribers are conducting their day-to-day affairs substantially northeast of their previous activity, which has placed them beyond applicant's effective range. In addition, these subscribers are conducting their affairs within newly developed structures which are often resistant to penetration by radio waves.

It is also stated that service is further complicated by the area's topography, which consists principally of rolling hills, with an overall elevation exceeding that of applicant's existing antennas. The proposed contours are intended to provide increased signals to those locations within applicant's existing service area which have been affected by the above-described factors, and also to encompass those regions beyond the existing service area into which so many of applicant's subscribers are now conducting their daily activities.

It is estimated that total equipment costs will be \$9,750 and that annual operating expenses will be increased by \$3,400. Tariff rates for the expanded service will be the same as those on file for existing service.

All utilities or entities with which applicant's proposed service is likely to compete were served with a copy of the application. There are no protests.

Findings

1. The proposed extended service is beyond where applicant can presently give good and reliable service.

2. Public convenience and necessity require that applicant construct and operate a paging service within the 43 dbu contour shown in Exhibit A attached to the application.

3. The antennas for expansion will be located on a site already in use by a private radio system, and it can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the activity in question may have a significant effect on the environment.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to Electropage, Inc. authorizing the construction and operation of a paging service within the 43 dbu contour shown in Exhibit A attached to the application.

2. After the effective date of this order, applicant is authorized to file revised tariff sheets, including tariff service area maps, to provide for the application of its present tariff schedules to the areas certificated by this order. Such filing shall comply with General Order No. 96-A. The effective date of the revised tariff sheets shall be five days after the effective date of this order.

3. Applicant shall notify the Commission upon completion of the construction authorized herein.

4. The authority granted herein shall expire if not exercised within eighteen months from the date hereof.

The effective date of this order shall be twenty days after the date hereof.

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 30th day of NOVEMBER, 1976. ✓

President
William S. ...

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Commissioners

Commissioner D. W. Holmes, being necessarily absent, did not participate in the disposition of this proceeding.