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Decision No. 90029

FEB 27 1978

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of SONIC COURIERS INC., a Cali-)
fornia corporation, doing busi-)
ness as SONIC AIR COURIER, for)
certificates of public conven-)
ience and necessity as an air)
freight forwarder and as an)
express corporation of general)
commodities between points in)
California.)

Application No. 58421
(Filed October 20, 1978)

OPINION AND ORDER

Sonic Couriers, Inc., a California corporation, seeks a certificate of public convenience and necessity authorizing it to operate as a freight forwarder and as an express corporation utilizing the lines of air common carriers, highway common carriers, and passenger stage corporations in the transportation of property by aircraft between various points and places in California.

Applicant is engaged in business as a domestic freight forwarder under Civil Aeronautics Board Operating Authorization No. 633, and presently operates freight generating stations in Los Angeles and San Francisco, and commencing in January 1979 in Atlanta, Georgia.

Applicant proposes to provide pickup and delivery service within 25 statute miles of the airports served in California. No collection or distribution service will be provided to or from any point more than 25 statute miles distant from any airport unless the service beyond is provided by a highway common carrier. In that regard, it proposes to charge the shipper the highway common carrier rate for the beyond movement in addition to its charges for door-to-door service.

The basic operation contemplated by applicant as a freight forwarder is to consolidate freight for several shippers for movement by air. It is anticipated that there will be a greater movement of consolidated freight between the larger airports, such as Los Angeles,

A. 58421 - ri/FS

San Francisco and Oakland. Applicant's rates will take into consideration the consolidation of freight between these volume points. Additionally, the air freight rates between those points are, in many instances, lower than the rates to some of the smaller airports. As a result, and also because of the circumstances regarding the rates for service to points beyond 25 statute miles of an airport, the rates applicant proposes may, in some instances, be greater for shorter distances than for longer distances. Applicant requests that it be authorized to depart from the long- and short-haul provisions of Section 461.5 of the Public Utilities Code in that regard.

Financial statements attached to the application show that the applicant has the financial ability to establish and operate the proposed service.

The certificate of service indicates that copies of the application were mailed to various interested parties on October 6, 1978. The application was listed on the Commission's Daily Calendar of October 23, 1978. No objection to the granting of the application has been received.

In the circumstances, the Commission finds that:

1. Applicant has the experience and financial ability required to institute and maintain the proposed service.
2. Public convenience and necessity require the operation by applicant of the proposed service.
3. Departure from the long- and short-haul provisions in connection with the establishment of rates by applicant between its break-bulk terminal points and in connection with its door-to-door service is justified.
4. It can be seen with certainty that there is no possibility that the proposed activity will have a significant effect on the environment.
5. A public hearing is not necessary.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

Sonic Couriers, Inc., is placed on notice that operative rights, as such, do not constitute a class of property which may be capitalized or used as an element of value in rate fixing for any amount of money in excess of that originally paid to the State as the consideration for the grant of such rights. Aside from their purely permissive aspect, such rights extend to the holder a full or partial monopoly of a class of business. This monopoly feature may be modified, or cancelled at any time by the State, which is not in any respect limited as to the number of rights which may be given.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. A certificate of public convenience and necessity is granted to Sonic Couriers, Inc., a California corporation, authorizing it to operate as a freight forwarder as defined in Section 220 of the Public Utilities Code, and as an express corporation as defined in Section 219 of the Public Utilities Code, as specifically set forth in Appendix A of this decision.

2. In providing service pursuant to the authority granted by this order, applicant shall comply with and observe the following service regulations. Failure to do so may result in cancellation of the authority.

- (a) Within thirty days after the effective date of this order, applicant shall file a written acceptance of the certificate granted.
- (b) Within one hundred twenty days after the effective date of this order, applicant shall establish the authorized service and file tariffs, in triplicate, in the Commission's office.
- (c) The tariff filings shall be made effective not earlier than thirty days after the effective date of this order on not less than thirty days' notice to the Commission and the public, and the effective date of the tariff filings shall be concurrent with the establishment of the authorized service.
- (d) The tariff filings made pursuant to this order shall comply with the regulations governing the construction and filing of tariffs set forth in the Commission's General Order 117-Series.

- (e) Applicant shall file with the Commission, on or before March 31 of each year, an annual report of its operations in such form, content, and number of copies as the Commission, from time to time, shall prescribe.
- (f) Applicant shall comply with the requirements of the Commission's General Order 84-Series for the transportation of collect on delivery shipments. If applicant elects not to transport collect on delivery shipments, it shall make the appropriate tariff filings required by the General Order.
- (g) Applicant shall comply with the requirements of the Commission's General Order 100-Series and the safety rules administered by the California Highway Patrol if applicant intends to operate a motor vehicle under this authority.

3. In the establishment of rates for transportation service as a freight forwarder or as an express corporation, Sonic Couriers, Inc. is authorized to establish and maintain lesser rates for a longer distance for the transportation of property between its major consolidation terminal points than for the transportation of property for shorter distances to other points, and in the establishment and maintenance of rates from or to points within five miles of an airport as compared to points beyond 25 miles of an airport.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 27th day of FEBRUARY, 1979.

John E. Boyer
President
James L. Ferguson
Richard D. Howell
Clair T. DeBrigh
Edward J. Penning
Commissioners

Sonic Couriers, Inc., a California corporation, by the certificate of public convenience and necessity granted in the decision noted in the margin, is authorized to operate as a freight forwarder, as defined in Section 220 of the Public Utilities Code, and as an express corporation as defined in Section 219 of the Public Utilities Code, via the lines of air common carriers, highway common carriers, and passenger stage corporations, subject to the following conditions:

1. Applicant shall not ship or arrange to ship any property unless such property shall have transportation by aircraft originating at one of the following airports:

Burbank Airport
Los Angeles International Airport
San Francisco International Airport
Oakland Airport
Sacramento Airport
San Diego Airport
Orange County Airport
Fresno Airport
San Jose Airport

on the one hand, and terminate at the following points served by air common carriers, on the other hand:

Arcata	Los Angeles	Salinas
Bakersfield	Marysville	San Bernardino
Blythe	Merced	San Diego
Burbank	Modesto	San Francisco
Chico	Monterey	San Jose
Crescent City	Oakland	San Luis Obispo
El Centro	Ontario	Santa Ana
Eureka	Oxnard	Santa Barbara
Fresno	Palmdale	Santa Maria
Indio	Palm Springs	Santa Rosa
Laguna Beach	Paso Robles	Stockton
Lake Tahoe Airport	Redding	Ventura
Lancaster	Riverside	Visalia
Long Beach	Sacramento	Yuba City

Issued by California Public Utilities Commission.

Decision 90029, Application 58421.

2. The underlying carrier used by Sonic Couriers, Inc. between airports shall be an air common carrier, except that in emergencies only, such as an airport being closed because of inclement weather, highway common carriers or passenger stage corporations may be used as underlying carriers to provide the transportation.
3. No collection or distribution service shall be provided by Sonic Couriers, Inc. to or from any point more than 25 statute miles distant from any airport served by it unless said service beyond said 25 statute miles is performed by a highway common carrier. As used herein "point" means any point within 25 statute miles of the city limits of any city in which is located an airport, or 25 statute miles of any airport located in an unincorporated area.
4. Sonic Couriers, Inc., shall establish door-to-door rates for service between airports, including points within 25 statute miles thereof as defined in paragraph 3 herein. On traffic moving to or from points beyond said 25-mile radius Sonic Couriers, Inc. shall, in addition to said door-to-door rates, assess the lawful tariff rates of any highway common carrier utilized to perform said beyond service.
5. Sonic Couriers, Inc. shall not forward any shipments containing commodities prohibited by law from transportation by aircraft.

(END OF APPENDIX A)

Issued by California Public Utilities Commission.

Decision 90029, Application 58421.