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ORIGINAL

Decision No. 90317 MAY 22 1979

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Application of The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company for authority to withdraw and otherwise discontinue the service offering described in Schedule Cal. P.U.C. 41-T, Sheets 11, 12 and 13, as "5. Direct Dispatching Service (San Diego Service Area only)."

Application No. 58534
(Filed December 15, 1978)

O P I N I O N

By this application The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company (herein Pacific) requests authority to withdraw the Direct Dispatching Service for the San Diego Service Area as described in Schedule Cal. P.U.C. 41-T, Sheets 11, 12 and 13.

The dispatching service, which we are considering herein, is a mobile telephone service offered only in the San Diego area. The service permits a user to access his/her fleet of mobile stations over a two-way talking channel without utility operator assistance. The channel used to provide this service is in the "UHF" band authorized by the Federal Communications Commission solely for assignment to common carriers which also provide public landline telephone service. This channel, in addition to radio dispatching, serves regular two-way mobile telephone subscribers. This Commission in Decision No. 88232,^{1/} ordered Pacific to convert its existing manual (operator required) two-way radiotelephone system to an automatic system (operator not required). This type of system within Bell telephone companies is commonly referred to as "Improved Mobile Telephone Service" (IMTS).^{1/}

^{1/} Decision No. 88232, dated December 13, 1977, to A-55492, filed February 13, 1975, orders Pacific to convert its manual mobile system to IMTS.

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The conversion to IMTS is scheduled for December 1979. Use of the UHF channel for dispatch service is incompatible with Pacific's IMTS system, and would require that the channel be used only for dispatch service. The alternative proposed by Pacific is to incorporate the channel into the IMTS system and discontinue dispatch service. Presently both dispatch customers and regular mobile subscribers compete for use of the channel. Pacific asserts that it is in the public interest to withdraw dispatch service for the reasons stated in the application:

1. Customer acceptance and utilization of dispatch service is progressively declining.
2. The UHF channel serving dispatch customers would be better used for two-way mobile application solely under the IMTS system than if it were used solely for dispatch service.

Currently there are only seven customers using dispatch service in San Diego. During 1978 dispatch service call volumes have declined steadily from 1,500 in January to 560 in October. Two-way mobile service users, however, average over 40 calls per day on the UHF channel which carries the dispatch calls. In addition, usage exceeds 100 calls per weekday on each of the five VHF channels available to customers in the San Diego area. In contrast to the seven dispatch customers, Commission records indicate that there are approximately 515 two-way subscribers to Pacific's two-way mobile service in the San Diego area. Pacific informs us that alternate service options are available to the seven dispatch subscribers, should the dispatch service be discontinued. The dispatch subscriber may:

1. Subscribe to a similar service which is available from a radiotelephone utility.
2. Subscribe to two-way mobile service.

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3. Subscribe to one-way paging service.
4. Establish a privately owned dispatch system.

In its application Pacific states a copy of this application was served on all of its San Diego dispatch subscribers. The application was filed on December 15, 1978, and notice of its filing was published in the Commission's Daily Calendar on December 21, 1978. The Commission has received no protests pursuant to this application; therefore,

Based on the foregoing, the Commission makes the following findings of fact:

1. The San Diego dispatch service operates on the San Diego UHF two-way mobile channel.
2. Regular two-way mobile subscribers also use the same channel.
3. Due to the conversion of VHF and UHF channels to an IMTS system authorized by this Commission, Pacific will be unable to offer both types of service on the UHF channel.
4. Subscriber demand for dispatch service is decreasing.
5. There are alternative services for the dispatch subscribers.
6. It is appropriate to discontinue dispatch services as described in Schedule Cal. P.U.C. 41-T, Sheets 11, 12 and 13, as of December 1, 1979, to allow the channel to be used solely for two-way mobile subscribers.
7. Applicant should be authorized to file the necessary corrected tariff revisions consistent with the above stated findings.

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8. Applicant should be directed to notify all San Diego dispatch subscribers in writing of the withdrawal of the service at least sixty days prior to the withdrawal.
9. A public hearing on this matter is not necessary; it is appropriate to grant the applicant's request ex parte.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted, as provided in the order that follows.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Pacific is authorized to file on or after the effective date of this order and in conformity with the provisions of General Order No. 96-A, a revised tariff schedule for mobile telephone service consistent with Finding No. 6 above.

2. At least sixty days prior to the withdrawal of the direct dispatch service, Pacific shall notify in writing all subscribers to the service of such authorized discontinuance. A copy of this notice shall be submitted to this Commission.

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

Dated at San Francisco, California, this 22nd day of MAY, 1979.

John E. Boyer
President

James L. Stapp

Robert D. Howell

Clare P. Quinn

James R. ...
Commissioners