

Decision No. 91775 MAY 6 1980

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of: YOSEMITE PARK AND CURRY CO.)
for authority to increase its)
per capita rates pursuant to)
Section 454 of the Public)
Utilities Code in connection)
with its intrastate passenger)
stage transportation service.)

Application No. 59241
(Filed October 26, 1979)

O P I N I O N

Yosemite Park and Curry Co., a corporation, operates concessions in Yosemite Park (Yosemite). It conducts passenger stage operations (PSC-109), transporting passengers, newspapers, and package express between Merced, Fresno, and Lee Vining, on the one hand, and Yosemite, on the other hand, and serves intermediate points. It also performs transportation service within Yosemite which is regulated by the National Park Service and performs Charter Party Operations under the authority of TCP-76-A.

Applicant seeks authority to increase its intrastate intercity passenger fares which are subject to the jurisdiction of the Commission. The following table sets forth the present and proposed through fares between the termini indicated and the amount and percent of the increase sought:

Between Yosemite National Park and	Fare Authorized By Decision No. 90291		Proposed Fares		Amount of Increase		% of Increase	
	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip	One Way	Round Trip
Merced	9.50	19.00	10.50	21.00	1.00	2.00	10.50%	10.50%
Fresno	11.90	23.80	13.00	26.00	1.10	2.20	9.24%	9.24%
Lee Vining	11.90	23.80	13.00	26.00	1.10	2.20	9.24%	9.24%

Applicant also proposes to increase the one-way and round-trip fares involving authorized intermediate points on each route by approximately ten percent. According to the application, the intermediate traffic accounts for a very small volume of the traffic handled. No increases are proposed in express rates. Express rates have not been increased since February 27, 1967.

Applicant's passenger fares were last increased by authority of Decision 90291 dated May 8, 1979 in Application 58582.

The application states that the applicant's business is seasonal in nature, and most of its revenues from intrastate intercity passenger transportation are received during the months of July, August, and September; a substantial portion of applicant's transportation business consists of group tours, which are arranged by travel agents several months in advance; applicant is currently preparing brochures for mailing to travel agents and others which will contain transportation fares for the summer of 1980, and applicant does not wish to raise its fares after such brochures are relied upon by the persons arranging group tours.

The following tabulation, summarized from data in the application, shows the earnings of the company and the separation to the Transportation Division and to the Intrastate Intercity Service for the twelve months ending May 27, 1979:

	Total Company	Total Transportation Division	Intrastate Intercity Service
Operating Revenues	\$34,078,982	\$1,496,000	\$495,049
Operating Expenses	30,740,747	1,380,546	570,142
Operating Income	3,338,235	115,454	-75,092
Other Income (Net)	761,776	-	-
Provision for Income Taxes	1,935,566	54,494	-34,441
Net Income	2,164,445	60,960	-39,652
Operating Ratio	93.8%	95.9%	108.0%

The following tabulation shows the applicant's estimates for the Intrastate Intercity operations for the 12 months ending May 28, 1980 at present fares and proposed fares.

Intrastate Intercity Operations

Item	12 Months Ending May 28, 1980	
	Present Rates	Proposed Rates
Operating Revenue	\$544,554	\$599,009
Operating Expenses	596,807	596,807
SS Operating Income	-52,253	2,202
Provision for Income Taxes	-25,658	1,039
Net Income	-26,595	1,163
Operating Ratio	104.9%	99.7%

The Commission staff has reviewed the workpapers supporting Exhibits C through F in the application and concluded that if the staff made an engineering economic study the conclusion would be the same i.e., that the passenger stage operations of the carrier will be conducted at a loss in the near future if the increase in fares requested in the application are not granted.

The tabulation below shows certain unit costs for the recorded twelve months ending May 27, 1979, as used by the carrier for the estimated year, and those that would have been used by staff if it had made a study:

Unit	Recorded Year	Estimated Year	
		Company	Staff
Fuel (excl. taxes) \$/gal.	.512	.720	.844
Driver Wages \$/hr.	7.44	8.07	8.63
Purchased Transportation ¢/Mile	70	80	85

In Decision 85665 dated April 13, 1976 in Application 56149, the Commission placed applicant on notice to immediately revise its accounting system to conform to the System of Accounts as prescribed by the Commission and to keep its records on a calendar year basis.

Applicant indicated to the Commission staff that it is now in conformity with this directive.

Notice of the filing of this application and the rates proposed therein was served on interested parties pursuant to this Commission's rules. The application was listed on the Commission's Daily Calendar on October 29, 1979. Additionally, the Commission's staff notified affected public transit operators and planning agencies of the filing of this application pursuant to California Public Utilities Code Section 730.3 and 730.5. No public or private protest to relief sought by the application has been received by the Commission.

F I N D I N G S

After consideration, the Commission finds that:

1. The requested fare increase would result in additional annual revenue of approximately \$54,455.

2. The proposed fare increase is justified. The proposed fares qualify for an exemption under the President's Guidelines for Wage and Price increases since they are necessary to ensure the continued viability of this transportation service.

3. A public hearing is not necessary.

The Commission concludes that the application should be granted.

O R D E R

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Yosemite Park and Curry Co. is authorized to establish the increased fares proposed in Application 59241. Tariff publications authorized to be made as a result of this order may be made effective not earlier than ten days after the effective date of this order on not less than ten days' notice to the Commission and to the public.

2. The authority shall expire unless exercised within ninety days after the effective date of this order.

3. In addition to the required posting and filing of tariffs, applicant shall give notice to the public by posting in its buses and terminals a printed explanation of its fares. Such notice shall be posted not less than ten days before the effective date of the fare changes and shall remain posted for a period of not less than thirty days.

Since the carrier is currently operating at a loss, the effective of this order is the date hereof.

Dated MAY 6 1980, at San Francisco, California.

John E. Bryan
President
Vernon L. Sturgeon
Michael D. Stovall
Charles T. ...
James W. ...
Commissioners