

ORIGINAL

Decision 93422 AUG 18 1981

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of SPRING CREST WATER AND POWER)
COMPANY, a corporation, to modify)
D.91739 and for authority to deny)
new service when the delivery sys-)
tem reaches its maximum capability,)
Riverside County.)

Application 60208
(Filed January 22, 1981)

ORDER MODIFYING DECISION 91739

Ordering Paragraph 1 in Decision (D.) 91739 dated May 6, 1980 in Case (C.) 10226, recites that:

- "1. Within sixty days after the effective date of this order, Spring Crest Water and Power Company (defendant) shall remove the obstruction at the one hundred and forty-seven-foot level from vertical Well No. 4 and report to the Commission the measured flow obtained after removal of the obstruction."

Ordering Paragraphs 2 and 3 recite:

- "2. If the output of vertical Well No. 4 exceeds twelve gpm after the removal of said obstruction, defendant shall perform such minor modifications and/or additions to its distribution system to serve Pressure Zones Nos. 1 and 2 with vertical Well No. 4 as the primary source of supply, and defendant is authorized to serve in its service area, without further authorization of this Commission, a total number of customers equal to the gpm output from vertical Well No. 4 divided by 0.30.

- "3. If the output of vertical Well No. 4 is twelve gpm or less after the removal of the obstruction, defendant shall perform such minor modifications and/or additions to its distribution system to serve its existing customers and up to the 24 additional customers listed in Exhibit 7 from vertical Well No. 4 and horizontal Wells Nos. 1 through 4."

By Application for Modification of D.91739, filed January 22, 1981, Spring Crest Water and Power Company (Spring Crest) alleges that upon full investigation of the well and the obstruction, it was advised by its contractor that the cost of drilling out the obstruction would exceed the cost of drilling a new well and that, because Well 4 does not have a steel casing for the entire depth of 222 feet, there would be no guarantee against future cave-ins. The contractor also advised Spring Crest that any further disturbance of the well would increase the likelihood of additional cave-ins. Because of these considerations, Spring Crest drilled a new well. It is fully steel-encased and has a new motor. The well was completed on August 10, 1980.

Spring Crest also alleges that it has authorized some improvements in the water supply controls which should give a warning of any future failure in this well in which event Spring Crest intends to use Well 4 and the horizontal wells as emergency sources. The new well was expected to be fully hooked up and operational early in February 1981, and Spring Crest expects the output of this new well to stabilize at approximately 40 gallons per minute (gpm).

In view of the changes outlined above, and the expected output of the new well, Spring Crest expects that it should be able to provide service for a total of 133 customers. Since it already provides service to 15 customers, Spring Crest contends the changes made enable it to provide service to as many as 118 new customers under the formula outlined in Ordering Paragraph 2 of D.91739.

Although the new water source will theoretically allow service to as many as 133 customers, according to Spring Crest's expectations, Spring Crest alleges that the delivery system as it exists at this time would very likely not be capable of serving that many customers. Spring Crest thus seeks an order allowing it the flexibility to stop new services when the delivery system reaches its maximum capability.

Notice of the filing of this application for modification appeared on the Commission's Daily Calendar of January 27, 1981. A copy of the application was also served on the parties of record in C.10226. No protests have been received.

On February 20, 1981 the assigned Administrative Law Judge wrote Spring Crest to request additional facts and data in order to better evaluate this application. The following additional information was supplied by Spring Crest:

1. The new well is within 100 feet of Well 4. It was completed in August 1980 and placed into service shortly after.
2. Spring Crest is definitely not supplying any water outside of its service area.
3. Spring Crest initially estimated the measured gpm output of the new well at approximately 13 gpm with more specific information to be forthcoming.

On May 13, 1981 correspondence was received from Spring Crest's engineering consultant advising that the new replacement well has been observed for some time and that it has appeared to stabilize at a measured rate of flow of 12 gpm. The replacement well was drilled to a depth of 280 feet and no water was encountered below 200 feet. The new well is pumping from a level of 190 feet with a static water level of 60 feet. This results in a specific yield of 0.092 gallons per foot of drawdown. The well is drilled into fractured granite bedrock where groundwater migrates through the cracks and crevices to the well. The consultant further advises that if the static water level drops due to climatic conditions, it is highly probable that the capacity of the well will be reduced.

After reviewing the application for modification and the additional engineering data received from Spring Crest's engineering consultant, we are of the opinion that Ordering Paragraphs 1, 2, and 3 of D.91739 should be modified to conform to the fact that Spring Crest has drilled a new well in lieu of removing the obstruction from Well 4, as ordered.

Findings of Fact

1. Spring Crest was ordered to remove the obstruction in its Well 4 by D.91739.
2. Spring Crest was advised by a contractor that drilling a new well was less expensive than removing the obstruction and would provide a more reliable water supply.
3. Spring Crest has drilled a new well which was placed in service in August 1980 producing 12 gallons per minute.
4. Spring Crest's engineering consultant has advised that if the static water level of the new well drops due to climatic conditions, it is highly probable that the capacity of the well will be reduced.
5. Spring Crest has requested authority to stop new services when the delivery system reaches its maximum capability.

Conclusion of Law

We find that public convenience and necessity require that modifications be made in D.91739, as set forth in the order which follows.

IT IS ORDERED that:

1. Ordering Paragraph 1 on page 10 of Decision (D.) 91739 is changed to read as follows:
 1. Within 60 days after the effective date of this order, Spring Crest Water and Power Company (defendant) shall remove the obstruction at the 147-foot level from vertical Well 4 and report to the Commission the measured flow obtained after removal of the obstruction. In lieu of removing such obstruction, defendant may drill a new well to replace vertical Well 4.

2. Ordering Paragraph 2 on page 11 of D.91739 is changed to read as follows:

2. If the output of vertical Well 4, after the removal of the obstruction or of any new well drilled to replace Well 4, exceeds 12 gallons per minute (gpm), defendant shall perform such minor modifications and/or additions to its distribution system to serve Pressure Zones 1 and 2 with vertical Well 4 or its replacement well as the primary source of supply, and defendant is authorized to serve in its service area, without further authorization of this Commission, a total number of customers equal to the gpm output from vertical Well 4 or its replacement well divided by 0.30.

3. Ordering Paragraph 3 of D.91739 on page 11 is changed to read as follows:

3. If the output of vertical Well 4, after the removal of the obstruction or of its replacement well, is 12 gpm or less, defendant shall perform such minor modifications and/or additions to its distribution system to serve its existing customers and up to the 24 additional customers listed in Exhibit 7 from vertical Well 4 or its replacement well and horizontal Wells 1 through 4. Defendant shall have the authority to deny new service if due to climatic conditions the delivery system reaches its maximum capacity before all 24 additional customers have been extended water service.

4. In all other respects D.91739 shall remain in full force and effect.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated AUG 18 1981, at San Francisco, California.

John E. Bayon President
Richard D. Powell
Lawrence J. ...
Walter ...
Prudence C. ... Commissioners