

ALJ/ks

Decision 93790 DEC - 1 1981

ORIGINAL

BEFORE THE PUBLIC UTILITIES COMMISSION OF THE STATE OF CALIFORNIA

In the Matter of the Application)
of THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND)
TELEGRAPH COMPANY, a corporation,)
for authority to increase certain)
intrastate rates and charges)
applicable to telephone services)
furnished within the State of)
California.)

Application 59849
(Filed August 1, 1980;
amended August 28, 1980
and October 14, 1980)

In the Matter of the Application of)
THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH)
COMPANY, a corporation, for authority)
to increase certain intrastate rates)
and charges applicable to telephone)
services furnished within the State)
of California.)

Application 59269
(Filed November 13, 1979;
amended November 15, 1979)

Re Advice Letter (PT&T) No. 13640)
to reprice certain telephone)
terminal equipment and Resolution)
No. T-10292 granting approval of)
said changes.)

Application 59858
(Filed August 19, 1980)

In the Matter of Advice Letter)
Filing No. 13641 of THE PACIFIC)
TELEPHONE AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY)
for authority to increase certain)
rates for key telephone service by)
\$30.1 million.)

Application 59888
(Filed August 19, 1980)

Investigation on the Commission's
own motion into the rates, tolls,
rules, charges, operations, costs,
separations, inter-company settle-
ments, contracts, service, and
facilities of THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY, a California
corporation; and of all the tele-
phone corporations listed in
Appendix A, attached hereto.

OII 63
(Filed December 18, 1979)

Investigation on the Commission's
own motion into the rates, tolls,
rules, charges, operations, costs,
separations, inter-company settle-
ments, contracts, service, and
facilities of THE PACIFIC TELEPHONE
AND TELEGRAPH COMPANY, a California
corporation; and of all the tele-
phone corporations listed
in Appendix A, attached hereto.

OII 81
(Filed August 19, 1980)

(See Decision 93367 for appearances.)

SECOND INTERIM OPINION AND ORDER

Interim Decision (D.) 93367 issued August 4, 1981 in these proceedings did not dispose of a tariff matter brought to the Commission's attention in a brief filed May 4, 1981 by Parts Locator, Inc. (Parts Locator), a substantial user of private line services provided by The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company (Pacific). Parts Locator seeks to have the Commission impose a rule change in Pacific's tariff to bring the billing practice for private line services in conformity with the billing practice for exchange and toll services.

The specific item which Parts Locator claims requires correction relates to Pacific's schedule Cal. PUC No. 36-T, Rule 9, H, 3 and 4. The rule as it now exists provides, with certain exceptions, that no billing shall be made for any services unless the charges for such services are made within three months. The exceptions, which involve collect credit card calls and third number charges, are appropriate according to Parts Locator because such calls may originate in service areas remote from Pacific's and which, therefore, require time to process and report to the billing company for inclusion on charges made to a customer.

This matter was first raised during the hearings on Pacific's Application (A.) 55492. At those hearings a staff witness recommended that private line tariffs be revised as proposed by Parts Locator. D.88232 in A.55492 did not dispose of the matter, however, and in the next rate proceeding of Pacific, A.59269, the matter was again brought up and was again not disposed of (D.91495 in A.59269). Parts Locator sought rehearing on the issue but in D.92014 dated July 2, 1980 the Commission stated it would defer questions on Pacific's billing practices such as those raised by Parts Locator until after the subsequent hearings in A.59269 which were then to be consolidated with Pacific's next Notice of Intent filing. This was done and A.59269 was consolidated with the current rate case, A.59849; the purpose of this decision is to act on Parts Locator's request.

Parts Locator claims records of the Commission disclose that backbilling continues unabated and, as testified to by the staff in A.55492, has been an irritant to the public, the Commission staff, and Pacific for many years, and that some of the backbilling amounts are quite large and create significant hardship on customers. Parts Locator's position is that imposition of the rule requested will benefit the customer, the Commission staff, and Pacific and will provide uniformity and reduce confusion.

At a prehearing conference held in these matters on August 25, 1981 the assigned administrative law judge brought the matter to the attention of the parties and indicated that he would recommend a supplemental order to the Commission granting Parts Locator's request provided there were no objections by the parties. In response, a letter was received from Pacific dated September 2, 1981 followed by a letter from Parts Locator dated September 11, 1981. It appears from these letters and representations of the parties at the prehearing conference that there is no reason to delay a decision on this matter.

We find that the request of Parts Locator to amend Pacific's tariffs is reasonable and should be granted and we conclude that Pacific should be ordered to amend its tariffs as shown in Appendix A.

A.59849 et al. ALJ/ks

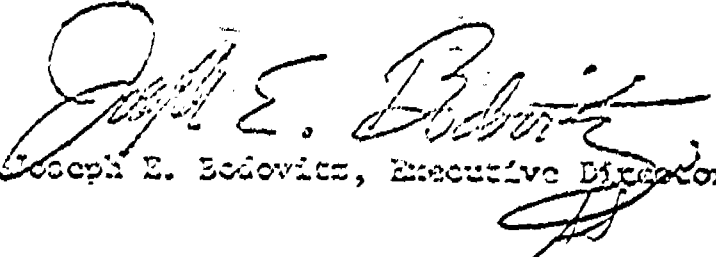
IT IS ORDERED that The Pacific Telephone and Telegraph Company shall amend its Cal. PUC No. 44-T tariff as shown in Appendix A attached to this decision.

This order becomes effective 30 days from today.

Dated DEC 1 1981, at San Francisco,
California.

JOHN E. BRYSON
President
RICHARD D. GRAVELLE
LEONARD M. CRIMES, JR.
VICTOR GALVO
PRISCILLA C. CREW
Commissioners

I CERTIFY THAT THIS DECISION
WAS APPROVED BY THE ABOVE
COMMISSIONERS TODAY.


Joseph E. Bodovitz, Executive Director

APPENDIX A

Schedule Cal. P.U.C. No. 44-T, Private Line Services and Channels, General Regulations, shall be modified by including the following rule:

Previously Unbilled Charges

A bill for private line service and channels shall not include any previously unbilled charge for service furnished prior to three months immediately preceding the date of the bill.