

Mr Summers

May

June 8, 1960

974.905

P984

MEMORANDUM TO: Honorable Robert B. Meyner

Governor of the State of New Jersey

SUBJECT:

Monthly Report of the Department of Public Utilities
for May, 1960.

OCT 4 - 1966

GENERAL

185 W. State Street
Trenton, N. J.

Staff conferences with the Board's Division directors and assistants were held on May 4, 6, 13 and 25, 1960. President Fusco presided at each meeting.

At such meetings the President discussed the contents of an audit report received from the office of the State Auditor under date of April 25, 1960 and directed that steps be taken to effectuate the recommendations contained in such report; set up procedure for a two-day oral argument in the Public Service Electric and Gas Company rate case; directed studies to be made of various pending legislative bills and proposals; and directed the Divisions to institute various measures of economy.

During the first five months of 1960 the Board issued 471 Decisions as against 365 for the corresponding period in 1959, or an increase of 29%. New filings for this period amounted to 432, as compared with 357 for the same period of 1959, or an increase of 21%. This increased work load was disposed of by the Board in 291 hearings, representing a 21% decrease from the similar period of 1959.

The revenue account for the first five months of 1960 records receipts of \$185,618.23 as against \$38,431.28 in the same period of 1959. This increase of \$147,186.95 reflects the Board's increased work load as well as the increase in fees and charges authorized by Chapter 43, Laws of 1959 (R.S. 48:2-56), which became effective on May 28, 1959.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

On May 2, 9, 16, 23 and 31, 1960, regular weekly staff conferences of the Division were held. General discussion was had concerning the status of delinquencies of utilities in filing Annual Reports; sales of buses over ten years of age; cases involving authorization to keep utility books and records outside the State of New Jersey; and the status of pending cases assigned to the Division.

During the month 17 requests from the public were received for examination of 186 filed Annual Reports. Staff members conducted 11 public formal hearings, and participated in 15 others.

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

Staff members of the Division acted as Hearing Examiners in 10 public formal hearings and participated in 14 other formal proceedings. At the regular weekly staff conferences the proposed regulations of the Board were extensively discussed and reviewed, and procedures for more efficient processing of docketed matters were planned.

After a contested hearing, a Certificate of Convenience and Necessity was granted to Rockland Electric Company authorizing the construction of a substation in a residential area of the Borough of Upper Saddle River.

The Service Inspection Section of this Division disposed of 39 informal complaints during the month of May, making a total of 428 informal matters disposed of since January 1, 1960.

DIVISION OF MOTOR CARRIERS

During the month of May, 15 formal petitions relating to auto-buses were received and referred to this Division, 13 for action of the Board and 2 for action of the Interstate Commerce Commission. A total of 18 informal complaints were received and put in process for disposition.

The larger bus companies continued to receive delivery of new buses from General Motors and another 150 out of an anticipated total of 375 were delivered to the utilities, these buses were inspected by this Division, and have been placed in service.

DIVISION OF RAILROADS

Ten new formal petitions were received during the month, in addition to 511 informal matters. The monthly staff conference was held on May 31, 1960 and preparations were made for a complete report on the Division's state-wide survey of railroad grade crossings. The director reported that at the elimination project at Port Reading work has so far progressed that the elevated highway and bridges are expected to be open to vehicular traffic during July. It was also noted that all the railroads in New Jersey have complied with the Board's Order requiring safety controls on locomotives.

During the month Decisions were issued permitting the Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad to discontinue 8 trains and denying discontinuance of others; permitting abandonment of the station building at Forest Hill but ordering continuance of train stops; and suspending proposed closing of railway express agency offices in two communities in Morris County.

DIVISION OF RATES & RESEARCH

Fifty-two new formal cases were filed and referred to this Division for preparation and disposition. Staff members conducted or participated in 15 formal public hearings and in 10 informal conferences.

Weekly staff meetings were held each Monday and all pending cases were discussed. Briefs having been received from all parties in the Public Service Electric and Gas rate case, the staff continued to prepare for the oral argument to be held before the Board on June 27 and 28.

DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

Members of the Division participated in 8 cases before the Board and acted as counsel in 16 cases before the Interstate Commerce Commission. Seventy-one Decisions and Orders of the Board were examined and approved before issuance and 17 legislative memoranda were prepared. Recommendations were submitted to the Board for amendments and supplements to the Board's Rules of Practice and Administrative Orders. Several Deputies participated in preliminary discussion and drafting of Senate 253 together with Highway Commissioner Dwight R. G. Palmer and members of his staff.

On May 24 the Appellate Division of the Superior Court confirmed Board's Decision in the Hackensack Water Company rate case.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph L. Fusco
President