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April 11, 1960

MEMORANDUM TO: Honorable Robert B. Meyner  
Governor of the State of New Jersey

SUBJECT: Monthly Report of the Department of Public Utilities  
for March, 1960

GENERAL

Monthly staff conferences with the Board's Division Chiefs and Assistants were held on March 17, and 21, 1960. President Fusco presided at both of these meetings. The Deputy Attorneys General assigned to the Board were requested to review the Proposed Revision of Title 48 and Mr. Jack Schwartz, the Executive Officer, was directed to collaborate with the various Division Chiefs in revising the Board's regulations. Members of the Motor Carrier Division were directed to study a newly developed electronic device for possible use in testing axles on motor buses.

The new Secretary to the Board, Edward F. Hamill, was introduced by the President at the March 21st meeting. Mr. Hamill was named to succeed Richard F. Green, Esquire, the former Secretary, now assigned to the Board as a Deputy Attorney General. Mr. Hamill assumed his new duties on March 21st.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

The regular staff conferences of the Division were held on March 1, 8, 14, 21 and 28. Procedures were reviewed for the preservation and destruction of records of private utilities; for billing and auditing and examination fees; and for studies of original cost of water and sewer facilities.

Ten (10) requests were received during the Month from the Public for examination of 215 filed Annual Reports.



## DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE (CONTINUED)

Members of this Division conducted 5 public formal hearings, attended 18 others and participated in 25 conferences concerning accounting and finance problems of proposed or existing utilities.

During the Month, Messrs. Harold Painter, John M. McKenna, Francis P. Gonch and Anthony J. Zarillo, were appointed as Hearing Examiners and afforded a two-day orientation program concerning their duties as such.

## DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

Members of the Division conducted 3 public hearings in formal cases and attended 16 other formal proceedings. At weekly staff conferences, cases assigned to this Division, were reviewed and on two occasions "mock" hearings were held for the benefit of newly designated Hearing Examiners.

Unusual public attention was given to one hearing conducted by this Division, involving a possible discontinuance of telephone service to two users, who had refused to relinquish a party line to a doctor making an emergency call. After hearing testimony and arguments, the Board took the matter under advisement.

## DIVISION OF MOTOR CARRIERS

During the Month of March, 17 new petitions were filed, requiring action as to the operation of autobuses; all of which have been investigated, reported on, and are awaiting hearing, 12 by this Board and 5 by the Interstate Commerce Commission.

Personnel of this Division collaborated with the Divisions of Rates and Research, Accounts and Finance, Engineering and Railroads, and disposed of a total of 30 informal complaints. In addition, members of the Division conducted or participated in 19 formal hearings before the Board and 1 hearing before the Interstate Commerce Commission.

## DIVISION OF RAILROADS

Following the Monthly Staff Conference on March 23, 1960, meetings were held on March 29, and 30, for the purpose of giving instructions to newly appointed Hearing Examiners concerning (a) discontinuance of trains; (b) protection of grade crossings; and (c) discontinuance of railway express service.



## DIVISION OF RAILROADS (CONTINUED)

An Order initiating proceedings for elimination of grade crossings at Lutz Road, Hamilton and Lawrence Townships, was issued on March 23rd, and a hearing is scheduled for May 9th, on this matter.

The Division is continuing its survey, including sketches, photographs and traffic tallies of all railroad-highway grade crossings in the State. Work on the Port Reading Elimination Project, begun in August, 1959, is progressing satisfactorily.

The Division participated in the preparation of petitions and briefs for presentation to the Interstate Commerce Commission on passenger fare cases.

Decisions and Orders permitting changes in schedules or discontinuances of passenger service were issued affecting the New York, Susquehanna and Western Railroad Company and the Erie Railroad Company; and an Examiner's Report and Recommendations was filed recommending changes in train service by The Delaware, Lackawanna and Western Railroad Company.

## DIVISION OF RATES AND RESEARCH

The usual weekly staff meetings were held and consultations were had with other Divisions, with particular regard to negotiated fare proceedings of Boro Busses Company; the Proposed Revision of the Board's Regulations; and the Public Service Electric and Gas Company rate case. In the latter case, after 97 sessions, hearings were concluded on March 30, 1960, and briefs will shortly be submitted. Three hearings were held during the Month, concerning an increase in bus fares by Public Service Coordinated Transport, and further hearings were scheduled for the Month of April.

The staff members participated in 11 hearings; a total of 42 docketed rate matters were closed during the Month.

## DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

The Deputy Attorneys General assigned to the Board examined and approved 41 Decisions and Orders, acted as counsel in 12 formal hearings before the Board, and prepared 7 Legislative Memoranda.

An intensified effort by all the Deputies has been directed to the legal aspects of the Proposed Revision of Title 48.



DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL (Continued)

Deputy Attorney General Forlenza, continuing as Secretary to the Legislative Commission on intrastate bus operation, participated in a formal executive meeting and an informal conference with the Chairman during this Month.

Studies were made concerning Senate Bill No. 135 which would extend the Board's jurisdiction over the operation of tank trucks, and of factual data supplementing the Board's petition before the Interstate Commerce Commission to direct operation of Susquehanna's trains into the Hoboken Terminal.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph L. Fusco,  
President.