

M. J. F. Summes

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February 10, 1960

MEMORANDUM TO:

SUBJECT:

*Noted 2/17/60
H. H. Thompson*

Honorable Robert B. Meyner
Governor of the State of New Jersey

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

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Conferences with the Board's Division Chiefs and their Assistants were held on January 22 and January 29. President Fuqua presided at both of these meetings. The January 22 conference was devoted to a review of the pending cases, with particular stress on procedures to be followed in matters involving the sale of lands. The various Division Chiefs were reminded of the need of coordinating their activities particularly in matters involving rates and the issuance of new securities.

The meeting of January 29, was primarily a round-table discussion on improving office techniques and the exchange of personnel among the various divisions.

Members of the Attorney General's staff assigned to the Board were instructed to review the proposed legislative amendments to the Transportation Act of 1958, and the suggested changes in taxes on telephone service and travel.

DIVISION OF ACCOUNTS AND FINANCE

Staff conferences of the division were held on January 14th, 19th and the 26th. The proposed revision of quarterly report forms and a uniform method of handling correspondence were the principal topics discussed in addition to a review of the current work load.

There were 4 public requests for examinations of 36 filed Annual Reports. Members of the staff conducted 9 hearings and attended 6 others and participated in 31 conferences with respect to accounting and finance problems of proposed or existing utilities.

During January this division was made responsible for billing utilities for the statutory fees associated with the filing of annual report forms. Invoicing, mailing and recording procedures were developed and adopted.

On January 25, Hugh F. Fullman, an Accountant of this division was transferred to the Division of Engineering.

DIVISION OF ENGINEERING

Among the topics discussed at the weekly staff conferences were the techniques to be used in sale of land and eminent domain proceedings.

Members of this division acted as hearing examiners in 12 formal matters and attended 19 other formal hearings.

During January, after an investigation by this division, a hearing was held on a petition of Transcontinental Gas Pipe Line Corp. for approval of an increase in operating pressure from 596 psig to 750 psig on the section of the transmission line which runs from Hopewell Township to Deptford Township. A further hearing in the matter has been scheduled by the Board on February 25th.

Messrs. Herbert S. Krugman, Senior Engineer, in the Rates and Research Division, and Hugh F. Fullman, Accountant, in the Accounts and Finance Division were transferred to this Division.

DIVISION OF MOTOR CARRIERS

During January investigators of this division received instructions concerning a new system for billing fees for the inspection of autobuses. The introduction of this new system will result in a considerable saving of time, money and man-hours. Under the new system, a multi-copy fee slip which serves as an invoice, is prepared by the investigator as an integral part of the preparation of his report upon completion of an inspection. The utility company copies of the invoice are issued to the company immediately after the completion of the inspection, thus eliminating billing delays and the need for the preparation of invoices by our Trenton office personnel.

DIVISION OF RAILROADS

During January the grade crossing inspectors reported that the clerical and photographic work required in conjunction with their field inspections was becoming so voluminous that it seriously interfered with the field inspection program. To alleviate this condition clerical personnel are being trained in the process of developing and printing photographs and interpreting field notes. When their training is completed the field work should progress more rapidly.

Work on the Port Reading grade crossing elimination project which was started in August of 1959, is still ahead of schedule, despite a slow down this month because of the need for replacing below standard concrete in the footings of several piers.

On January 25, 1960, the Board issued an order in connection with two incidents involving unattended railroad locomotives. The order directed the two railroads to effect certain changes and install certain safety devices by

April 1, 1960. Copies of the Board's decision were sent to all other railroads in the State, together with a letter requesting a reply by February 15th, stating whether they will voluntarily follow the terms of the order. The Board is of the opinion that compliance with its order will prevent unauthorized or accidental movement of equipment in the future.

Investigation of the fatal accident of December 27, 1959, at Cliffwood Road crossing, Cliffwood, New Jersey resulted in a recommendation that automatic gates and appurtenant devices be installed at this crossing. The Railroad Company was directed to file an answer by February 15, 1960.

DIVISION OF RATES AND RESEARCH

Weekly staff meetings were held each Monday for the purpose of reviewing the various cases assigned to the division.

Conferences were held with the Motor Carrier and Accounts and Finance divisions regarding the negotiated fare proceedings now pending on petitions filed by Boro Busses Co. and G. R. Wood, Inc. Various members of the division also consulted with other divisions of the Board with regard to the Public Service rate case and the revision of the Board's regulations.

Staff members conducted or participated in 14 formal and 8 informal hearings regarding general rate matters.

Herbert S. Krugman, Senior Engineer, was transferred from this division to the Engineering Division.

DEPUTY ATTORNEYS GENERAL

The Deputies assigned to the Board of Public Utility Commissioners continued to render legal service to the members of the Board and its staff.

Deputy Attorney General Felix G. Forlenta continued as Secretary of the Legislative Commission on Intrastate Bus Operations. Public hearings have been completed. One business meeting of the Commission was held on January 27, 1960.

Deputy Attorney General William Garai attended hearings, as an observer, before the New York Public Service Commission involving an investigation by that Commission of the New York, New Haven and Hartford Railroad Company's financial status in connection with a proposed increase in fares.

The Deputies participated in 28 matters before the Board and in two matters before the Interstate Commerce Commission. They also participated in prehearing conferences, and examined and approved 72 Decisions and Orders.

Respectfully submitted,

Ralph L. Fusco
President