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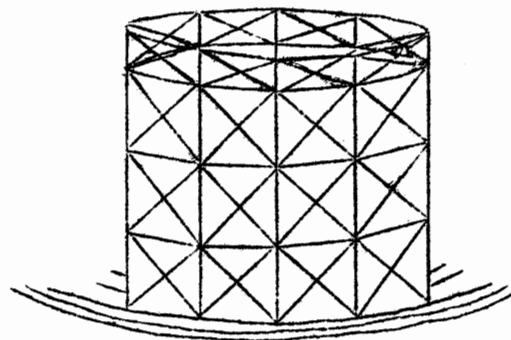
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# MONTHLY REPORT

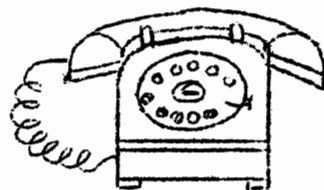
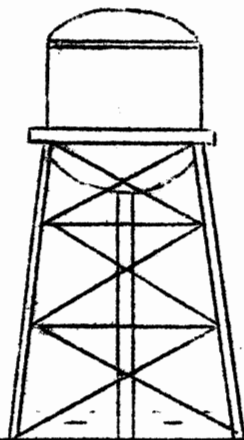
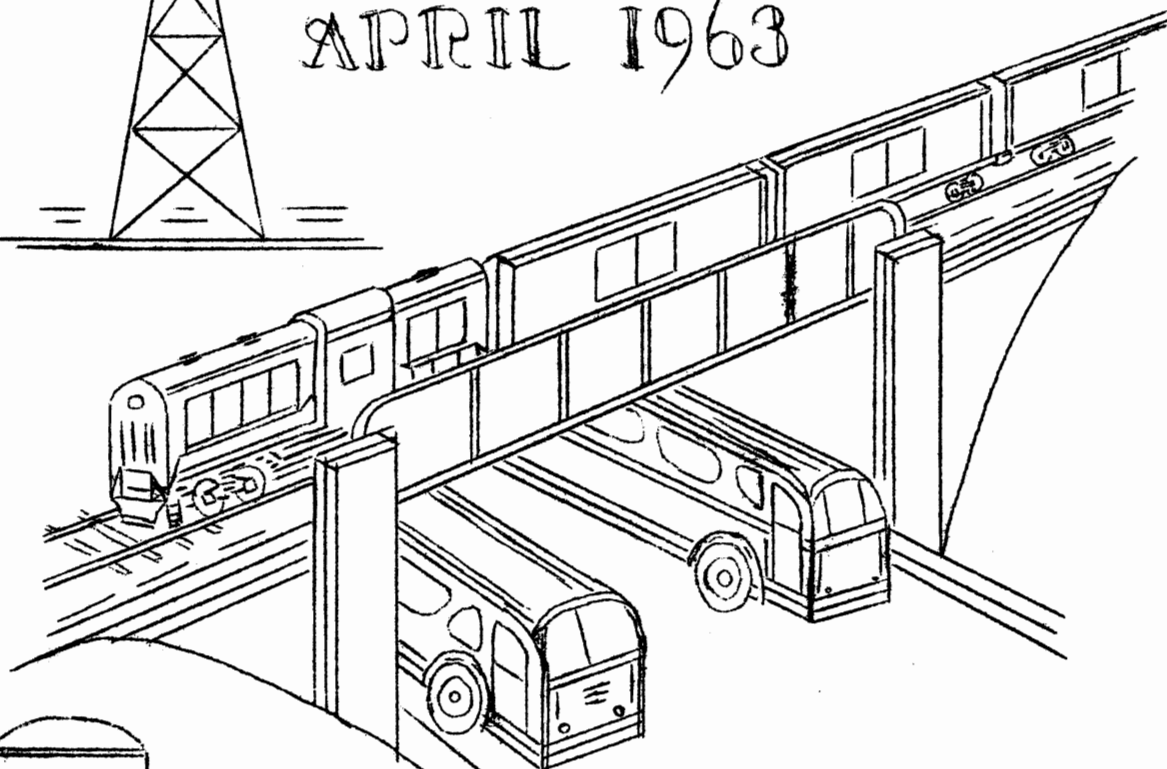
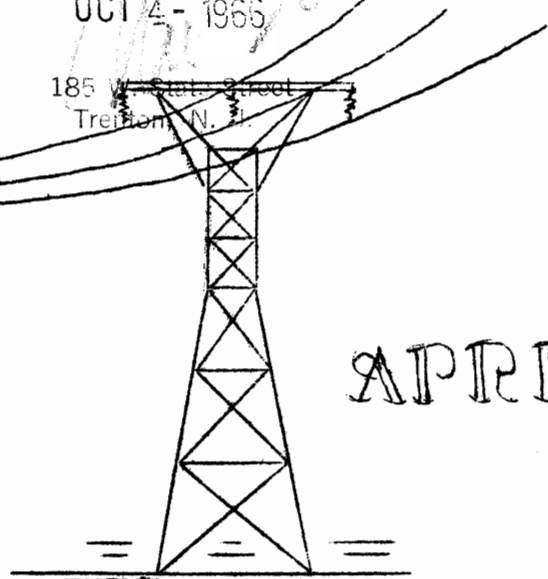
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## APRIL 1963



NEW JERSEY  
BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

REPORT TO GOVERNOR RICHARD J. HUGHES  
FOR THE MONTH OF APRIL 1963

GENERAL ACTIVITY

Decisions Issued	53
Petitions Filed	81
Formal Hearings	44
Informal Proceedings	3419

REVENUES

	<u>1962</u>	<u>1963</u>
Filing Fees and Other Services for April	\$ 92,795.43	\$101,930.09
Filing Fees and Other Services for July-April	251,346.53	229,816.53

PETITION TO DISCONTINUE RAILROAD SERVICE

The Susquehanna Railroad Company filed two petitions with the Board, the first for reduction of passenger service from three trains in each direction to one train in each direction, and the second for complete discontinuance of passenger service. Both cases will be heard on May 14th.

INVESTIGATION OF POSSIBLE GAS EXPLOSIONS CONTINUE

The Board has initiated formal investigations relative to a number of recent accidents which may have been caused by gas explosions. Hearings were held at which representatives from both Public Service Electric and Gas Company and Elizabethtown Consolidated Gas Company appeared and presented testimony relative to the various operations and procedures used by the companies for the construction, maintenance, inspection and testing of gas facilities and pipeline materials. These hearings will be continued during the month of May.

HEARINGS FOR PROPOSED MERGER CONTINUE

The Interstate Commerce Commission is conducting hearings in connection with the proposed merger of the Pennsylvania and New York Central Railroads. The Board was represented at several hearings in this case. At the Newark hearings considerable opposition was presented to the merger and a statement by the Governor, opposing the merger, was placed in the record. The Interstate Commerce Commission has set several dates for further hearing.

## GRADE CROSSING ELIMINATION PROGRAM

## PASSAIC

All Erie Main Line trains began operation over the new connection between the Main Line and the Boonton Branch on April 1st. The City of Passaic was given permission to remove portions of the former Main Line track through the center of the City and to establish space for parking. No further action has been taken by the Board regarding the removal of the unused facilities.

## LUTZ ROAD, HAMILTON TOWNSHIPS

The Contractor is now completing the project and a new finish surface is to be placed on the entire roadway in order to repair and improve the paving which was placed during extremely cold weather and was not entirely satisfactory. The Contractor is conforming the gravel shoulders to the new pavement surface.

## GARWOOD

The Sub-base for the paving of the underpass has been placed and it is expected that the finished pavement will be ready for traffic about the middle of May. The Railroad Company is placing the tracks in good condition over the new bridge and is completing the signal system.

## EDGEWATER

The River Road bridge was opened to traffic on April 19th. Work by the County on the approaches is about completed and the entire project should be completed during the first part of May.

## PROPOSAL TO CURTAIL SERVICE AT ELBERON, LITTLE SILVER AND RED BANK

The NY & LB Railroad Company appealed the Board's Decision to the Superior Court of New Jersey, Appellate Division, and the Court remanded the matter to the Board for action by April 15th; which date has been extended to June 1st. The Railroad Company, however, has filed a petition for reconsideration. The Petitioner's brief on reconsideration was received April 26th and answering briefs are due May 8th. Upon receipt of answer the matter will be placed on the calendar for hearing.

## RECONSTRUCT BRIDGE IN MATAWAN

The Board's Order of November 29th, 1962, directed the Central Railroad of New Jersey to reconstruct the Atlantic Avenue bridge over the Freehold Branch of the railroad in Matawan. Detail plans and construction documents were received on March 18th and were checked. Bids were opened on April 26th, 1963, for reconstruct\*

tion of this bridge. The low bidder was the Mohawk Constructors, Inc., in the amount of \$96,597.50. This Contractor has recently completed work at Edgewater and Passaic and is expected to start the new bridge during May.

#### BOROUGH OF OCEANPORT WITHDRAWS APPLICATION

On December 20th the Board issued an Order approving establishment of a public crossing at grade on the alignment of Bridgewater Drive and the tracks of the New York and Long Branch Railroad in Oceanport and directed the Railroad Company to install single-arm automatic gates and appurtenant devices at the crossing.

Subsequently, a petition was received from the Borough of Oceanport requesting relocation of the Bridgewater Drive crossing. Hearing on the requested relocation of the grade crossing was held on April 5th. The Borough of Oceanport has now notified the Board that because it might become liable for excessive costs in connection with the relocation of the crossing it wishes to withdraw its application. The Board has an Order of Dismissal in preparation. The plans and estimate submitted by the Railroad Company for protection of the crossing at its original location are under review by the Board's Division of Railroads.

#### BOARD REQUESTS ICC TO HOLD FORMAL HEARING

The Pennsylvania Railroad Company and Pennel Company submitted to the Board a copy of their application to the Interstate Commerce Commission for approval of abandonment of a line of railroad 7.698 miles in length between Farmingdale and Sea Girt. The Board has requested the Interstate Commerce Commission to hold a formal hearing on this application so that it may make representations on behalf of the State of New Jersey and of its citizens.

#### COMPANY AGREES TO CONTINUE WATER SERVICE

On April 3, 1963, Longport Manor, Inc., a water company subject to the jurisdiction of this Board, filed a petition for authority to discontinue water service to approximately 40 homes in Egg Harbor Township, New Jersey. This relief was sought by the water company on the grounds that (1) it is not a public utility in that it is operating without a valid formal consent of the municipality, (2) it is not charging rates for the water service and (3) it is unable and unwilling to continue service under present circumstances.

#### INVESTIGATE FOR NEED AND LOCATION OF UTILITY FACILITIES

Hearings were also held relative to petitions filed by Southern Gulf Sewerage Company and Freehold Water and Utility Company for authority to construct certain utility structures pursuant to N.J.S.A. 40:55-50 and 40:55.1.19 respectively. Southern Gulf proposes to construct a sewerage treatment plant in the Township of East Windsor but has been unable to obtain the necessary permit from the municipality. Freehold Water & Utility Company, on the other hand, was denied a minor sub-division of a tract of land in Freehold Township for the erection of a 250,000 gallon standpipe which the Board had previously determined was necessary for the service and convenience of the public. Decisions relative to these matters are presently under preparation.

#### PETITION TO CURTAIL SUNDAY BUS SERVICE

Public Service Coordinated Transport filed its intentions to curtail Sunday service on a large number of its routes. After a review by the Board, on its own motion these proposed discontinuances were suspended pending hearing and determination. All these proposed discontinuances have been docketed and set for hearing.

#### PSCT PURCHASES FRANCHISE FROM ROYAL BLUE COACHES

On April 30, the Internal Revenue Service held an auction for the purpose of selling the interstate operating authority granted to Royal Blue Coaches, Inc., by the Interstate Commerce Commission. A representative of the Board who was assigned as an observer to be present at this sale, reported that Public Service Coordinated Transport purchased the aforesaid certificates of convenience and necessity for \$370,000.

#### COMPANY ISSUES STOCK DIVIDEND

The Board in its Decision dated April 15, 1963, authorized the South Jersey Gas Company to issue 62,000 shares of its \$2.50 per value stock, representing one share of stock for each 20 shares issued and outstanding as a 5% stock dividend to its stockholders.

The closing price of stock on the New York Stock Exchange on April 25, 1963, the record date of the stock dividend, was \$37.50 per share. This would result in a charge to Earned Surplus of \$2,325,000 for earnings invested in plant additions and betterments. The stock dividend is payable on May 10, 1963.

Anticipating that the 1963 construction program will total nearly \$3,800,000, the Board of Directors of the Company decided to declare a stock dividend rather than a cash dividend since they felt that they will be required to secure outside funds from time to time for the construction purposes, and that the stock dividend would improve the stature of the stock in the market and thus be a definite advantage in future financing. They also indicated that the stock dividend would have the effect of giving stockholders tangible evidence of their ownership in the corporate earnings and also that the stock dividend is more flexible than a cash dividend from the viewpoint of income tax consequences to a stockholder.

#### BOARD APPROVES CONDITIONAL SALES CONTRACT

The Board in its Decisions dated April 17, 1963, approved the execution and delivery of conditional sale contracts by the Hohorst, Inc. and Hermine Bus Co. to General Motors Corporation without hearing.

Under the recent provisions of R.S. 48:3-9, the Board may approve an issuance of stock, bonds, notes or other evidence of indebtedness payable more than 12 months after the date of the original instrument, with or without hearing, at its discretion when satisfied that such issue is to be made in accordance with law.

## ACTIVITIES OF THE COMMISSIONERS

On April 2nd, Commissioner Otis and Commissioner Powers represented President Hyland at the Erie-Lackawanna Railroad Paterson-Passaic Grade Crossing Elimination Dedication Program.

On April 17th, President Hyland and Commissioner Powers attended the Dedication Ceremonies of Public Service Electric and Gas Company's new generating station at Sewaren.

On April 19th, Commissioner Otis represented the Board at the Dedication Ceremonies of the River Road Bridge in Edgewater.

On April 30th, President Hyland attended the Savings Bond Luncheon at the Trenton Country Club.

On April 30th, President Hyland attended the regular monthly Cabinet Meeting in the Governor's office.

On April 30th, President Hyland, Commissioner Powers and Commissioner Otis met with Mr. John Logan, Vice President of the Jersey Central Power & Light Company, in Trenton, to discuss the erection of a plant to be built by the summer of 1969.