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DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC UTILITIES

BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS 101 COMMERCE STREET NEWARK 2

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Honorable Richard J. Hughes, Governor

FROM:

TO:

Board of Public Utility Commissioners

SUBJECT: Monthly Report - June, 1964

I am pleased to submit the Board's monthly report which is here summarized.

While the PSCT rate case hearings continue, independent bus operators have simultaneously petitioned for like relief on which some public hearings have been held and others are scheduled.

Water franchise area extensions were granted to Gordon's Corner Water Company and the Freehold Water & Utility Company, and a sewerage franchise area extension to Wynnewood Sewerage Utility Company, all in Monmouth County.

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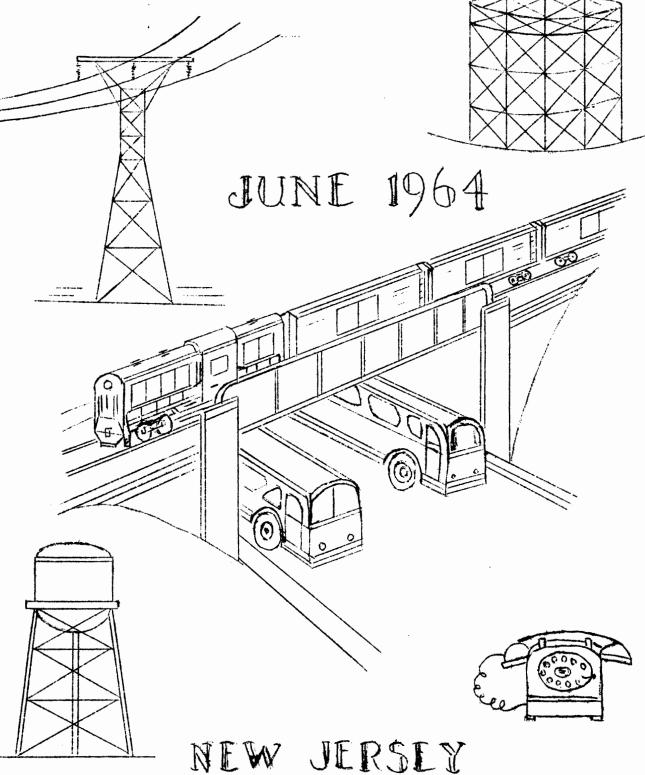
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William F. Hyland
President

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BOARD OF PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSIONERS

REPORT TO GOVERNOR RICHARD J. HUGHES

FOR THE MONTH OF JUNE, 1964

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Decisions Issued 35
Petitions Filed 92
Formal Hearings 75
Informal Proceedings 2,229

REVENUES

Filing Food and Other Courses of	<u>1963</u>	<u> 1964</u>
Filing Fees and Other Sources of the Month of June.	\$14,540.48	\$20,046.44
Filing Fees and Other Sources of the Months of July - June.	\$276,886 . 54	\$330,552.98

PSCT AND RELATED RATE CASES

The President of the Board presided at seven hearings on the petition by PSCT for increased fares and the introduction of transfer and exchange privileges. Cross-examination of the company's witnesses has been completed. At the next hearings scheduled for early July, rate counsel will present its direct case.

Concurrently, rates and research staff members are analyzing petitions and conducting hearings on requests by independent bus operators in the Essex County area for the same fare structure, transfer and exchange privileges as that sought by PSCT.

NEW BUS OPERATIONS

Following consents by Clifton, Passaic, West Paterson, Rutherford, Bloomfield, and Nutley, and this Board's approval, Passaic Athenia Bus Co., Inc. will use 20 buses to transport counsellors and children to the Passaic Y.M.H.A. Day Camp in West Paterson during the summer months.

Public Service Coordinated Transport received approval from the City of Camden and the Board to run an industrial tripper bus route in Camden for employees from the R.C.A. plant to the Walt Whitman Hotel for luncheon service. Previously, the employees had to walk some 8 city blocks or use 2 buses to reach the hotel.

WATER - SEWERAGE MATTERS

UTILITIES FORMED

The West Windsor Water Company and the West Windsor Sewerage Company, newly formed utilities with franchise rights granted by West Windsor Township, Mercer County, received Board approval to render water and sewerage service in a portion of the township known as Edinburg Park. An estimated 700 customers will be accommodated by 1970.

SERVICE EXTENDED

The Board approved a franchise area extension by Manalapan Township, Monmouth County, to the <u>Gordon's Corner Water Company</u> to serve 275 homes, in addition to 250 already served.

Freehold Water & Utility Company, serving 230 customers and a large shopping center in Freehold Township, Monmouth County, was permitted by the Board after municipal consent by Manalapan Township, to set up a separate water system about 1 mile away in the latter

township. Initially, 130 homes will be served from a distribution system in the Windswept Knoll development.

Freehold Township granted, with Board approval, the extension of a franchise area by Wynnewood Sewerage Utility Company for sewerage service in one tract to two shopping centers, service stores, an automobile agency, commercial establishments, and about 50 existing homes, and in a second tract to approximately 135 homes, a furniture store, an office building, and space for additional stores.

JURISDICTION - YES AND NO

UTILITY MERGER- NO

A customer of Bernards Water Company who recently acted as rate counsel in a rate increase case of the company petitioned the Board to order the merger of Bernards Water Company with Commonwealth Water Company. He alleged, among other considerations that the present separation of the two companies' operations discriminated against Bernards' customers who are now charged higher water rates than are the customers of Commonwealth. Both companies are subsidiaries of American Water Works Company, Inc. and service areas that are in close proximity to each other in Morris and Somerset Counties. Finding no authority in the law for such action, the Board granted a motion by the respondent water companies to dismiss the petition.

FRANCHISE REVOCATION - YES

In 1956, the Township of Randolph, Morris County, granted a municipal consent to Randolph Water Company to serve water in certain areas of the township which was approved by the Board in formal proceedings. In 1960 and 1961, however, as to a portion of the area the Township by resolutions revoked the 1956 consent where no installations

had been made or service rendered and petitioned the Board to approve the partial revocation. The water company moved to dismiss the petition on the ground that the Board had no jurisdiction to approve a revocation of a franchise granted to a utility. Relying on Board of Public Utility Com'rs v. Sheldon, 95 N.J. Eq. 408 (1924), in which the court held that what the Board can give (approval of municipal consents) it can take away, the Board denied the company's motion. A public hearing is set for July 6 to determine whether, on the merits, the Board's approval of the 1956 consent should be revoked.

GRADE CROSSING RELOCATED FOR N.J.-DELAWARE FERRY

Board authorization was given for the relocation and improvement of a grade crossing in Lower Township, Cape May County, in connection with the construction of an approach road from Highway U.S. Route #9 to the New Jersey Terminus of the Cape May-Lewes Ferry of the Delaware River and Bay Authority. The crossing will be widened from 23 to 40 feet, relocated some 56 feet south of its present location, and existing protective devices—automatic flashing lights and bell—will be shifted to the new site.

UTILITIES DIRECTED TO IMPROVE PRACTICES

BERKELEY SANITATION COMPANY

On complaint of a shopping center in Berkeley Township,
Ocean County, the Board found after public hearing that a \$5,000
service connection charge was not the customer's responsibility
under board regulations, that a tariff given to the customer by the
utility differed from the tariff officially filed with the Board, and
that the conduct of the utility officials was below the standards
expected by the Board of management. Consequently, the utility was

ordered to correct its billing and cease violating Board's rules, regulations and its statutory duties.

BLACKWOOD WATER COMPANY

Acting on customer complaints to the State Department of Health generally about inadequate service, the Board issued an order to the company to show cause why the complaints should not be remedied. After public hearing, the Board made findings and directed the company to construct a well, a standpipe, and new and reinforcing mains; to restrict non-essential use of water by customers; to submit bi-weekly progress reports; and to apply to the State Department of Health and the Department of Conservation and Economic Development (Division of Water Policy and Supply) for approval of plans for the well and standpipe and for approval of water diversion rights.