

LOUISIANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION

GENERAL ORDER

In re: Definition of Territory of Water and Gas Utilities

At a session of the Louisiana Public Service Commission held at its office in Baton Rouge on December 15, 1953, the matter of the invasion of each others territory by Gas and Water Public Utilities was considered.

As a result, it appears necessary and desirable for this Commission to adopt an order pertaining to the invasion of territory by a gas or water public utility of another like public utility already serving or making available the same commodity in a satisfactory manner.

For the purpose of this order the "territory" of a gas or water utility shall be determined by the existence of mains, or by areas that are readily accessible by extensions thereof that are economically feasible, and will not necessarily be confined strictly to customers already receiving service.

It is the opinion of this Commission that in order to effect economies in the service of gas and water and thus keep rates therefor within reasonable bounds, the paralleling of mains, or the extension of mains to serve customers readily accessible by a public utility already providing service in the immediate area is not in the public interest, and such practices frequently lead to unwise expenditures and investments which ultimately become a burden upon the ratepayers. It is accordingly

ORDERED

That no extension of mains shall be made by a Water or Gas Public Utility that will duplicate the service of another like utility serving the same commodity, nor shall extensions be made to serve customers that could be served by a Public Utility already in existence in an economic and justifiable manner. In cases where it may be economically feasible for more than one utility company to serve a given customer or area, service shall be rendered by that company which can do so with the shortest, or least expensive extension. If a Public Utility, for a good cause, refuses to serve a prospective customer within its defined territory, another like utility may serve the said customer upon proper written authority of this Commission. And it is further

ORDERED

That if economies can be effected in the construction of so-called "feeder" mains by a utility company through the territory already being served by another public utility, such construction shall not be regarded as an "invasion" so long as no such feeder mains are tapped for service in the said territory. In the event that a tap from the said feeder main is necessary, or desirable, it shall be made only upon separate and specific written authority of this Commission.

BY ORDER OF THE COMMISSION  
BATON ROUGE, LOUISIANA  
JANUARY 18, 1954

(SIGNED) HARVEY BROYLES  
CHAIRMAN

(SIGNED) WADE O. MARTIN  
COMMISSIONER

(SIGNED) NAT B. KNIGHT, JR.  
COMMISSIONER

(SIGNED) C. W. COLEMAN  
SECRETARY

*See 6/1/95 Gen. Order*