

and regulations in effect July 31, 1919. On August 8, 1919, the Company re-filed the Postmaster General's rates and the Commission granted leave effective August 1, 1919.

Second Rate Case

On January 21, 1922, the Department of Public Works (a predecessor of this Commission and hereinafter "Commission") filed a formal complaint challenging the reasonableness of the rates, rules, regulations and contracts of PT&T and HT&T-Spokane. On September 20, 1922, both companies filed rate schedules~~s~~ proposing revised increased rates applicable to all exchanges of those companies in Washington. The Commission then ordered the companies to file a toll rate schedule conforming in principle with the toll rate schedule that preceded the Postmaster General rates. On October 5, 1922, the companies filed the toll rate schedule as directed, and filed a withdrawal and cancellation of their proposed exchange rate schedules, except as to the cities of Seattle, Spokane and Tacoma.

In its findings of Fact, Opinion and Order March 31, 1923 the Commission estimated rate of return for the year 1923 was 6.01% under the then present rates and that the proposed rates would yield a rate of return of 11.23%. The Commission found the existing rates were just, fair reasonable and sufficient and that the proposed increased rates, both toll and exchange, were unjust, unfair, unreasonable, and more than sufficient. The Commission also found that no reduction in rates was justified and no reparation of rates was supported. The Commission ordered that the existing rates remain in effect.³⁹

³⁹ Findings of Fact, Order and Opinion issued March 31, 1923 in Department of Public Works Docket No. 4902-5344, reported in the Third Annual Report of the Department of Public Works of Washington Division of Transportation and Public Utilities to the Governor.