

Dallas details local crisis plan

Dallas school officials this week announced additional details of local plans in the event the gas crisis continues.

Dallas School District has announced plans at a school board meeting last week for opening district

schools and maintaining the instructional program during such future emergencies.

The plan assumes local control of decisions on school operation.

The Dallas Senior High School and Trucksville Elementary School, heated

by natural gas, would be closed. Students in both schools will be reassigned and transported to other schools in the district.

Senior high school students would be housed in the junior high school building. Trucksville Elementary School

students would be assigned to the Westmoreland and the Dallas Township Elementary buildings according to the following plan.

School Lunches-- Cafeteria school lunches will be provided for all elementary school students. Junior and senior high school students will not be provided school lunches since they are on a half (1/2) day school schedule.

Elementary Program: The Trucksville Elementary School is the only gas heated school at the elementary level. In the event that the gas crisis continues the following plan will be followed.

First day of school--All pupils report to the Trucksville School by their regular means of transportation at 9:15 a.m. Buses will be available to transport kindergarten, first and second grade students to the Westmoreland building and the third and fourth grade students to the Dallas Township building.

Transportation arrangements--After the first day, all bus students will be transported by their regular bus routes directly to the Westmoreland and Dallas Township Schools. All students who normally walk to the Trucksville Elementary School should report to the Trucksville Elementary School by 9 a.m. Buses will be provided to transport the students to both the Westmoreland and Dallas Township Elementary Schools to the Trucksville Elementary School at 3:30 p.m.

Dismissal time: Trucksville bus students will return home on their regular buses. Trucksville walkers will be transported from the Westmoreland and Dallas Township Elementary Schools to the Trucksville Elementary School at 3:30 p.m.

Secondary Program; Senior High School students will attend a morning session from 8 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. They will be picked up according to their regular bus times and transported to the junior high school to begin school at 8 a.m. All classes will meet on an abbreviated schedule with students dismissed at 12:30 p.m. for bus service home. Junior high school students will attend an afternoon session from 12:30 p.m. to 4:40 p.m. Bus schedules for transporting junior high school students will begin at 11:15 a.m. and continue along the normal routes. All classes will meet on an abbreviated schedule with students dismissed at 4:30 p.m. for bus service home. Kindergarten classes will operate on the regular schedule.

Dallas School District students who attend Bishop O'Reilly; West Side Technical School; St. John's; Westmoor Church of Christ and Wyoming Seminary will continue to be transported according to their normal schedules.



WORK MUST GO ON--The temperature was in the low 60's but secretaries in the Dallas School District continued

working. Seated are Phyllis Sappe and Anne Morgan, at the phone is Betty Gensel and standing far right is Jan Brace (Photo by Cheryl Casner Gula)

Says 'gas shortage is true crisis'

Gas industry spokesman issues energy saving tips

The president of the Pennsylvania Gas Association said today that "strict energy reduction--both in homes and industry--will be necessary to minimize the impact of the drain on natural gas supplies caused by the unprecedented cold spell."

"We are beyond the point of mere conservation. We must substantially reduce the amount of gas used--even to the point where we must involve some minor discomfort," Richard Bunn, a UGI vice president, said at a meeting here of the North Branch Manufacturers Association. Bunn heads the association which represents the state's 37 gas utilities and allied indus-

tries.

Bunn called upon gas customers to set their home thermostats as far below normal as possible "to assure that gas supplies will carry us through the heating season." Bunn noted that Governor Shapp has ordered all state facilities to setback thermostats to 62 degrees and has urged citizens to take similar measures.

Bunn said one of the reasons energy reduction was critical was because the volumes of gas stored underground have been severely depleted. "We have been using March and April gas in January," he explained.

"Customers will have to weigh the discomfort of

lower home temperatures against the reality that thousands of wage earners are now unemployed and will continue to be unemployed unless more gas is available," Bunn said.

Bunn pointed out that the initial impact of the present gas shortage was due to some degree to deliverability but has since broadened into a wide-spread shortage of existing supplies and storage.

"The present gas shortage is a true crisis," he said. "But we should not forget that curtailments and resultant unemployment can become a chronic situation which we may face year after year."

Bunn said that up until now, the response "by our political leaders has been far too casual. I can only hope that this crisis will begin to get action by Congress and President Carter in facing up to the realities of energy supply--and most specifically, natural gas."

He said the long-term supply of gas will depend on the permanent removal of price controls on new gas at the wellhead to provide the economic incentive to increase the drilling of exploratory wells.

"It is not just the gas industry urging deregulation of new gas," Bunn said. "Virtually every responsible energy expert and most of the major newspapers in the nation have recognized the urgent need for deregulation."

Beside day and night setbacks of thermostats, Bunn reviewed other immediate measures that home and commercial customers can take to reduce the amount of gas used:

- Use as little hot water as possible and reduce its temperature.
- Use the gas dryer only for full loads and do not overdry clothes.
- Don't pre-heat ovens unnecessarily and maintain griddles, in the case of restaurants, at low or medium settings.
- Cook with covered pans and use pressure cookers whenever possible.

UGI fears space heater overload

UGI Corp. today warned that the sudden localized use of a large number of portable electric space heaters by customers who do not normally use them could cause problems for household wiring and neighborhood power outages.

UGI Corporation vice president Robert L. Casselberry said, "Use of portable electric heaters by residents concerned about shortages of natural gas may bring about a high demand for electricity."

"During this period of extremely cold weather, we have not had any problems meeting our customers' needs and no one was without electric service because of the very heavy loads," he said.

"However, we are concerned that if a worsening of the natural gas supply continues, gas heating customers who turn thermostats down to 60 degrees may use supplemental electric heaters. If this happens in an entire neighborhood, it could cause overloads on neighborhood distribution facilities," he added.

In order to prevent the possibility of localized electric problems, UGI is requesting customers to cooperate in the following ways:

- First, if an electric heater must be used, don't operate other major electrical appliances, such as ranges, ovens, and clothes dryers.
- Second, don't use electric ranges and ovens for space heating purposes. They require 4-to-5 times more electricity to operate than

a space heater and are less effective.

Third, do not overload receptacle circuits which are rated at 15 amps in most homes. One receptacle circuit protected by a 15 amp device can safely handle one 120-volt heater at a rating of 1440 watts. This means that when the heater is in use, nothing else should be plugged into this receptacle circuit.

Fourth, call a qualified

electrician at the first sign of trouble with fuses, circuit breakers, or wiring.

The UGI executive also cautioned that the use of space heaters in homes with inadequate electric wiring could present a fire hazard.

"The first indication of trouble would be that circuit breakers would trip or fuses would blow," Casselberry explained. "If this occurs, the homeowner should unplug the heater and a qualified electrical contractor should be called to inspect the house wiring before the heater is used again."

"We caution everyone against installing larger fuses or circuit breakers to bypass any electrical problem. This could cause a fire," he warned.

"If our customers adhere to these practices and exercise good common sense in operating electric space heaters, I'm confident there will be no serious electric distribution problems this winter," Casselberry said.

F-N Ambulance

Franklin-Northmoreland Townships Community Ambulance responded to six calls during the two weeks period ended Monday. The log as announced by Nelson (N.J.) Dymond of Orange, president of the ambulance association, follows:

Jan. 12, 9:20 p.m., Anthony Gilbert, RD 2, Tunkhannock, removed from home to Wilkes-Barre General Hospital.

Ambulance attendants--Robert Phillips, Harold Hoover, N.J. Dymond; Jan. 15, 7 p.m., responded to a call at the home of Mrs. Donna Rogers. Attendants were Robert Phillips, Harry Yatsko, Tim Rought; Jan. 23, noon to 2:30 p.m., first aid standby station at bike races at Carverton Dirt Cycle. Attendants were Harry Yatsko, Ron Coolbaugh, Art Coolbaugh, Clinton Kytte, Tim Rought, N.J. Dymond.

Jan. 27, 2:45 p.m., responded to automobile accident at Dorrance Corners, Orange, involving Erin Verashunas, Martha Dwilefsky of Kingston, and Mary Alice Pemberton, RD 1, Falls, to Nesbitt Hospital, Kingston. Attendants--Ron Coolbaugh, Ricky Farr; Jan. 28, 9:20 a.m., John J.

UGI raises local rates

UGI Corp. this week began applying a \$250,000 annual electric rate increase to all of its customers in Luzerne and Wyoming counties except those residential customers using less than 200 kilowatt-hours per month.

The higher rates represent the second step of a two-part, \$2.2 million increase filed with the Commission Jan. 23, 1976. The Commission allowed the first step amounting to \$1.2 million annually to go into effect Aug. 26, 1976.

The present increase was allowed by the Public Utility Commission following a 13-month investigation and with the provision that the first 200 kilowatt-hours of monthly use by all residential customers be exempted from the increase.

As a result of this exemption requirement, the bills of approximately 25 percent of the residential customers whose monthly use of electricity falls below the 200 kilowatt-hour level will not be increased. As a result of this provision, the charge for the first 200 kilowatt-hours of residential consumption

has not been increased since February, 1975.

All other customers, including large residential, commercial and industrial users, will receive an increase of approximately 1.5 percent under the new rates. This increase is equivalent to one percent of total company revenues.

During the investigation the company submitted an amended request reducing the \$1 million increase to \$630,000. However, on Jan. 27 the Commission granted only \$250,000.

UGI Corp declares dividends

Directors of UGI Corp. today declared the regular quarterly dividend of 35 cents a share on the common stock of the company, payable March 31, 1977 to shareholders of record Feb. 28, 1977.

UGI's board also declared the quarterly dividend of 68 3/4 cents a share on the preferred stock of the company, \$2.75 series, payable April 1, 1977, to shareholders of record Feb. 28, 1977.

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