

Michigan an importer

Energy adequate—if price is right

By Penny Wright
special writer

Nearly 85 percent of Michigan's energy comes from outside the state. Because of that, the nagging question exists: Will there be enough for us?

Some answers are available. The outlook is mixed. Researchers predict adequate energy supplies for the state over the next 20 years if appropriate energy conservation measures are taken.

The trend toward higher prices will continue, with energy prices rising faster than general inflation.

MICHIGAN'S ENERGY supplies are adequate for projected needs, although some resources may be in short supply, according to a report called the Michigan Energy Future Project.

That project was the joint effort of the state Commerce Department, Energy Administration and Michigan Energy and Resource Research Association (MERRA). It assessed state energy needs and supplies to the year 2000.

"Our projections for future energy supplies and prices are based on a number of factors," said Mark Haas, director of policy and research for the Energy Administration.

Over-all levels of economic growth, efficiency improvements, the balance between supply and demand, and the cost of supplies are variables considered in the model.

"What you have then, is a given set

of factors," said Haas in a recent interview, "and if conditions go that way, your projections will be correct."

FUEL SUPPLY projections to the year 2000 indicate that:

• Petroleum supplies will be adequate to meet expected needs if transportation requirements decline through energy savings.

• Natural gas supplies will be in shorter supply unless aggressive conservation measures lower usage. Prices are expected to rise, reflecting depletion of lower-cost gas supplies.

• Coal resources are sufficient. Coal will be the main substitute for natural gas and petroleum products for boiler fuel.

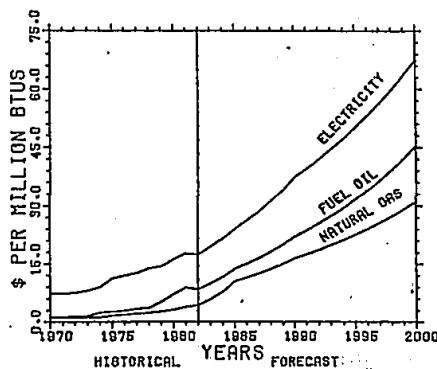
• Electrically requirements will be met with a continued shift away from oil and natural gas to coal and nuclear. Nuclear plants under construction are assumed to be completed, with no additional plants to be constructed.

COMMENTING ON predicted shortages in natural gas, Haas said that while supplies are limited, there is always sufficient quantity if the price is high enough.

Copies of the Michigan Energy Futures Report are available on request for the Energy Administration by calling 1-800-292-4704.

Penny Wright is a Plymouth freelance writer and part-time teacher.

RESIDENTIAL ENERGY PRICES IN MICHIGAN



Energy prices will rise faster than inflation, and Michigan will see a continued shift to coal and nuclear power for electricity. Source: Energy Administration, state Department of Commerce.

Beginners to learn computers at OU

A computer graphics course, a word processing course and several non-credit computer courses helpful for home or business will be offered beginning April 7 by the Oakland University Division of Continuing Education.

Computer courses range in tuition from \$69 to \$115. Enrollment is limited. For a detailed brochure or registration information, call the Continuing Education office at 377-3120 weekdays between 8 a.m. and 8 p.m.

A FOUR-SESSION Introductory Word Processing course involving lecture and hands-on experience will be offered beginning Thursday, April 7. Lectures will be conducted from 7-9 p.m., Thursday, April 7 and 21; labs for four hours on Saturdays, April 9 and 23.

For art directors, designers, educators, draftsmen and those just interested in experiencing the technique, a Computer Graphics course will be conducted from 7-9:30 p.m. Fridays, April 8 to May 13.

The course will cover three-dimensional transformation, shading, vector graphics, high- and low-resolution graphics and programming techniques. Applications for computer graphics will be discussed by the instructor, Alan Fox of Southfield, computer graphics director for the Center for Creative Studies.

AN EASY INTRODUCTION to Computers course, for those who know nothing about computers and for those who want to catch up on current technology, will be conducted in four sessions: Lectures from 7-9:30 p.m. Thursdays, April 28 and May 5, and hands-on experience

from 9:30 a.m. to noon, Saturday, April 30 and May 7.

Three computer systems will be used: a leading home computer, a commercial system and a word processing system.

For beginners, two six-week courses of Apple and IBM Personal Computers will cover simple functions in the BASIC language, including writing simple programs, using purchased programs, record-keeping, word processing, graphics and information management.

The IBM personal computer course will be conducted from 7-10 p.m. Wednesdays, April 27-June 1, by Richard Wlodzyga, systems engineer and vice president of Micro-Mizer Inc. of Bloomfield Hills.

Using Personal Computers on the Apple II will be conducted from 1-4 p.m. Saturdays, April 30-June 4, by Jerrold R. Crox, president of Crox Computer Systems of Rochester.

FOR NEW users who wish to focus on business management in the office or at home, a computer course will be offered in BASIC Language from 9:30 a.m. to 12:30 p.m. Saturdays for six weeks, beginning April 30.

Participants will learn to generate simple business programs on the Apple II, to use powerful purchased business programs and to write simple programs for inventory control, payroll, sales and analysis. Dr. John E. Tower, associate dean of the School of Economics and Management at Oakland University, will instruct the course.

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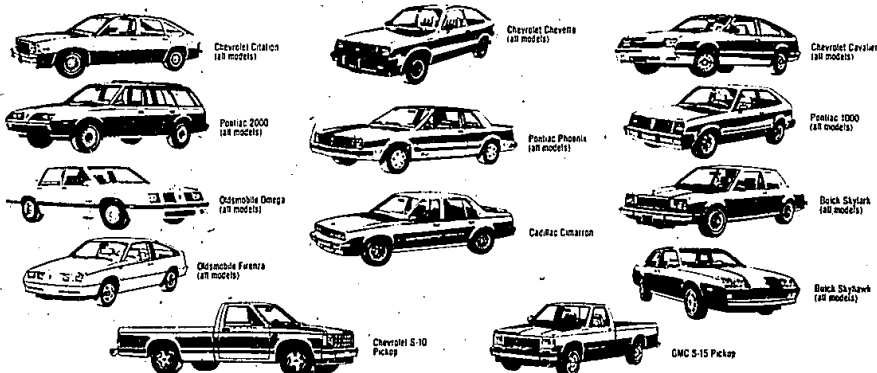
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