

Council proposed on power plants

By ELMER E. WHITE
Haslam over where to put electrical power plants might be kept to a minimum if Democratic Rep. Howard Wolpe of Kalamazoo has his way.

Wolpe is proposing creation of a State Power Facility Siting Council to map Michigan spots most suitable for power plants. In addition, the council would gather citizens' reactions to 10-year plans that would be required from all electric utility companies. It also would certify company requests for new construction.

"Individuals, interest groups, local governments and affected pollution abatement and other agencies would all have a say in reviewing 10-year plans and applications for facility construction," Wolpe says.

"No site would be certified if located in a park or a recreational, wilderness or historical area."

BEFORE YOU POP the top on that beer can in a state park, check the signs. You may be breaking the rules. Alcoholic beverages are prohibited in several state parks and parts of others. The ban marks an attempt by the Department of Natural Resources to make the parks quieter for campers. The department hopes that no drinking will mean no rowdiness and disturbances.

Those areas where alcohol is banned will be posted, the DNR says.

MICHIGAN TRAVELERS are taking advantage of increased train service at a mighty clip.

Gov. William Milliken reports that ridership of Amtrak passenger trains in the state has tripled in the past three years as service has been extended.

On the Detroit-to-Chicago run alone, ridership has doubled. About 157,000 folks rode the rails between those two cities in 1973. Last year the number jumped to nearly 227,000.

Milliken currently is asking the legislature to approve a revenue bonding program for statewide transportation improvements, including railroad work.

A LIGHTER FOOT on the gas pedal may mean a longer life.

That's the indication drawn from a recent study—touted as the first of its kind in the nation—analyzing the relationships of vehicle use, fuel availability, crashes and traffic deaths in Michigan.

The study, undertaken by the University of Michigan Highway Safety Research Institute in cooperation with the state Safety Commission, showed that the 55 mile-an-hour speed limit resulted in a 20 per cent reduction in freeway traffic deaths and a 40 per cent reduction on other state transit lines.

"This life-saving effect was recorded when traffic patterns and traffic volume were back up to normal after the end of the fuel shortages last year," says Secretary of State Richard Austin, chairman of the Safety Commission. "It is directly related to the 55 mph speed limit."

A SUMMARY of study conclusions notes that "the reduction of driver exposure due to the energy crisis does not account for the 30 per cent reduction in fatal crashes during the first half of 1974."

In addition, the study says the reduction in speeds on all types of roads re-

duced crash severity, which in turn resulted in fewer traffic deaths.

But the study didn't just point up good.

Austin says findings show drivers in the 17-19 age group generally "were

indifferent to both high fuel prices and the lowered speed limit."

"Not only did they show almost no reduction in fatal crashes during the height of the energy crisis, their involvement in fatal crashes actually in-

creased to an all-time high in the period after the energy crisis—when other age groups were maintaining dramatic reductions," he says. The fatality rate in that younger age group went up almost 50 per cent in the last half of 1974.

It's suggested that this increase in fatality rate for the 17-19-year-old drivers, as well as "a disproportionate share of speeding violations during the energy crisis," points up a need for more work with younger drivers.

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Man dies after fall

A construction worker, on his third day at the Pontiac Stadium, died June 6 after a six-story fall from the nearly completed structure.

Eugene Louis Kosma, 34, of Millington, fell 56 feet from the roof ring onto concrete, said W.A. Dryburgh, project manager of Barton Malow Co., general contractors.

The accident occurred at approximately 8:40 a.m. when it appeared that Kosma slipped on a wooden concrete form, Captain Ray Meggitt of the Pontiac Police Department said.

Mr. Kosma, who was an employee of Wayne Steel Erectors of Livonia, was pronounced dead at 8:30 a.m. at Pontiac Osteopathic Hospital.

The Pontiac Medical Examiners office scheduled an inquiry. Construction company officials are still seeking details on what a spokesman called an "unfortunate situation."

Honor goes to Sanders

Few business executives have baseball fields named after them, but Jack Sanders does at Cranbrook School, Bloomfield Hills.

The honor was accorded to the president of Sander Contractors, Inc., Detroit, for service as an assistant coach for the last 26 years. Despite a pressing business schedule, Sanders rarely misses a practice session or game.

Jack Sanders Field was dedicated recently at alumni weekend attended by many players coached by Sanders. A plaque was erected, he was given a dedicatory book compiled by his former players and a fund in his name was established by alumni and past and present faculty for the baseball team.