

TO THE GAS CUSTOMERS OF CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY

**NOTICE OF HEARING
ON GAS CURTAILMENT PROGRAM**

On October 26, 1973, Consumers Power Company filed an application with the Michigan Public Service Commission in Case No. U-4453, which requests authority to adopt as part of its rate schedule a new Rule 15 relating to curtailments of gas service. Consumers Power Company states in its application that there exists in the State of Michigan and elsewhere throughout the United States a severe gas supply shortage, which shortage has made it necessary that many pipeline suppliers of natural gas, including Applicant's pipeline suppliers, substantially curtail deliveries of natural gas to their customers. Consumers Power Company also states in its application that greater curtailments of gas deliveries from its pipeline suppliers are expected in 1974 than those currently in effect, and that prudent operating practices make desirable the establishment of procedures whereby gas service to its customers may be curtailed in the event it is necessary to do so in order to maintain a balance between gas requirements and gas supply. Consumers Power Company further states in its application that it does not presently anticipate that it will be necessary to initiate curtailments under proposed Rule 15 in the near future, but that it cannot predict when a worsening in its gas supply situation and/or an unanticipated increase in demand may make necessary the initiation of such curtailments. As set forth in proposed Rule 15, Consumers Power Company proposes to establish six curtailment categories, as follows:

1. All commercial and industrial gas requirements for boiler use in excess of 8,334 Mcf per monthly billing period of customers served under the provisions of Rate "E" other than those requirements falling within Curtailment Category 6. Twenty-four months from the date of the order approving this curtailment procedure, this curtailment category will be consolidated with Curtailment Category 2.
2. All commercial and industrial gas requirements for boiler use in excess of 8,334 Mcf per monthly billing period other than those requirements falling within Curtailment Categories 1 and 6.
3. All industrial gas requirements other than those requirements falling within Curtailment Categories 1, 2, 4, 5 and 6.
4. All commercial gas requirements other than those requirements falling within Curtailment Categories 1, 2, 5 and 6; and all industrial gas requirements for plant protection needs or process needs in excess of 1,250 Mcf per monthly billing period.
5. All commercial and industrial gas requirements of 1,250 Mcf or less per monthly billing period other than those requirements falling within Curtailment Category 6.
6. Residential gas requirements and requirements for services essential for public health and safety; provided, however, that requirements for boilers which have alternate fuel capability shall not qualify as requirements for services essential for public health and safety without the express authorization of the Michigan Public Service Commission.

Consumers Power Company proposes to implement curtailments within the foregoing curtailment categories when necessary in the Company's opinion to balance gas requirements with gas supply, after giving effect to interruptions permitted by the Company's rate schedules. Curtailments could be simultaneously instituted in more than one curtailment category; provided, that no curtailment would be made of gas usage falling within any curtailment category during any period in which the gas usage falling within all lower-numbered curtailment categories had not been completely curtailed. Curtailments of less than 100 percent of the gas usage falling within a curtailment

category would be made pro rata, based upon the customer's historical gas usage falling within the category being curtailed. Any gas usage by a customer in excess of volumes authorized to be used would be subject to excess use charges of up to \$15.00 per Mcf and would constitute sufficient cause for Consumers Power Company to discontinue gas service to the customer. The application of Consumers Power Company in Case No. U-4453 sets forth in more complete detail the manner in which the proposed curtailment procedure is to operate. The application, together with proposed Rule 15, is available for public inspection at the offices of the Michigan Public Service Commission, Law Building, Lansing, Michigan 48913, and at each local office of Consumers Power Company.

The Commission has scheduled public hearing on the application in Case No. U-4453 and has ordered that notice be given that:

A. A public hearing be held from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and from 6:30 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. on December 13, 1973 in the Auditorium of the Law Building, Lansing, Michigan 48913, for the purpose of taking statements from the interested public concerning Applicant's proposed gas curtailment program.

B. Any interested parties may attend the hearing and participate, subject to the provisions of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure. Any party seeking to intervene in this proceeding, notwithstanding Rule 11 of the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, shall file with the Commission, on or before December 13, 1973, an original and 6 copies of the petition to intervene, together with proof of service upon Consumers Power Company.

C. A prehearing conference will be held at 9:30 a.m. on December 14, 1973 in the offices of the Commission, Law Building, Lansing, Michigan 48913, for the purpose of exploring and, if possible, agreeing upon matters which will expedite the proceedings in Case No. U-4453 and including the following:

1. Determining the parties to the proceeding, the nature of their appearance and the positions they are taking in the proceeding.
2. Simplifying and defining the issues.
3. Establishing procedures for the hearing.
4. Specifying a further schedule of dates of hearing.
5. Expediting any other matters that may aid in the orderly conduct of the hearing and the disposition of the proceedings.

D. THE CURTAILMENT CATEGORIES AND PROCEDURES DESCRIBED IN THIS NOTICE ARE IN THE FORM REQUESTED BY CONSUMERS POWER COMPANY. THE MICHIGAN PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION MAY EITHER AUTHORIZE THEIR ADOPTION IN THE FORM REQUESTED, DENY THEIR ADOPTION OR MAY ORDER THE ADOPTION OF A CURTAILMENT PROCEDURE WHICH CONTAINS PRIORITIES OR PROCEDURES DIFFERING FROM THOSE DESCRIBED HEREIN.

Jurisdiction of the Commission in this matter is pursuant to Act 300, PA 1909, as amended, MCLA 462.2; Act 419, PA 1919, as amended, MCLA 460.51; Act 3, PA 1939, as amended, MCLA 460.1; Act 9, PA 1929, as amended, MCLA 483.101; Act 306, PA 1969, as amended, MCLA 24.201; and the Commission's Rules of Practice and Procedure, 1954 Administrative Code, Supplement No. 54, R460.11.



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ALMOST HALF of the controversial gas lights at the Orchard Ridge campus of Oakland Community College in Farmington Hills are being extinguished during the energy crisis. Walter Stepien, of the maintenance department, works at the task of individually turning off lights.

The campus has 930 decorative gas lights, and 450 are being turned off, according to Business Manager Dan Irwin. Nevertheless, security of students and staff won't be sacrificed.

In addition, officials are studying ways to eliminate or reduce Friday and weekend use of buildings in order to get a total Friday shutdown. Another possibility is consolidation of some facilities to allow total shutdown of some buildings in spring and summer sessions.

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