



NEWS from U.S. Senator Bob Dole

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DOLE REQUESTS FPC EXPLANATION OF PRODUCTION FIGURES

WASHINGTON, D.C. -- Senator Bob Dole today requested the Federal Power Commission to explain conflicting production figures and estimates of Cities Service natural gas supplies. In a letter to F.P.C. Chairman, Richard Dunham, Dole said the F.P.C.'s consideration of rehearing for Cities Service should reflect the increased estimates. Cities Service requested a rehearing on the F.P.C. decision to deny new residential gas connections after January 1, 1978.

Following is the text of Dole's letter to Dunham:

In further reference to my letter of June 25, 1977, I respectfully request an explanation of the following two items--

- (1) The basic issue addressed by Opinion 805 appears to be based on reduced supplies from Cities Service. But their petition for relief of July 14, 1977, shows significantly larger supplies compared with the original testimony -- specifically 10% more in 1977, 16% more in 1978, and 20% more in 1979.
- (2) FPC news release No. 23226 of June 22nd was captioned "FPC report projects next winter's gas deliveries to be lower than 1976-77." But the latest Bureau of Mines figures show production increasing this year over last.

Mr. Chairman, the Congress will ultimately determine the availability of natural gas when it resolves the new energy law and increases the allowable price at the wellhead. All testimony indicates that reserves and production do increase with a higher price -- whether through deregulation or a higher established price.

I believe your decision on a rehearing should address these issues, and I am sending a copy of this letter to all known parties to your Docket No. RP 75-62.