

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

Matt Skinner, Public Information

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January 10, 2003

COMMISSIONERS TO MOVE QUICKLY ON ONG REQUEST

Importance of public input is emphasized

(Oklahoma City) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is expected to grant permission to "fast track" Oklahoma Natural Gas Company's (ONG) request that it be allowed to grant credits to qualifying schools.

Commission Chairman Denise Bode noted any request from a regulated entity to expedite a matter is taken seriously.

"The Commission has an expedited process which, with Commission approval, allows a company to bring its matter directly before Commissioners rather than going through the more lengthy process normally required," said Bode. "We put the process in place some years ago, because we want to make sure the Commission is an asset, rather than a hindrance, for all who conduct business here."

"However, we also want to stress that even when a given request is cleared for the streamlined process, we want to be sure the opinions of any Oklahoman with an interest in a given case are heard. We encourage all Oklahomans to take an active part in all Commission matters," added Bode.

The item is expected to come before the Commission at 9:30 a.m. on Tuesday, January 14, and has no bearing on whether or not the ONG request will be denied or approved. It only expedites the hearing process itself.

Those wishing to express an opinion on this or any other matter before the Commission may do so by phone (405) 521-2211, via the OCC's web site (www.occ.state.ok.us), or by mail (Oklahoma Corporation Commission, P.O. Box 52000, Jim Thorpe Building, Oklahoma City, Oklahoma 73152).

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

EDITORS, ASSIGNMENT DESKS PLEASE NOTE: THE ITEM IS EXPECTED TO BE ON THE COMMISSIONERS' DAILY SIGNING AGENDA, 9:30 A.M. (Tuesday, January 14).

AGAIN, THE ITEM HAS NO BEARING ON WHETHER THE ONG REQUEST WILL BE DENIED OR APPROVED.

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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January 14, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY

COMMISSION APPROVES EXPEDITING ONG REQUEST, SETS DATE FOR HEARING

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission today approved an order “fast tracking” consideration of Oklahoma Natural Gas Company’s request that it be allowed to grant a credit to qualifying school districts.

As a result of today’s approval, the Commission hearing on the ONG request has been scheduled for Wednesday, January 22 at 9:30 a.m., in Room 301 of the Jim Thorpe Building (2101 North Lincoln, OKC).

Today’s Commission Order on the matter is attached.

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occeweb.com)

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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January 21, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioners will hold a hearing Wednesday, January 22, on Oklahoma Natural Gas Company's request that it be allowed to grant a credit to qualifying school districts.

The hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m., in Room 301 of the Jim Thorpe Building (2101 North Lincoln, OKC).

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(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occeweb.com)

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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January 22, 2003

COMMISSION SAYS 'YES' TO HELPING SCHOOLS

Average credit of 35-40 percent on districts' February gas bills

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission today approved a one-time gas cost credit for qualifying school districts served by Oklahoma Natural Gas, pending a written Order in the case.

Commission Chairman Denise Bode said the Commission is acting in the public interest.

"Oklahomans have made it clear that education of our children is a top priority," said Bode. "This is an opportunity to respond to the very real need of many school districts. Commission staff has done an excellent job in researching the legal background of such a request, and though it is unusual, there is no doubt the Commission has the authority to act in the matter and get this money to the schools as quickly as possible."

Vice-Chair Bob Anthony noted the unique circumstances of the request.

"This is one-time money from a litigation refund that consists of money paid by Kansas Gas Service customers many years ago", explained Anthony. "It does not involve utility overcharges. When one considers the difficulty in determining and locating what former KGS customers would be eligible for the one-time credit of about one dollar, and the crisis faced by our schools, there is no doubt that it is in the public interest to assist school districts served by ONG. Further, it is clear from existing case law that such action is legally appropriate and proper."

Commissioner Jeff Cloud agrees approval of the request is in the public interest.

"Both the present budget numbers and future projections are grim," noted Cloud. "We have the opportunity, the authority, and the responsibility to make a difference for Oklahoma's schoolchildren."

It is estimated that qualifying school districts will receive a credit of 35 to 40 percent on their February bills.

The 1.5 million dollars comes from a settlement of certain property tax litigation covering a period in the 1980's, and involving Kansas Gas Service Company (KGS). ONEOK, the parent company of Oklahoma Natural Gas, acquired KGS in 1997.

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

EDITORS, PRODUCERS PLEASE NOTE: A list of the qualifying school districts is attached.

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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January 23, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY

The Oklahoma Corporation Commission today gave final approval to a Commission Order granting a one-time gas cost credit for qualifying school districts served by Oklahoma Natural Gas.

It is estimated that qualifying school districts will receive a credit of 35 to 40 percent on their February bills.

The 1.5 million dollars comes from a settlement of certain property tax litigation covering a period in the 1980's, and involving Kansas Gas Service Company (KGS). ONEOK, the parent company of Oklahoma Natural Gas, acquired KGS in 1997.

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

Editors, Producers: A list of the qualifying school districts is available at <http://occ.state.ok.us/news/school%20districts.htm>

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For Tulsa-area media

January 29, 2003

COMMISSION MOVES TO PLUG OIL WELL UNCOVERED IN JENKS SCHOOL DISTRICT PROJECT

Emergency order needed to protect health and safety

(Oklahoma City) Meeting in emergency session today, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission approved the use of state funds to plug an oil well uncovered this week by a contractor working on a construction project for the Jenks school district.

Commission Chairman Denise Bode said the situation demands quick action.

“Our field inspector for the area, Bob Scott, found that the well is purging natural gas, and poses a potential threat to both public safety and the environment,” explained Bode. “This is apparently an old well, and a responsible operator cannot be found. Mr. Scott is to be commended for moving quickly to protect the public and the environment.”

Commissioner Jeff Cloud said the state’s well plugging fund is an effective tool to deal with a very real problem.

“There are many ‘out-of-sight, out-of-mind’ ancient oil wells out there for which no records exist,” noted Cloud. “While the Commission makes every effort to find a responsible party when these wells are discovered and must be plugged, many of these wells are true ‘orphans’, and it’s not possible to find the operator who last worked the well. In this particular case, our efforts to determine a responsible party will continue. However, our primary concern is public health and safety, so we need to get this well plugged as quickly as possible.”

It appears the oil well in question was drilled in the 1930’s. The cost of plugging the well is estimated at \$9,500.

The well is located near the intersection of Highway 75 and 91st.

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News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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February 4, 2003

TOM DAXON NAMED TO COMMISSION POST

Tom Daxon has been named acting general administrator of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, effective Monday, February 3.

Commission Chairman Denise Bode says Daxon comes to the Commission with a wealth of expertise.

“We consider ourselves very fortunate to have someone with Mr. Daxon’s proven expertise, particularly with the challenges currently facing the state,” said Bode.

Commission Vice-Chair Bob Anthony agreed, saying Daxon brings a proven track record to the job.

“Tom Daxon is one of the most capable, outstanding management and administrative officials who has ever served the state of Oklahoma,” said Anthony.

Commissioner Jeff Cloud, who took office on January 13th, said the Commission faces a challenging future.

“I look forward to working with Mr. Daxon as we begin our new positions at the Corporation Commission,” said Cloud.

Daxon served as Oklahoma's elected State Auditor and Inspector from 1979-1983. He served as state Finance Director from 1995-2003.

A CPA, Daxon earned his Bachelor's and Master's degrees from Oklahoma State University.

As general administrator, Daxon is responsible for the day-to-day operations of the agency. The Commission’s former general administrator, Larry Shaver, retired last month.

-OCC-

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News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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February 26, 2003

COMMISSION MOVES TO IMPROVE SAFETY, KEEP TRAFFIC FLOWING AT RAIL CROSSING

Long waits caused by a stopped train at a rail crossing in Mannford should now be a thing of the past, as a result of action prompted by concerns brought to the Oklahoma Corporation Commission by State Senator Ted Fisher (District 12).

The Commission now has an agreement from Burlington Northern Santa Fe Railway to change its train-handling practices in order to keep stopped trains at the Warbonnet Road rail crossing from blocking traffic for more than 10 minutes.

In addition, the Commission issued an order requiring Burlington to have crossing gates installed at the crossing by March of next year.

"Senator Fisher apparently had had many complaints from constituents about the delays at the crossing, and contacted us," explained OCC Transportation Division Director Ace McCown. "Our rail manager investigated the matter, and met with Burlington officials to work out a solution."

OCC Railroad Manager Buddy Combs says the Commission has rules governing the blocking of a rail crossing to traffic.

"Unless there are extenuating circumstances, a stopped train may not block a crossing in Oklahoma for more than 10 minutes", said Combs. "Apparently, this had happened at the Warbonnet crossing. In addition, there were safety concerns at that crossing, as its layout makes it impossible for motorists to get a clear view of both sides of the crossing before proceeding on. The crossing gate will remedy those concerns."

Any motorist who thinks a train is wrongfully blocking a crossing can call the OCC's railroad department at 405-521-3407.

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

Subject: news conference

Subject: news conference

Date: Thursday, March 13, 2003 10:13 AM

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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March 13, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY

**CORPORATION COMMISSIONERS TO HOLD NEWS CONFERENCE ON
SOARING ENERGY PRICES**

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioners Denise Bode, Bob Anthony, and Jeff Cloud will hold a news conference on Friday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. on the topic of soaring energy prices, the impact of same on Oklahomans and the state budget, and what the future may hold for consumers.

The news conference will also cover Commission rules and actions that may afford some protection to consumers, both at the pump and on their utility bills, during this time of high energy prices. The Commission's role in energy development, production and delivery will also be discussed.

EDITORS, PRODUCERS PLEASE NOTE: This is a true "pocketbook" issue, and is undoubtedly of high interest to your readers/viewers.

The news conference will be held Friday, March 14 at 1:30 p.m. in the Jim Thorpe Building (2101 N. Lincoln), Room 301 (main Commission courtroom).

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(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site
www.occ.state.ok.us)

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News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

Matt Skinner, Public Information Officer

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March 22, 2002

COMMISSION CHAIR TO ADDRESS INTERNATIONAL CONFERENCE IN NORWAY

Corporation Commission Chairman Denise Bode has been invited to represent the United States at the Conservative Women's Conference in Oslo, Norway this weekend.

Bode says she is honored by the invitation.

"To be asked to represent elected women in the U.S. at this important international conservative conference is a tremendous opportunity. I will share our experiences here in Oklahoma with domestic terrorism as well as what we are doing at the state and federal level to respond appropriately."

The conference is sponsored by the International Democrat Union (IDU) and the Westminster Foundation for Democracy. The IDU provides a forum in which Parties holding similar beliefs can come together and exchange views on matters of policy, in order to learn from each other and speak with one voice to promote democracy around the globe. The IDU is composed of over 80 member Parties from over 60 countries. It is the only international organization of its kind with full members from both Russia and the USA. Many of its members come from democracies that were established over the past decade. The idea was first proposed by then-President Ronald Reagan to Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher. Founding members include Prime Minister Thatcher, then Vice-President George Bush Sr., German Chancellor Helmut Kohl, and now-French President Jacques Chirac.

Chairman Bode is one of approximately 70 delegates from some 27 countries attending the conference. All are senior members of their respective governments, most of them in elected positions.

Chairman Bode will be speaking on the issue of the war on terrorism on a panel with the Secretary of Defense of Norway. She is a member of the Governor's Security and Preparedness Executive Panel that was formed after the 9-11 attacks, and chairs the Panel's committee on energy and infrastructure. In addition, at the national level she serves on the special panel, Committee on Critical Infrastructure, formed by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

-OCC-

All news advisories and releases are available for downloading on the OCC web site at www.occ.state.ok.us

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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NEWS ADVISORY FOR ASSIGNMENT EDITORS AND NEWS DIRECTORS

THIS ADVISORY IS NOTIFICATION OF A CHANGE FROM THE ORIGINAL SCHEDULED LOCATION OF TOMMOROW'S HEARING BEFORE JUDGE BOB GOLDFIELD

WHO: ADMINISTRATIVE LAW JUDGE BOB GOLDFIELD, OCC STAFF, ONEOK STAFF

WHAT: HEARING ON WHETHER ONEOK, INC. ITS SUBSIDIARIES AND AFFILIATED COMPANIES OF OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS COMPANY SHOULD BE HELD IN CONTEMPT

WHEN: ABOUT 9:30 A.M. (PLEASE NOTE THIS TIME IS SUBJECT TO CHANGE. AN ADVISORY WITH A DEFINITE START TIME WILL BE SENT OUT THURSDAY (4/12) MORNING.)

**WHERE: COMMISSION COURTROOM (301)
THIRD FLOOR
JIM THORPE BUILDING
CAPITOL COMPLEX**

WHY: HEARING ON OCC STAFF REQUEST THAT ONEOK AND ITS UNREGULATED SUBSIDIARIES, WHICH ARE AFFILIATES OF OKLAHOMA NATURAL GAS COMPANY, BE FOUND IN CONTEMPT FOR NOT COMPLYING WITH COMMISSION STAFF REQUEST FOR DATA ASSOCIATED WITH WINTER GAS PRICES.

-OCC-

All OCC news advisories and releases are available for review and downloading at www.occ.state.ok.us

OKLAHOMA
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OKLAHOMA CITY, OKLAHOMA 73152-2000

304

Telephone: (405) 521-2267

FAX: (405) 521-4109



Denise Bode, Chairman

Contact: Linda Guthrie (405) 521-2822

04/25/03

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WE CAN'T GET THERE FROM HERE, WARNS COMMISSION CHAIRMAN

Denise Bode cautions FERC Chairman, others at symposium on deregulation

Citing the turbulent history of electric utility deregulation in America, Oklahoma Corporation Commission Chairman Denise Bode warned those attending a symposium on deregulation today that “the light at the end of the tunnel will be an oncoming train” for consumers, regulators, and utility companies if critical questions regarding deregulation remain unanswered.

Speaking to an audience that included Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) Chairman Pat Wood, Bode pointed to as yet unanswered questions regarding the role of the state and federal governments in the area of electric utility regulation.

“The bottom line to all these questions is the same,” asserted Bode. “Who will be on the side of the consumer, not only when it comes to the question of affordable rates, but also in the area of whether the power will be there in the first place.”

Pointing to California’s disastrous foray into deregulation, Bode warned that an attempt to gloss over government’s mistakes will result in a failure to learn from history.

“Much has been made of the FERC report that rightly points to actions that were apparently attempts to manipulate the energy market in California,” said Bode. “But what isn’t mentioned is that the same report says that ‘significant supply shortfalls and a fatally flawed market design were the root causes of the California market meltdown.’

“To simply chalk up the failure of deregulation in California to corporate greed is to ignore issues that must be addressed if we are to have any hope of moving forward to meet the country’s demand for electricity. Those growing demands, coupled with newly competitive

(more)

(We -cont.)

electricity markets, have expanded the use of the transmission grid to a level far beyond what it was originally designed to handle. This increased congestion is threatening system reliability and increasing the cost to the consumer - more than 1 million dollars in the summers of 2000 and 2001 alone.”

The symposium was sponsored by the Southern Methodist University/Cox School of Business and the Maguire Energy Institute, and was held on the SMU campus in Dallas.

-OCC-

EDITORS, PRODUCERS PLEASE NOTE: Chairman Bode is available for interviews. Arrangements can be made through Linda Guthrie – (405) 521-2822.

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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April 29, 2003

STATEMENT OF OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION GENERAL ADMINISTRATOR TOM DAXON REGARDING AUDIT OF THE PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK DIVISION

“The Commissioners have brought me in to do a top to bottom review of the Corporation Commission. We are preparing a strategic plan and a performance-based budget, which is actually beyond the zero-based budget requested by Governor Henry and the legislature. To date, we have talked to over a thousand people who do business with the commission, seeking their input on how things may be improved. As a result, we are developing a number of changes in our policies and procedures that will both improve our effectiveness and efficiency.

“We have looked forward to the review of the Petroleum Storage Tank Division as an important tool in this process, and have cooperated fully with the auditors.

“While I am disappointed at the way the release of this report is being handled, I have been told that it raises serious issues. When we actually receive a copy of the auditors’ report, we will review it, and if there are problems, we will fix them.”

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(All OCC releases and advisories are available on the OCC web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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May 6, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY

CORPORATION COMMISSIONERS TO HOLD OPEN MEETING ON ISSUES SURROUNDING PETROLEUM STORAGE TANK INDEMNITY FUND

Oklahoma Corporation Commissioners Denise Bode, Bob Anthony, and Jeff Cloud will hold an open meeting on Wednesday, May 7 at 1:30 p.m. for the purpose of hearing comments from OCC staffers and the public regarding issues related to the Petroleum Storage Tank Indemnity Fund, including those raised by the recent CPA report on the Fund. The Commissioners are scheduled to hear a preliminary assessment from the Commission's General Administrator regarding the CPA report, and to review possible courses of action, including whether to initiate a formal Commission inquiry under Article 9 of the Oklahoma Constitution. A vote has been scheduled for the end of the meeting on what action to take in regard to these matters. The public is welcome to attend the meeting, and if it is desired, present comments to the Commissioners.

The meeting will be held in Room 301 (main Commission courtroom), in the Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln, Oklahoma City.

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News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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May 7, 2003

OKLAHOMA OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION NUMBERS ARE MIXED IN LATEST REPORT**

(Oklahoma City) The latest Oklahoma Corporation Commission report on oil and natural gas production in Oklahoma shows a jump in oil production in Oklahoma from December 2002 to January 2003, but a decline in natural gas production over the same time period.

January 03 oil production totaled 5,776,741 barrels, an increase of 539,529 barrels over the (revised) December 02 production of 5,237,212 barrels.

January 03 gas production totaled 115,787,555 mcf (thousand cubic feet) in January, a drop from the (revised) December 02 production of 127,087,139 mcf (thousand cubic feet).

The average price-per-barrel for Oklahoma oil in January 03 was \$31.39 a barrel, compared to the December 02 average price of 28.17 a barrel.

The average price for Oklahoma gas in January 2003 was \$4.56 mcf, compared to \$3.95 mcf for December 2002.

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All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occ.state.ok.us

****Please Note: All numbers are subject to change, and should be used for trend purposes only.**

ATTACHED IS A CHART SHOWING THE COUNTY-BY-COUNTY BREAKDOWN OF THE PRODUCTION NUMBERS. THE CHART IS ALSO AVAILABLE IN PDF OR EXCEL FORMATS AT http://www.occ.state.ok.us/TEXT_FILES/o&gfiles.htm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN OKLAHOMA, CALL LARRY CLAXTON, MANAGER - STATISTICS/SURETY DEPARTMENT, OIL AND GAS DIVISION, OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION (405) 521-2273.

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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June 3, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY

Brooks Mitchell has been named acting director of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's Petroleum Storage Tank Division.

Mr. Mitchell is a graduate of the University of Oklahoma, and a CPA. Prior to coming to the Commission as an aide to Commissioner Jeff Cloud, he operated his own CPA firm in Oklahoma City. He has been at the Commission since January of this year.

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News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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June 6, 2003

THE REGULATORS ARE COMING! THE REGULATORS ARE COMING!

Corporation Commission hosting annual conference dealing with pocketbook, government issues

How can consumers be empowered and protected when it comes to their utility bill? What changes are in store for your telephone bill? How should regulators respond to sharply rising natural gas prices?

Members of the National Conference of Regulatory Attorneys (NCRA) will be tackling these and many other consumer-related questions at the organization's upcoming convention in Oklahoma City. The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is hosting the event. Commission Administrative Law Judge Robert Goldfield is NCRA President.

"The fact that the OCC has been given the honor of hosting such an event speaks volumes for the caliber of our staffers," said Corporation Commission Chairman Denise Bode.

Bode will be a keynote speaker at the conference. She will speak on the need for regulators to critically examine their duties and functions in light of the needs of consumers, and to be more pro-active in redefining their role in today's changing regulatory environment.

Commissioner Jeff Cloud will also address the conference.

"This is an absolutely critical time for state and federal utility regulators," said Cloud. "New technologies, changes in the marketplace, and competing calls for consumer protection and deregulation have turned what was once considered a rather mundane task into an awesome responsibility."

Other speakers at the event include officials with the Federal Communications Commission, The Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, and the Oklahoma Supreme Court.

The conference will begin on Monday, June 9 and run through Wednesday, June 11 at the Renaissance Hotel in Oklahoma City.

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All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occ.state.ok.us

EDITORS: A CONFERENCE AGENDA IS ATTACHED. IT IS ALSO ON THE OCC WEBSITE.

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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July 2, 2003

Be Prepared

Commission's new web page offers vital consumer info on utility costs

If present trends hold, Oklahomans face higher utility bills in the near future. That's the projection of the Oklahoma Energy Outlook, a new tool Oklahomans can use to better plan their utility budgets. The Oklahoma Energy Outlook section of the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's web site offers projections regarding natural gas and electric bills, projected energy prices, Oklahoma oil and gas production data, and other energy information.

"Our hope is to truly empower consumers by giving them the data they need to be prepared when it comes to their utility costs," explained Commission Chairman Denise Bode. "Energy prices have become increasingly volatile. These sharp swings can cause nasty surprises when you open your utility bill. The one thing that's worse than getting a high bill is getting a high bill your weren't prepared for and didn't expect."

Commissioner Jeff Cloud says the new offering is a chance for Oklahoma taxpayers to directly tap the expertise of the Commission's Oil and Gas Conservation Division and the Public Utility Division.

"The analysts we employ in both divisions are among the best in the business. While no one can say with certainty what will happen with energy prices, our staff has the experience and knowledge needed to give consumers a foundation from which to make decisions regarding their energy use," said Cloud.

Vice-Chairman Bob Anthony praised Oklahoma's utilities for their cooperation in the project.

"Oklahoma's gas and electric providers were gracious in responding to our requests for the data we needed for this new service, and quickly provided us the information that was needed," said Anthony.

The Oklahoma Energy Outlook link can be found on the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's web home page www.occ.state.ok.us. It should be stressed that is the early phase of a work in progress, and much more information will be added over the coming weeks.

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

BOB ANTHONY
Commissioner

JEFF CLOUD
Commissioner

DENISE A. BODE
Commissioner

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07-09-03

JUMP IN ENERGY EXPLORATION PROMPTS MEETING WITH LANDOWNERS

Oklahoma Corporation Commission officials to answer questions from area residents

Staffers from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's Oil and Gas Division and the Office of Public Information will be in Marlow on Tuesday, July 15 to meet with landowners who have questions regarding the rules and regulations surrounding oil and gas exploration.

"Energy exploration in Oklahoma has jumped in the past few months, especially in the south-west portion of Oklahoma," explained Division Director Larry Fiddler. "There are many landowners who have never had to deal with the issue until now. Many people are only finding out now the difference between owning the surface land and owning the mineral rights.

"Our field inspectors not only work in the area, they live in the impacted communities," added Fiddler. "They want to make sure their neighbors have the information they need, and do their best to clear up any concerns those who live in the area may have."

Southwest Oklahoma is served by the Division's District 3 Field Office in Duncan. Office Manager Wayne Wright will be among those attending the meeting, as well as Division Director Fiddler.

The meeting is scheduled for 7:00 pm on Tuesday, July 15th at the Lions Den on Main Street in Marlow.

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News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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July 17, 2003

STUDY AND SAVE

A little homework now could mean savings for many Oklahomans, say Commissioners

The Corporation Commission is urging SBC-Oklahoma's Local Plus subscribers to take the time now to review how they use their phone service, as there will soon be many more options available to them which offer savings over the current Local Plus plan.

Commissioners Bob Anthony and Jeff Cloud say the Commission has received numerous calls from Local Plus customers, particularly those who use the plan to connect with an Internet service provider, who need information on what their new choices will be.

"The bottom line is that the 'one size fits all' approach to meeting the long-distance needs of some rural telephone customers will be replaced by consumer choice," explained Commissioner Anthony. "The first step toward making an informed choice that might save you money is to get a detailed understanding of what your telephone service needs are."

Commissioner Jeff Cloud says the concerns that some have expressed regarding the calling plan changes are "understandable."

"The one great advantage of Henry Ford's 'you can have any color as long as its black' approach to consumer choice for the Model T was that it was simple," said Cloud. "However, for the consumer to truly be empowered, there has to be choice. The Local Plus customers who take the time to analyze their long distance needs can realize savings.

"For example, if you're a Local Plus customer and you use your phone about an hour a day or less to make long distance calls to various numbers within what's called your LATA (either the 918 or 405/580 areas, depending on where you live) the new Toll Value plan should be considered. At \$31.95 a month, it offers a savings

(more)

(Local Plus, pg. 2)

of \$1.05 a month over the current Local Plus rate," explained Cloud. "Or perhaps you only regularly make long distance calls to one particular number within your LATA, such as to an Internet service provider (ISP). You will have a plan available that will give you about an hour-a-day's long distance to that number (2,000 minutes a month) for \$17.95 a month, a savings of \$15.05 over Local Plus. If the ISP in question is also an SBC customer, you can get unlimited long distance to its number for \$19.95, and add a second number for just \$2.00 more. People could use this for the primary and back-up numbers of their ISP.

"There are many other options and combinations of options the customer should explore," added Cloud. "Full details on the plans are available on the Commission's web site (www.occ.state.ok.us). There is also a section on

the web site which allows Oklahomans to e-mail us any questions or concerns they have on this or any other matter under Commission jurisdiction. And as always, all are welcome to call or write our offices with their questions and comments.”

Commission Chairman Denise Bode said she wants to be sure customers fully understand the choices they will be making.

“I am still hopeful the company will improve their offer to consumers and develop a flat rate plan comparable to Local Plus that will not diminish Internet access to rural Oklahomans,” said Bode.

Commissioner Anthony says the changes put the Commission in a better position to help consumers.

“In response to a request from the Commission, SBC-Oklahoma delayed cancellation of its Local Plus plan and surveyed its customers through public meetings in the communities where the plan is offered, as well as questionnaires on the company’s website. As a result SBC was able to develop a picture of customer needs and design reasonable alternatives for meeting those needs, generally with lower-priced options. SBC has told the Commission these are the best options offered in the region. Local Plus was a voluntary plan developed by SBC-Oklahoma. However, the new options are being offered under Commission authority, and will be reviewed by the Commission within six months to ensure that the new plan is functioning to satisfy customers.”

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Contact: Larry Lago
Telephone: (405)521-2261

7-18-03

ANTHONY TAPPED FOR NATIONAL TASK FORCE ON NATURAL GAS

With various national forums forecasting potential natural gas shortages and/or higher prices for the upcoming winter heating season it becomes increasingly important to take a long-term look at the nation's energy picture, explained Oklahoma Corporation Commissioner Bob Anthony Friday, July 18, in announcing his acceptance to serve on a special Natural Gas Task Force being formed by the National Association of Regulatory Utility Commissioners (NARUC).

Formation of the Task Force was announced June 26 by NARUC President David A. Svanda, Michigan commissioner, in response to a Washington D.C., Natural Gas Summit hosted by U.S. Secretary of Energy Spencer Abraham and the National Petroleum Council (NPC), a federal advisory committee on energy issues. Massachusetts Commissioner Robert Keating, chair of NARUC's Natural Gas Committee and the association's designated representative to NPC, will head the new NARUC Task Force.

"I believe formation of this Task Force is highly appropriate in light of the variety of concerns being raised about America's energy future," Anthony said. "It is symbolic that we undertake this study as we have just celebrated Independence Day, because, frankly the nation's energy independence is not perceived to be in very good condition at this time and it is most important that we see how both the perception and the reality can be improved.

"As a major producing state, natural gas remains one of the brightest spots in Oklahoma's economic future. It is vital that Oklahoma have a significant voice on the Task Force. We must communicate the benefits of natural gas as a reliable, cleaning burning fuel," he said.

Anthony has served on NARUC's Natural Gas Committee since 1989. Sponsored by the U.S. Department of State, Anthony addressed the February 2003, conference in Istanbul, Turkey of the Energy Regulatory Regional Association of Eastern Europe on the subject of the regulatory history and structure of natural gas transmission systems in America.

On July 2 the Oklahoma Corporation Commission unveiled a new tool for assisting the state's consumers in planning their energy budgets. Called the *Oklahoma Energy Outlook*, the forecast combines information from the Commission's Oil and Gas and Public Utility divisions to project oil and gas production data and the effect price changes on future electric and natural gas bills. The *Oklahoma Energy Outlook* is incorporated as a section of the Commission's website at www.occ.state.ok.us.

In announcing formation of the NARUC Task Force Svanda called it a continuation of the association's proactive focus on consumers.

"All policy makers should focus on all consumer groups—industrial, commercial and residential users—and devise strategies to address the concerns of each. We are sure that state regulators and this new Task Force can bring something positive to the table," Svanda said. "The NPC's summit is correctly focused on actions that can be taken immediately to ease short-term supply concerns. But current problems only highlight the need for policy makers at all levels to continue examining longer term issues that can improve the United States energy posture, including, for

example, focusing on the need for additional investments in infrastructure and considering ways to diversify the nation's fuel mix.”

Keating said the Task Force joins the effort to increase consumers' energy preparedness.

“We must begin the process of educating the public to the potential of higher gas prices this coming winter. I am confident that this Task Force will contribute much as we look for solutions to this nation's natural gas challenges,” he said.

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

Jim Palmer, Director of Information

Phone: (405) 522-2100, FAX: (405) 521-4983

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

COMMISSION RULES ALLOW FOR HOT WEATHER MORATORIUM

(OKLAHOMA CITY) - With this summer's 100-plus degree temperatures in Oklahoma, the Corporation Commission reminds those affected by the heat that if they have received a disconnection notice from the utility service providing their primary cooling source, Commission rules provide for a moratorium on the disconnect in the event of extreme heat.

Corporation Commission rules have established special provisions that if the temperature is actually, or predicted to be, 103 degrees heat index or higher on the day of disconnection then the utility shall suspend its disconnection of service for that day.

The Commission has asked investor owned utilities and the Oklahoma Association of Electric Cooperatives to remind their customers and members of the rule.

Questions concerning this special severe weather rule should be directed to the Commission's Consumer Services Division at 1-800-522-8154 or in metro Oklahoma City at 521-2331.

-OCC-

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

Matt Skinner, Public Information

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August 6, 2003

OKLAHOMA OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION NUMBERS ARE DOWN IN LATEST REPORT**

(Oklahoma City) The latest Oklahoma Corporation Commission report on oil and natural gas production in Oklahoma shows a drop in price and production from March to April.

April 2003 oil production totaled 5,511,409 barrels, a decrease of 233,349 barrels over the March 2003 (revised) production of 5,744,758 barrels.

April 2003 gas production totaled 112,824,226 mcf (thousand cubic feet) in January, a sharp drop from the March 2003 (revised) production total of 122,289,470 mcf (thousand cubic feet).

The average price-per-barrel for Oklahoma oil in April 2003 was \$27.30 a barrel, compared to the March 2003 average price of \$32.35 a barrel.

The average price for Oklahoma gas in April 2003 was \$4.37 mcf, compared to \$7.24 mcf for March 2003.

The total oil production from January to April 2003 was 21,814,860 barrels, compared to 21,910,231 for the same time period in 2002.

The total gas production from January to April 2003 was 461,140,873 mcf (thousand cubic feet), compared to 517,955,022 mcf (thousand cubic feet).

-occ-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occeweb.com

****Please Note: All numbers are subject to change, and should be used for trend purposes only.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN OKLAHOMA, CALL LARRY CLAXTON, MANAGER - STATISTICS/SURETY DEPARTMENT, OIL AND GAS DIVISION, OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION (405) 521-2273.

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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August 8, 2003

Media Advisory – For Tuesday 8-12-03

Commission to hear its first wind power rate case, hold public meeting on wind power

On Tuesday, August 12 the Oklahoma Corporation Commission will hear its first rate case involving wind power, and hold a meeting on the future of wind power. The session will start at 9:30 a.m. in the main Commission courtroom (Room 301) of the Jim Thorpe Building, 2101 North Lincoln.

The case involves Oklahoma Gas & Electric's (OG&E) proposal to provide a wind power option to its customers. The Commission is scheduled to hear details of and vote on the rates for the wind power option.

The meeting will bring together representatives of Oklahoma's state legislature and congressional delegation, the public, representatives of companies in the forefront of wind-power technology, the media, and environmental groups on the topic of Exploring Oklahoma Wind Generated Power. A turbine blade of over 100 feet that is to be installed as part of an Oklahoma wind farm will be on display in the south parking lot of the Jim Thorpe building. The meeting will include a session at the display.

-occ-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occ.state.ok.us

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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August 14, 2003

Media Advisory regarding the current power failure

(Oklahoma City) Corporation Commission Chairman Denise Bode's office has been in contact with Oklahoma Gas and Electric (OG&E) officials and AEP-PSO officials regarding whether the current situation in N.Y. and other areas might impact their operations in Oklahoma. At this point, both companies report their systems are stable, and they currently do not expect any problems. OG&E and AEP-PSO are the two largest providers of electric power in Oklahoma.**

Should you wish to speak to a Commissioner or Commission staffer concerning the power grid or related matters, call Matt Skinner at 521-4180.

****American Electric Power-Public Service Company of Oklahoma**

-occ-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occ.state.ok.us

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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August 27, 2003

CONCERNS OVER NATURAL GAS SUPPLY CENTRAL TO COMMISSION ORDER

(Oklahoma City) As warnings are sounded regarding the cost and supply of natural gas for the upcoming winter, the Oklahoma Corporation Commission today approved an order giving those with unallocated gas wells in Oklahoma the green light to produce as much product as possible.

Corporation Commission Chairman Denise Bode said today's order helps ensure stability for Oklahoma's natural gas producers, as it continues the gas allocation at the current allowable rate.

"Among the many problems plaguing the domestic energy industry is volatility," said Bode. "Investors interested in placing badly needed-dollars into energy exploration and production in Oklahoma need to know the rules of the game aren't going to change suddenly."

Vice-Chair Bob Anthony reminded consumers that "forewarned is forearmed."

"There is no doubt natural gas prices this winter are going to be higher," said Anthony. "Oklahomans need to prepare now for the coming heating season, both in their budgeting and in taking steps that can reduce gas consumption, such as insulating their home."

Commissioner Jeff Cloud stressed that while all the problems surrounding the domestic natural gas supply should be a cause of concern, Oklahoma consumers shouldn't panic.

"While the tightening market conditions will undoubtedly be reflected in higher energy prices this winter, all indications are that our state utilities will have an adequate supply of natural gas to serve their customers during the upcoming heating season," said Cloud.

Oklahomans can check the latest prediction for natural gas prices and their utility bills by going to the Commission's Oklahoma Energy Outlook web page (www.occ.state.ok.us).

Specifically, the Commission proration order allows unallocated gas wells in Oklahoma to continue to produce the greater of 65 percent of calculated absolute open flow (CAOF) or 2 million cubic feet per day.

In practical terms, those numbers are the maximum amount the best well can produce in Oklahoma. The order applies to the fourth quarter of this year and the first quarter of 2004.

-occ-

advisories are available at www.occ.state.ok.us

All OCC news releases and

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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September 11, 2003

REPORT ON OKLAHOMA OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION SHOWS CONTINUED DROP**

(Oklahoma City) The latest Oklahoma Corporation Commission report on oil and natural gas production in Oklahoma shows that in spite of an increase in energy prices, oil and gas production continued its decline from April to May.

May 2003 oil production totaled 5,167,523 barrels, a decrease of 372,471 barrels from the April 2003 (revised) production of 5,539,994 barrels.

May 2003 gas production totaled 101,951,539 mcf (thousand cubic feet), a drop of 15,571,341 mcf from the April 2003 (revised) production total of 117,522,880 mcf (thousand cubic feet).

The average price for Oklahoma oil in May 2003 was \$27.33 a barrel, compared to the April 2003 (revised) average price of \$27.31 a barrel.

The average price for Oklahoma gas in May 2003 was \$4.63 mcf, compared to \$4.39 mcf for April 2003 (revised).

The total oil production from January to May 2003 was 27,010,990 barrels, compared to 27,747,409 for the same time period in 2002.

The total gas production from January to May 2003 was 569,712,633 mcf (thousand cubic feet), compared to 652,357,386 mcf (thousand cubic feet) for the same time period in 2002.

-occ-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occewb.com

****Please Note: All numbers are subject to change, and should be used for trend purposes only.**

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN OKLAHOMA, CALL LARRY CLAXTON, MANAGER - STATISTICS/SURETY DEPARTMENT, OIL AND GAS DIVISION, OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION (405) 521-2273.

News from the **Oklahoma Corporation Commission**

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09-24-2003

MEDIA ADVISORY

OKLAHOMA OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION INFORMATION AVAILABLE VIA THE INTERNET

(Oklahoma City) With the increase in oil and gas related activity in Oklahoma, the Corporation Commission is seeing a corresponding jump in the number of callers and visitors seeking information concerning specific wells or operators.

Much of that information is now available via the Commission's web site www.occ.state.ok.us . Rather than having to travel to the Commission's offices in Oklahoma City, or placing a long-distance call, those interested in well production and/or operator information can access much of the Commission's database by clicking on the "Oil and Gas Web Applications" link on the Commission's home page.

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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October 1, 2003

COMMISSIONERS NAME AWARD-WINNING ADMINISTRATOR TO TOP AGENCY POST

(Oklahoma City) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission today announced Dee Porter will be the new General Administrator of the agency. For the past six years, Ms. Porter has served as Deputy Director and Chief Operations Officer for the Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services.

An honors graduate of the University of Oklahoma, Ms. Porter has extensive experience in marketing, business administration and public administration. She is certified in Oil and Gas Field Management, and was a registered NASD Broker-Dealer, responsible for securities compliance in 18 states, including Oklahoma. She also owned and operated three oil and gas industry related companies. She has an extensive record of award-winning service both to the community and the workplace.

I am thrilled that someone of Ms. Porter's proven abilities will be taking the helm at the OCC", said Commission Chairman Denise Bode. "Her track record shows her to be an outstanding manager and consensus builder; qualities that are vital to the success of this agency's mission to serve the people of Oklahoma.

Commissioner Jeff Cloud agreed, noting that Ms. Porter has what it takes to meet the demands of the agency's top administrative position.

"The OCC has a wide-range of responsibilities, including regulation involving such varied industries as public utilities, oil and gas production, motor carriers, etc. Ms. Porter brings a wide-range of skills and experience to the job, all of which will well serve both the agency and the industries it regulates."

Commission Vice-Chair Bob Anthony said the extensive search for a new General Administrator has ended on a definite "up note".

"Any search for the right person to fill a high-ranking executive position usually ends with the realization that it is impossible to get a 'custom fit in an off-the-rack-world.' Happily, this case is an exception. Ms. Porter is definitely the right person, in the right place, at the right time. We are indeed fortunate to be able to bring on board a person of such calibre."

Ms. Porter said she's looking forward to the challenges inherent in her new position.

"The Oklahoma Corporation Commission is responsible, directly or indirectly, for activities involving most of the state's economy and environment," said Porter. "I welcome the opportunity to be a part of something so vital to my native state and its wonderful people."

Ms. Porter will start as the Oklahoma Corporation Commission's new General Administrator on Monday, October 20.

Editors please note: A partial summary of Ms. Porter's work experience and community service is attached.

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occeweb.com)

SUMMARY OF WORK EXPERIENCE – DEE PORTER

Feb. 1997 – Current: Deputy Director and Chief Operations Office - Oklahoma Department of Rehabilitation Services

1994 – 1997: Deputy Director and Clinic Administrator – Oklahoma City Indian Clinic

1992 – 1994: Owner/President – Faircloth Creative Services

1990 – 1992: Executive Director – ASP Non-Profit Organization

1989 – 1990: Deputy Director/Program Coordinator – Community Health Centers,

1980 – 1989: Vice President, CFO – Physical Restorative Services, Inc

1980 – 1982: Owner/President – Bates Resources Group, Dixieland Production Co.,

1976 – 1980: Principal/Compliance Officer – Bogert Oil Company, Bogert Funds

A PARTIAL LIST OF AWARDS, HONORS ,AND COMMUNITY SERVICE

CANAR National Award, 2000 and 2002

Very Special Arts National Indian Festival, 1998

Central OK American Indian Health Council Award, 1995 and 1996

Phi Beta Kappa, O.U. 1988

Oklahoma Academy of State Goals, Leadership Development Committee 2001 to 2003

Southwest Collegiate Institute for the Deaf, Advisory Board 2003-2005

Oklahoma Commission on Children and Youth, Advisory Board 1994 – 1996

Central Oklahoma Health Care General Coalition 1989 – 1996

Governor's Task Force on Homelessness 1989 – 1991

Oklahoma Aids Coalition 1989 – 1992

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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October 8, 2003

MEDIA ADVISORY – News Conference

The following is from Jim Palmer:

Jim Palmer, Manager of Consumer Education for the Oklahoma Corporation Commission, will hold a news conference at the Tulsa Press Club, 415 South Boston, at 2:00 p.m. Thursday, Oct. 9.

The news conference will focus on utility customers and how to file complaints with the Corporation Commission's Consumer Services Division, as well as how the Division can help them resolve whatever problem they have.

This is particularly relevant to the Tulsa area, in light of the recent volume of complaints to the Commission by customers of AEP/PSO.

Also present for the news conference will be Rick Brinkley of the Better Business Bureau of Eastern Oklahoma.

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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November 14, 2003

REPORT ON OKLAHOMA OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION SHOWS CONTINUED DROP**

(Oklahoma City) The latest Oklahoma Corporation Commission report on oil and natural gas production in Oklahoma shows that oil and gas production continued its decline from June to July of 2003.

July 2003 oil production totaled 5,247,542 barrels, a decrease of 72,404 barrels from the June (revised) production of 5,319,946 barrels.

July 2003 gas production totaled 97,081,576 mcf (thousand cubic feet), a drop of 22,432,199 mcf from the June 2003 (revised) production total of 119,513,775 mcf (thousand cubic feet).

The average price for Oklahoma oil in July 2003 was 29.88 a barrel, compared to the June 2003 (revised) average price of \$29.42 a barrel.

The average price for Oklahoma gas in July 2003 was \$4.83 mcf, compared to \$5.15 mcf for June 2003 (revised).

The total oil production from January to July 2003 was 37,915,918 barrels, compared to 38,894,713 for the same time period in 2002. The average price-per-barrel for the period January 03 to July 03 was \$30.39. For the same time period in 2002, the average price was \$18.21.

The total gas production from January to July 2003 was 811,308,499 mcf (thousand cubic feet), compared to 914,782,139 mcf (thousand cubic feet) for the same time period in 2002. However, the average price for natural gas for January 03 to July 03 is markedly higher than for the same period a year before. The average natural gas price for January 03 – July 03 was \$5.15 per-mcf. For the same time period in 2002, the average price was \$2.64.

-OCC-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occ.state.ok.us

****Please Note: All numbers are subject to change, and should be used for trend purposes only.**

A CHART SHOWING THE COUNTY-BY-COUNTY BREAKDOWN OF THE PRODUCTION NUMBERS IS AVAILABLE IN PDF OR EXCEL FORMATS AT http://www.occ.state.ok.us/TEXT_FILES/o&gfiles.htm

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION ON OIL AND GAS PRODUCTION IN OKLAHOMA, CALL LARRY CLAXTON, MANAGER - STATISTICS/SURETY DEPARTMENT, OIL AND GAS DIVISION, OKLAHOMA CORPORATION COMMISSION (405) 521-2273.

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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November 26, 2003

COMMISSION APPROVES COGENERATION PLAN

Move will ensure reliable electric service and boost southwest Oklahoma's economy

(Oklahoma City) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission today approved a plan that paves the way for a cogeneration plant in Lawton. Under the plan, American Electric Power-Public Service Company of Oklahoma (AEP-PSO) will meet some of its electric demand by buying power from a 300 megawatt, natural gas-fired plant that will be located in Lawton's industrial park. The facility will also produce steam that will be sold to nearby industrial plants. The plant is expected to be on-line in less than five years.

Commission Chairman Denise Bode said there is no doubt there is a need for more power for the area, and a concurrent need to protect ratepayers.

"We have a mandate under the Oklahoma constitution to ensure Oklahomans receive affordable, reliable service from the utilities we regulate," Bode said. "The Commission is committed to ensuring brownouts and other electric service interruptions like those that have plagued such states as California do not happen here. The Lawton area is growing, and that has put a strain on the service AEP-PSO provides in the area. AEP-PSO has turned to outside sources to meet some its power demand. At one point this year, 31 percent of its power was purchased from other sources. This dependence on what is a very volatile marketplace puts ratepayers at risk, as prices could skyrocket suddenly. Ratepayers could find themselves in the same position as natural-gas customers two years ago, when prices for the fuel skyrocketed."

Chairman Bode points to estimates that show ratepayers could save approximately 700 million dollars during the term of the plan.

Commissioner Jeff Cloud said today's decision was the result of a process that involved careful analysis and a detailed review.

"The issues raised in this case were complex," said Cloud. "But after a thorough review and careful consideration of the testimony and evidence, I am confident that this order will serve the long-term best interests of AEP/PSO and its customers and benefit the overall economy of the Lawton area, as well as of the state as a whole."

The Commission voted 2-1 to approve the cogeneration plan. Commissioner Bob Anthony cast the dissenting vote. In his dissenting opinion, Commissioner Anthony said that the contract between AEP-PSO and the cogeneration plant should be limited to 5 years, rather than the 20 years established in the Commission order.

-OCC-

All OCC advisories and releases are available at www.occ.state.ok.us

News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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December 11, 2003

OIL AND GAS PRICES, DRILLING PERMITS UP SHARPLY IN OKLAHOMA, BUT PRODUCTION LAGS

(Oklahoma City) With prices up sharply, interest in exploring for oil and natural gas in Oklahoma has risen to a level not seen in many years. However the latest Commission report on production of oil and natural gas in Oklahoma shows production lagging behind the same time period a year ago.

Approved intent-to-drill applications posted a sharp increase for January-November of this year, as compared to the same time period a year ago. For the January-November 2003 period, approved intent-to-drill applications totaled 4,727, a jump of 998 from the same period in 2002. Further, it appears 2003 will end with the total number of approved intent-to-drill applications at a (at least) 15-year high.

However, the latest Commission report on production in Oklahoma shows that in August 2003 oil production totaled 4,946,685 barrels, a decrease of 551,511 barrels from the July (revised) production of 5,498,196 barrels. Oklahoma oil production for the January – August 2003 time period was below the (revised) total posted for the same time period last year (43,352,302 barrels versus the revised Jan-Aug 2002 total of 44,769,679 barrels).

August 2003 gas production totaled 117,289,250 mcf (thousand cubic feet). While that is an increase of 2,092,507 mcf from the July 2003 (revised) production total of 115,196,743 mcf (thousand cubic feet), it is still 77,525,896 mcf below the (revised) total posted for the same time period last year (970,396,186 mcf versus the revised Jan-Aug 2002 total of 1,047,922,082 mcf).

The average price for Oklahoma oil for January-August 2003 was \$30.43 a barrel, compared to \$18.21 a barrel for the same time period in 2002.

The average price for Oklahoma gas for January-August 2003 was \$4.42 mcf, compared to \$2.65 mcf for the same time period in 2002.

-OCC-

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News from the Oklahoma Corporation Commission

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December 29, 2003

OKLAHOMA JOINS WITH OTHER STATES TO ‘INSURE’ NEW YEAR IS A SAFE ONE FOR MOTOR CARRIERS AND DRIVING PUBLIC

Oklahoma Corporation Commission Motor Carrier Enforcement Officers will join their counterparts in 37 other states beginning New Year’s Day in a program aimed at making sure trucking companies have the insurance required to safely operate on Oklahoma’s highways.

“Oklahoma is part of a compact of 38 states which work together under the Single State Registration (SSR) program,” explained Commission Chairman Denise Bode. “Beginning on New Year’s Day, the designated authorities in each of the 38 states stop and check trucks to be sure they have their SSR for the new year.”

Commissioner Jeff Cloud said the program’s bottom line is protection of motorists.

“The SSR program promotes highway safety and maintenance of proper insurance,” noted Cloud. “Under the program, truckers registered through a participating state are required to keep a copy of the SSR in each vehicle. This document cannot be obtained without the proper insurance.”

Commission Vice-Chairman Bob Anthony added that the single state registration program is another example of benefiting industry by streamlining government regulation while maintaining regulatory oversight.

“This cooperative program allows a trucking company to file its annual registration in one state, rather than having to acquire decals in each state in which that company does business,” Anthony said. “Yet, it still allows each state to maintain its regulatory oversight of the trucks running on its highways.”

Notices were sent out in September by Oklahoma and the other states reminding all motor carriers of the need to renew their SSR. Any motor carrier with questions about the program can call the OCC’s Transportation Division at (405) 521-2251.

-OCC-

(All OCC advisories and news releases are available at the Commission web site www.occ.state.ok.us)