

Gas Cut Not To Affect Columbus

A 50 percent gas curtailment for a number of Indiana industrial consumers, ordered by Panhandle Eastern Pipe Line company, will not affect the Columbus area as far as is known here, the Indiana Gas and Water company local office said today.

Fifteen major Indiana industries are affected by the 50 percent cut which has been approved by the Federal Power commission.

Panhandle company officials declared that gas rationing was necessary in some of the industries in order to offset a critical shortage in Michigan.

The Panhandle order actually went into effect at 7 o'clock Monday morning, but the Indiana Public Service commission refused to approve the order.

Cannon to Washington. Gov. Ralph Gates, in order to avoid the shutdown of the Hoosier industries, sent Lawrence W. Cannon, a member of the IPSC to Washington, to confer with EPC officials.

The panhandle order, providing for an immediate curtailment of gas to the Indiana industries, was called "highly discriminatory" by the governor.

"We will use every means at our command to fight this order," he said. Gates had previously asked the IPSC to disregard the panhandle notice, and if necessary, "to instigate court action to protect Indiana consumers."

The IPSC stated "... as much as could be determined, the sole purpose of the cut in Indiana was to increase storage of gas in Michigan for the coming winter months."

Panhandle eastern lines to Michigan run through Indiana and are the principal source of gas supply for Indiana users.

Forms on List

In effect, the order eventually would close down the Anchor-Hocking Glass Company plant, Winchester; Ball Brothers Company, Muncie; the E. I. DuPont de Nemours Company, Fortville; Chrysler and Borg-Warner plants, New Castle; General Motors Corporation factories in Anderson and Muncie; Continental Steel Company, Kokomo, and the Ingram - Richardson Company, Frankfort, Cannon said.

A fight over rationing Indiana gas to aid Michigan's industries has been brewing between the PSC and Panhandle for the last two and a half years in scores of FPC hearings.

Cannon was accompanied to Washington by Louis B. Schiesz, president of the Indiana Gas & Water Co., one of six major Indiana utilities supplied by Panhandle.

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