

GAS LINE — Employees of McGuire Pipe Line Construction company prepare trench for Indiana Gas company at a new home installation in Flatwood addition. From left, Norman Smith, operating trencher, Gordon Smith and Richard George.

Oldest Utility

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of this gas is obtained from wells in Louisiana. Before being pumped into the pipeline, natural gas is "scrubbed" to take out petroleum and other undesirable elements. Interestingly, pure natural gas has no odor. An odorant is added for detection purposes.

Ample natural gas for future expansion in the area served by Indiana Gas company is assured by long-term contracts with three interstate companies: the Ohio river, companies. And ample gas for the heavy demands for space heating on severe cold days is assured by the company's four underground storage fields strategically located throughout the area. One in Columbus is the Unionville field, approximately 25 miles to the west, with a capacity of more than five billion cubic feet of gas.

Two new applications of natural gas are being developed in its use. These are the "fuel cell" concept and the "fuel cell." In the fuel cell concept, gas is used to operate a gas turbine or engine directly connected to an electric generator, on the premises. Exhaust heat from the engine is passed through a heat exchanger where it is used for space heating and water heating. In summer, the heat is used to operate the air conditioning system. With a fuel cell system, all electric power for lights, radios and appliances is generated on the site and the exhaust heat is utilized for the other purposes mentioned. A fuel cell system is to be installed in Columbus at the Southside Junior High School low water construction. Still in the development stage is the "fuel cell." Natural gas and oxygen are chemically combined to produce energy. As gas and air are injected into the cell, a steady stream of electricity is released. One of the main attractions of the fuel cell is the high efficiency of conversion of natural gas into electrical energy, ranging from 60 per cent to 80 per cent, compared with an efficiency of about 40 per cent for conventional methods of generating electricity.


The fuel cell equipment is also much simpler and has no moving parts. Scientists foresee the day when a 1-foot-square box in the basement of the home, supplied by natural gas and drawing oxygen from the air, will produce ample electricity for all household use.

Indiana Gas company supplies natural gas to 180,000 customers in 86 communities in 23 Indiana counties, extending from Lafayette and Huntington on the north down to New Albany, Jeffersonville and Madison on the Ohio river.

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