

State energy officials look at 1976

by Sam Hensley
FRANKFORT—State Energy Commissioner Damon Harrison says Kentucky should not be lulled into believing that recent warm weather means an end to gas curtailments and high utility bills.

The slight increase in natural gas supplies is strictly a short term occurrence, says Harrison and other state energy-watchers. They say curtailments and short supplies will continue for many years and a return to the abundant supplies of the 1960s is virtually out of the question.



Present gifts to Nursing Home

in fact, Harrison says he believes "the outlook for natural gas supplies will continue to worsen over the next few years—by 1980 interstate gas will not be available for practically all industrial users. They must be sure that they have an alternate source of energy to substitute for natural gas and they must conserve and manage energy more carefully."

Harrison indicated that the short term prospects for Kentucky's energy supplies will depend more on effective conservation programs by users than on the weather. Warm winters will not be much of a blessing if they mislead energy consumers into ignoring the need for conservation, Harrison said, because those who continue to depend on abundant supplies could be caught short when a colder than usual winter comes along. And, he pointed out, this winter was not over.

He said Kentucky's energy situation for the winter of 1975-76 is "manageable" barring a radical change in the weather or other unusual conditions.

Deputy Commissioner John Stapleton said that weather isn't the only uncertainty obscuring Kentucky's energy picture. There are unanswered questions on the economy, the petroleum supply, national energy policy and the possibility of international events or strikes which could have a marked effect on supplies of energy as well as its cost.

An upsurge in the national economy would certainly increase demands on the supply of energy and, because demands for fuel are usually interrelated, the effects are very difficult to predict. For example, he said, many natural gas users are able to use petroleum or other fuels as an alternative. Therefore, when natural gas supplies are short, demand for the other fuels increases at an accelerated rate. Supplies of the most interrelated fuels—natural gas, propane and petroleum—are not expected to increase appreciably over the next decade.

Supplies of petroleum have decreased over the past few months, with shortages reported in some areas of the nation. Stapleton feels that uncertainties about petroleum product supplies could have widespread effects on other energy forms. Without a national energy policy, these effects are undefined and hard to foresee, he said.

Both Harrison and Stapleton say that the New Year's resolutions they have made, I hope you will make them also.

I resolve not to pollute in 1976. It's been said that man is one of the few creatures on earth that fouls his own nest. We're learning to combat pollution but more effort is needed.

When you ski, observe the no ski boys and keep to the main part of the lake. Don't ski close to anchored vessels or fishing boats. When you are in congested areas and in areas of boat moorage, a large wake can play havoc with the inside of a houseboat or cruiser. Don't play the putt down game with statements such as: "I never fish for croppie, that's for kids." "I don't fish for little fish, I only fish for the big ones." "Trolling! That's like shooting fish in a barrel!" "Live bait fishing is not sporting."

Kentucky Water Sports

By DONALD SMITH

New Year's resolutions for boaters and fishermen help prevent long delays for others. Have your boat ready to launch before backing down the ramp by arranging your gear in the parking lot. The same is true of loading. Don't tie up the ramp with chores that can be done elsewhere.

When on the water, keep your distance from other fishermen. Don't pull in from someone casting a bank or point. If you must fish the same area, come in behind, at a reasonable distance.

When you ski, observe the no ski boys and keep to the main part of the lake. Don't ski close to anchored vessels or fishing boats.

Slow down in congested areas and in areas of boat moorage. A large wake can play havoc with the inside of a houseboat or cruiser. Don't play the putt down game with statements such as: "I never fish for croppie, that's for kids." "I don't fish for little fish, I only fish for the big ones." "Trolling! That's like shooting fish in a barrel!" "Live bait fishing is not sporting."

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You can help by reporting violators to the Department of Natural Resources, Division of Water Quality, Frankfort, Ky., or to your local conservation officer. Your report, which may be anonymous, is supposed to be investigated and enforcement steps taken, if necessary.

I resolve to be more courteous of others in 1976. It doesn't cost a penny to be respectful while on the water. On the whole, boaters and fishermen are a well-mannered group. However, we sometimes abuse the rights of others, unknowingly.

Learn how to launch and load your boat quickly. Most ramps are crowded, and efficient launching and loading.

According to Doug Shoulters, the Director for the Division of Water Enforcement in the state, this was partially caused by more people using our waterways. However, he attributed many of the accidents to plain old carelessness.

"Surprisingly, the younger persons using the water seem to be the safest group," said Shoulters. "The average age of a drowning victim last year was 35."

We adults should re-examine our attitude toward water safety and make sure we know the safety regulations. A list is available at most boat dealers and tackle shops or at the boat licensing office of a county court house.

Carry the required safety gear and know how to use it. Have your boat safety inspected by the Coast Guard Auxiliary or an officer of the Division of Water Enforcement.

Let's all make 1976 a year for ecology, courtesy and safety, and we will truly have a Happy New Year.

COUNTY UNEMPLOYMENT FOR NOVEMBER IS 1.5

FRANKFORT—Unemployment in the Bluegrass dropped from a 5.4 per cent rate in October to a 1.2 per cent rate in November, according to Department for Human Resources (DHR) statistics. The area continues to have the lowest unemployment rate in the state. The state rate is 7.1 per cent.

November was the third consecutive month unemployment dropped in the state, according to DHR figures. Powell county, at 18.3 per cent unemployed, and Lee county, with an 18.8 per cent rate, have the highest rates in the state. Harrison county had the lowest rate, 3.8 per cent.

Nicholas county unemployment rate for November was 5.3.



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