

Three Area Natural Gas Firms To Participate In Hearings

Three Southland natural gas firms today filed with the Federal Power Commission (FPC) the official declaration of intent to participate in forthcoming hearings to determine Southern California's future gas pipeline requirements.

At the same time, they pointed out to the FPC why three pending applications should be consolidated for the hearing.

Serra Picks '63 Queen

On Sunday, Oct. 27, Kim Ramstead was chosen 1963 Serra Homecoming Queen by 30 members of the Student Council. Her court consists of Patty Robinson, St. Mary's Academy; Kathy Hourigan, West High School; Fanny Rush, St. Mary's Academy; and Sheena McDonald, Morningside High School.

The queen and her court were first chosen from a field of 30 entrants one week prior to the final judging. They were judged on the basis of beauty, personality and support of Serra activities. She will reign over the Homecoming Football game, Friday, Nov. 1, between Serra and Mount Carmel, and the Homecoming Dance the following evening.

Miss Ramstead, a senior at Bishop Montgomery High School, said, "I wanted to win but when they announced my name I didn't think it was possible. I hope to carry on the traditions which past queens have set. I think that it is my duty to represent the school as well as I can. I've seen Serra play Mount Carmel in past years and I know that victory means a lot to the school and the team. I know the team will be going all out and I hope the student body will do the same."

Handling the various phases of the Homecoming activities are: Tom Lockhart, election committee chairman; Joe Vessa, dance chairman; Jim Reidt, halftime chairman; and John Lenoir, float chairman.

Lively Weekend Spent at Park By YMCA Boys

More than 250 Torrance YMCA boys and their fathers spent a lively weekend at Newport Dunes Aquatic Park. The boys, members of Gra-Y Clubs, enjoyed camping on the sand, swimming, fishing, paddling kayaks, water skiing, playing football, and a huge waterfront campfire program.

According to John Bramhall, chairman of the Gra-Y Dad's Council, seven new Gra-Y Clubs were in attendance; the Sea Hawks, Comets, War Hawks, Rattlers, Sting Rays and the Falcons.

Bramhall reported that there are now Gra-Y Clubs for boys 9 to 12 years of age in all sectors of Torrance and Lomita. The clubs are designed to enable boys to grow stronger in body, mind and spirit, and to multiply the times that dad and son can enjoy he-man fun together.

Bramhall announced that all 22 local Gra-Y Clubs commence YMCA flag football leagues this Saturday, Oct. 26, playing all games at West Torrance High School. Football is the first of five major sports in which the boys will participate during the school year.

All interested dads and sons are invited to the games, or to call for further information at the YMCA, FAirfax 8-1272.

Local Resident Named Agent

Local resident Thomas J. Larsen, 3444 Emerald St., has been named agent locally for the South Bay district agency of the Prudential Insurance Co., it was announced today by Manager Douglas M. Tinsler.

Larsen is a native of Denver, Colo., and attended schools in that city. He served in the U.S. Army, 1958-61, and was a material investigator for Rocketdyne in Canoga Park, 1962-63.

He and his wife, Anne, have resided here 14 months.

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The petitioners are Southern California, Southern Counties and Pacific Lighting Gas Supply Companies. A prehearing conference in the case will probably be held in early December, with a final decision by the 1965.

Pending are the application of El Paso Natural Gas and Transwestern Pipeline Companies to supply the three California gas utility companies with substantial additional natural gas under a tailored supply program to meet growth requirements

in an orderly manner. In addition, Gulf Pacific Pipeline Company is seeking authorization to construct a new 1,500 mile pipeline from the Southwest solely to serve two industrial users, Southern California Edison Company and the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power (DWP). Edison and the DWP are presently supplied by Southern California and Southern Counties Gas Companies.

A spokesman for the three Pacific Lighting companies said effect of the proposed Gulf Pacific plans would be both "damaging and severe upon the public."

In requesting the consolidation, the utilities contend

that the three applications for major pipeline construction should be considered together. The Gulf Pacific project would cost \$314 million, El Paso's an estimated \$49.6 million and Transwestern's approximately \$39.5 million.

Southern California, Southern Counties and Pacific Lighting Gas Supply Companies believe that it would be logical and appropriate for the FPC first to authorize such additional deliveries of natural gas as can be made through the already certified and existing facilities of El Paso and Transwestern.

The companies maintain that the Gulf Pacific pro-

posal "is neither consistent with the public interest nor required by the present or future public convenience and necessity."

The motion to consolidate by the Pacific Lighting Companies presents several reasons why the Gulf Pacific project and their own tailored supply program cannot both be approved.

The companies indicated in the presentations to the FPC in Washington, D. C., today that the economic utilization of their distribution and transmission capacities requires a substantial market for gas when the demand for gas by residential users is low.

The Gulf Pacific appli-

cation, if approved, would deprive the Southern California gas companies of this vital market and thereby increase the unit operating costs applicable to current facilities, the companies contended. In turn, it would mean an increase in the cost of gas to the gas companies' customers, they said.

Further, the gas companies say that Gulf Pacific's proposal will be subject to minimum regulatory control, with no protection to the public by any California regulatory agency.

It was also pointed out that "The tying-up of vast reserves of natural gas for use as boiler fuel, thus placing it permanently beyond

the reach of the household consumers, is not in the public interest, where, as here, there are ample supplies of natural gas available from the presently certificated gas distribution companies as needed in Southern California to meet air pollution requirements." The local gas companies contend that this tying-up of reserves for exclusive boiler-fuel use, without associated economic benefits to the firm customer, is contrary to the public interest.

In their presentation the three companies say, further, that certification of the boiler fuel project would seriously disrupt and threaten the continued existence

of the two-fuel economy in Southern California. This, contend the petitioners, would not be in the public interest because California's longrange energy needs will require fuel oil as well as natural gas.

The public utilities further state: "It is not in the public interest to permit a new pipeline to skim off the cream of industrial customers without showing that the consuming public in the area served will clearly and directly benefit by the new service."

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