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The way it was

Battalion photo by Lee Ray

Winter sunsets such as this one silhouetting Texas A&M's Oceanography-Meteorology Building have become rare so far this new year, with inclement weather often clouding the sky. This scene was photographed in December.

Hearings scheduled on gas phase-out regulation in Texas

United Press International
AUSTIN — The Texas Railroad Commission Monday ordered a statewide hearing for public comment on a proposal to repeal regulations requiring Texas utilities to phase out use of natural gas in generating electricity.

Texas officials contend conflicting federal energy policies penalize Texas utilities that are being forced to find alternative fuel sources instead of burning natural gas as a boiler fuel.

"It is intended by this repeal or modification, that Texas energy users be allowed to make decisions on the use of energy without having sacrifices im-

posed upon them that are greater than those imposed upon energy users outside of Texas," the notice of the hearing said.

Commissioner Mack Wallace said it would be better to utilize the large volumes of gas involved in Texas rather than conserve the fuel to have it exported to other states under federal manage-

A tentative date of March 15 was set for the hearing.

Officials said interested citizens are welcome to comment as well as private and industrial concerns.

The order adopted four years ago requires a 25 percent phase down in the use of natural gas as a boiler fuel by 1985.

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