

# Texas gas reserves drop sharply, newspaper says

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Energy Department figures indicate natural gas reserves in Texas dropped 25 percent from 1976 to 1980, a Dallas newspaper reported Saturday.

Figures indicate natural gas reserves in Texas fell 6 percent in 1980, despite unprecedented production throughout the nation, the Dallas Times Herald said in its Sunday editions.

The drop in gas reserves for Texas' intrastate pipelines could mean a big problem for Texas in the future, when cold winters shorten supplies across the nation. The situation is aggravated by federal laws providing for the

sale of gas to consumers outside the state at lower prices, the newspaper said.

Reserves have been steadily dropping since price controls were established in the Texas market in 1978. No major Texas pipeline has maintained a reserve since the passing of the Natural Gas Policy Act, the paper reported.

Last winter, natural gas usage by three major pipeline companies was cut for seven to 15 days. As reserves decline, the length of curtailments will increase.

Texas energy experts said individual consumers and hospitals will not be in danger of gas

curtailments in the near future. Most natural gas in Texas is burned by utilities and industries, the newspaper reported, with only about 12 percent going to homes.

Curtailments will affect schools, small businesses and industries which cannot switch to fuel oil when natural gas is in slim supply.

"I don't think we're seeing a problem yet, but it's fast approaching," said Mike Long, a spokesman for Valero Energy in San Antonio. "Beyond 1982, we see the problem shaping up."

Representatives of other major Texas pipelines, including Lone Star in Dallas and Pioneer Corporation's gas division,

could not predict when curtailments could take effect.

The companies blame the problems on the Natural Gas Policy Act, which extended price controls for intrastate markets in 1978. Texas pipelines are discriminated against, the newspaper reported, because the act allows interstate pipelines to keep a supply of cheap gas that enables them to outbid pipelines in Texas and other states for new gas supplies.

The newspaper said gas from the Outer Continental Shelf is restricted to the interstate market, cutting Texas out of a potential supply, and Texas cannot buy gas from the interstate market.



staff photo by Ellen

## Asylum sought, officials say

# Latins flood the South

**United Press International**  
NEW ORLEANS — Charitable organizations and immigration officials say hundreds of refugees from the political wars of El Salvador and Guatemala are flooding Southern cities, hoping to find refuge.

"They are worried to death that at any moment they could

be deported," said Gloribel Rubio, who with her minister husband has helped more than 100 Salvadorans in the past year. "Many say, no matter what, they aren't going back."

As of February, 50 Salvadorans had requests for political asylum pending in New Orleans, Memphis and Louisvil-

le immigration offices. Guatemalans have made another 15 requests for protection.

Edwin Chauvin, district immigration director, said the New Orleans office had deported 14 Salvadorans since March 1981, most because they were in the United States illegally. Another 55 returned to El Salvador

voluntarily.

"We give them a form and they set down the reasons they think they will be persecuted if they return and we forward all the information to the State Department in Washington for its recommendation," Chauvin said.

"In the final analysis, it's our decision, but we strongly base it on their recommendations, because they have offices in foreign countries and we don't."

The Rev. Juan Rubio and his wife of Mt. Olive Lutheran Church in Metairie have helped about 100 Salvadorans in the past 12 months — at one point they had 16 refugees living in their home.

The fact the Latinos came from different political factions turned out to be the least of their worries.

"There was no problem," Mrs. Rubio said. "They didn't talk politics. They didn't come here to continue the war but to start a new life."

In one local case, Mrs. Rubio said, a man was sent back to El Salvador even though he showed immigration officials a picture of his brother who had been shot. The assassins had pinned a note to the body, warning the surviving brother, "You're next."

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Getting ready for the race

Full-time cyclist Janet Friedrich checks her bike in preparation for the Women's Aggie and Lowenbrau Stage Race. The race was held Sunday morning. Friedrich, Kansas City, Mo., took part in annual event sponsored by Aggie cycling team.

# Houston hotel reopens four weeks after blaze

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Vowing it will become one of the safest hotels in the world, officials have reopened the Westchase Hilton Hotel four weeks after a fire killed 11 people.

Manager Erich Huemer, who lives in the hotel with his wife

and two children, said contractors are installing a new sprinkler system and a new alarm system that puts a switchboard speaker in each room.

The new alarm and sprinkler systems are expected to be completed in four to eight weeks at a cost of several thousand dollars.

"We are going to be the safest hotel in Houston and one of the safest hotels in the entire world," Huemer said Friday. "It was our choice (to put in the additional equipment). We decided to go ahead with it regardless."

During the fire, guests said they could not hear the alarm, the hotel had no sprinkler sys-

tem and no way of calling room simultaneously. Huemer said the hotel was built in 1960 and did not require sprinklers. A tangle of suits and suits followed the blaze, causing a legal wrangle between the hotel and the company. Huemer said the hotel had been closed for four weeks. Officials hoped to have the and sprinkler systems before reopening, not of fire damage.

Huemer said business slow in the first days reopening Monday, but expected it to pick up.

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