

by Paul Dirmeyer



# Texas gas firm to refund \$2.6 million in gas profits

**United Press International**  
 WASHINGTON — Coastal Oil and Gas Corp. of Texas must refund over \$2.6 million for illegally diverting natural gas from a Florida interstate pipeline firm and selling it intrastate at higher prices, officials said Tuesday.

Federal Energy Regulatory Commission officials said Coastal must refund the money — representing earnings from the well from which the gas was diverted — to Florida Gas Transmission Co. customers.

The commission said the firm violated the Natural Gas Act by failing to seek their authorization to divert 1.9 billion cubic feet of gas dedicated to the Florida company — an interstate pipeline.

The commission's ruling on the diversion affirms a judge's decision that Coastal sold gas intrastate to its affiliate — Lo-Vaca Gathering Co. of Houston — at rates above the maximum.

The judge originally ruled Coastal should pay back the gas at a 1958 contract price, a \$6 million benefit for the Florida customers. The commission said the ruling might be excessive, and reduced the penalty to \$2.6 million.



3

MORE DAYS

# Utilities rate hike opposed

**United Press International**  
 AUSTIN — A \$304.2 million rate hike request by the newly formed Texas Utilities Electric Co. has been challenged by the Public Utility Commission staff.

Other dismissal motions were filed by the state Office of Public Utility Council, which represents residential and small business customers, and the Citizens Association for Sound Energy, a Dallas-based group concerned with nuclear energy.

to date to \$3.89 billion from an initially projected \$779 million. The plant is under construction in Glen Rose, about 30 miles southwest of Fort Worth.

tion costs have contributed to the deterioration of Texas Utilities' financial condition. The financial community was recently alerted that Texas Utilities corporate bond rating could be lowered.

# Age discrimination cited in airline suit

**United Press International**  
 EL PASO — An American Airlines employee who once worked as a hijacker at El Paso International Airport was named Tuesday as a model in a lawsuit filed in federal court.

Gilbert is suing the airline for past salaries he would have received if he had won the promotions, plus estimated future salaries he would have received with the promotions, plus punitive damages. Specific amounts will be determined by an economist during the trial, officials said.

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When questioned by his lawyer, Thomas Spiczny, Gilbert said he was passed over at least three times for promotions that went to younger men.

He is also asking to be placed in the job he said he should have gotten through promotion.

# Frustrated newlywed kills himself

**United Press International**  
 CORPUS CHRISTI — Police said Tuesday a 20-year-old newlywed, upset when his wife spurned him because her birth control prescription had expired, shot and killed himself as his bride looked on.

They were married March 2. Police said the man shot himself in the head with a .22-caliber rifle.

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