

RESOLUTION NO. 363

RESOLUTION ADOPTING THE METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON NATURAL GAS SUPPLY EMERGENCY ALERT PLAN

WHEREAS, the Washington, D. C. Metropolitan area is faced with curtailments in the supply of natural gas; and

WHEREAS, the Board of Directors of the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments (hereinafter called "the Council") on November 21, 1974, adopted the Metropolitan Washington Natural Gas Supply Emergency Alert Plan; and

WHEREAS, the Plan provides a common base for actions which local governments can take to complement and reinforce existing plans developed by the Washington Gas Light Company; and

WHEREAS, currently there is no single natural gas emergency plan for the Washington area; and

WHEREAS, action by local governments is essential to ensure a coordinated response by both Washington Gas Light Company and local jurisdictions to natural gas supply emergencies; and

WHEREAS, this Plan was forwarded to all COG member jurisdictions for their consideration and adoption.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the City Council of the City of Alexandria, Virginia, hereby adopts the Metropolitan Washington Natural Gas Supply Emergency Alert Plan.

FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be forwarded to the Metropolitan Washington Council of Governments and its member jurisdictions.

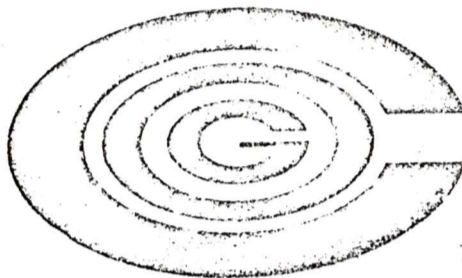
Adopted December 30, 1974

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Helen Vickers, Clerk of the City of  
Alexandria, Virginia

METROPOLITAN  
WASHINGTON

NATURAL GAS SUPPLY  
EMERGENCY ALERT PLAN



PREPARED BY

Metropolitan Washington Council Of Governments

IN COORDINATION WITH

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA OFFICE OF CIVIL DEFENSE  
WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY

November 21, 1974

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
PREFACE.....	1
PURPOSE.....	2
INTRODUCTION.....	2
TYPES OF EMERGENCIES.....	2
A. LONG-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY EMERGENCY.....	2
B. SHORT-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY EMERGENCY.....	2
C. IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION HAZARD EMERGENCY.....	3
DEFINITIONS.....	3
COMMUNICATIONS.....	3
SITUATION A - LONG-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY EMERGENCY...	5
A. WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY ACTIONS.....	5
B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS.....	6
SITUATION B - SHORT-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY EMERGENCY..	8
A. WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY ACTIONS.....	8
B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS.....	9
SITUATION C - IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION HAZARD EMERGENCY.	12
A. WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY ACTIONS.....	12
B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS.....	12
AREA COMMUNICATIONS CIRCUIT TERMINAL POINT.....	13
	14

## PREFACE

The potential for natural gas supply shortages and/or equipment failure may result in a natural gas deficiency. This plan is offered to facilitate coordinated action between the Washington Gas Light Company and the local governments of the Washington Metropolitan area.

This plan was prepared at the direction of the Energy Policy Advisory Committee and the COG Board of Directors. The Board directed: (1) the preparation of a metropolitan natural gas supply emergency alert plan within thirty days; (2) the use of the District of Columbia Office of Civil Defense (DC/OCD) as the plan's communications focus; and recommended that (3) local governments prepare and/or update their operations plans for managing conditions associated with natural gas supply emergencies and be prepared to take appropriate actions based upon notification received from the District of Columbia Office of Civil Defense.

The Metropolitan Washington Natural Gas Supply Emergency Alert Plan was prepared by a special committee of the Council of Governments' Energy Policy Advisory Committee in coordination with the District of Columbia Office of Civil Defense, COG staff, and the Washington Gas Light Company. The success of this plan is dependent upon close cooperation between Washington Gas Light, the District of Columbia Office of Civil Defense, and member jurisdictions of the Council of Governments.

This plan is presented for approval on an interim basis, with the understanding that after a ninety-day implementation period the procedures herein prescribed will be reviewed by participating COG jurisdictions and Washington Gas Light. WGL is currently developing a contingency plan for varied levels of curtailment as requested by the Virginia Corporation Commission, and when available for review, may be integrated into this plan.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON COUNCIL OF GOVERNMENTS  
NATURAL GAS SUPPLY EMERGENCY ALERT PLAN

PURPOSE: The purpose of this plan is to provide for timely and coordinated alert to local governments in the event of a natural gas supply deficiency of short or long-run or a total natural gas cutoff. The plan establishes a framework within which Washington Gas Light and local governments in the metropolitan area can respond in accordance with the severity of the emergency by:

- a. Alerting local jurisdictions to existing and potential deficiencies of natural gas supplies; and
- b. -Coordinating action to assist Washington Gas Light in maintaining balance through timely reduction in municipal natural gas usage.

INTRODUCTION: There are three types of natural gas emergencies which can be encountered in the Washington Metropolitan Area. The emergencies are either a cause of or the result of a significant deficiency in gas supply.

TYPES OF EMERGENCIES:

A. LONG-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY

A long-term supply deficiency exists when available supplies of natural gas are less than that required to meet customer demand and still maintain adequate capacity for purposes of reliability. The cause of the deficiency is the curtailment of contracted seasonal natural gas volumes by pipeline suppliers. The duration of the emergency can be measured in weeks or months, depending on the severity of volumetric curtailment and prevailing weather conditions. Advance warning of a long-term supply deficiency can be measured in days or months. Response to this emergency follows clearly defined steps to obtain progressive reductions in natural gas demand, thereby allowing WGL to maintain adequate capacity critical to system reliability.

B. SHORT-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY

A short-term supply deficiency caused mainly by impairment of plant equipment exists when available supplies of natural gas are less than that required to meet customer demand and still maintain adequate capacity for purpose of reliability. The four potential causes of deficiency each requiring appropriate courses of action are: (1) Curtailment of supply from pipeline suppliers due to impairment of transmission facilities; (2) WGL line failure or impairment of delivery facilities; (3) Loss of pressure control; and (4) Loss of a peak-shaving plant. The duration of the emergency is

one day to several weeks. A short-term deficiency is a condition not generally predictable. Accordingly, advance warning time can be expected to range from several minutes to several hours. Response to this emergency is dependent upon its cause, however it includes many of the same courses of action.

C. IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION HAZARD EMERGENCY

This situation exists when equipment failure or some other abnormal occurrence causes line damage in the distribution system and a disruption of transmission capability. This situation generally involves portions of the system but conceivably can involve the entire utility network. The extent of the emergency is not predictable and no advance warning is given. Duration of the emergency is expected to be minutes to hours. Technical response to this emergency is generally a function which only can be performed by WGL, coupled with measures which should be taken by local government to protect the public health, safety and welfare.

DEFINITIONS

INTERRUPTIBLE CUSTOMER - For purposes of this document an interruptible customer is a large customer who buys gas at a discounted rate with the understanding he will provide alternate fuel capability to meet his requirements during extremely cold weather or during periods of deficient gas supply. Firm customers are all others not fitting the above definition.

EMERGENCY NATURAL GAS - Additional natural gas made available at substantially higher prices by pipeline suppliers for emergencies through further curtailment of other distribution companies.

SELECTED CUSTOMERS - Large commercial, industrial, institutional (and government) customers.

FIRM CUSTOMER - Residential and all other non-interruptible customers without alternate on-site fuel capability.

PEAK SHAVING PLANT - Gas production plants provided by WGL in the Washington area to supplement pipeline gas supply during very cold days. Annual volume is not significant and depends entirely upon WGL being able to replace the feedstock.

SECTION - An area on WGL distribution system containing 400 - 1200 dwelling units which can be easily shut off during emergencies.

DC/OCD - District of Columbia Office of Civil Defense.

COMMUNICATIONS

WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY - WGL will use normal commercial telephone systems to notify the District of Columbia Office of Civil Defense of natural gas emergencies.

In the event of a long-term supply deficiency emergency or a short-term supply deficiency emergency, appeals through the media will be taken only at the initiative of WGL.

DC/OCD - Will notify local governments using the Area Communications Circuits of the Defense Civil Preparedness Agency.

Upon receipt of a warning message from WGL, DC/OCD will relay information to all ACC terminal points. COG member jurisdictions which have one or more terminal points are:

1. Montgomery County
2. Prince George's County
3. City of Alexandria
4. Arlington County
5. Fairfax County
6. Fairfax City
7. City of Falls Church
8. Prince William County
9. Loudoun County

COG member jurisdictions without an ACC terminal point are encouraged to establish coordination procedures with another jurisdiction.

SITUATION A

LONG-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY EMERGENCY

LONG-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY ACTIONS

A. WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY ACTIONS: WGL plans include the following actions, not necessarily in the following sequence, depending on the severity of the emergency.

- STAGE I: Request conservation measures by selected large customers.
- STAGE II: Request conservation by general public.
- STAGE III: Augment supplies with WGL storage and production facilities.
- STAGE IV: Request emergency conservation from all customers.
- STAGE V: Request emergency gas from pipeline suppliers.
- STAGE VI: Curtail customers on a priority basis consistent with the intent of the Federal Power Commission Order 467-B.

FPC Order 467-B establishes that the national interests in the development and utilization of natural gas resources throughout the United States will be served by recognition and implementation of the following priority-of-service categories.

- (1) Residential, small commercial (less than 50 Mcf on a peak day).
- (2) Large commercial requirements (50 Mcf or more on a peak day), firm industrial requirements for plant protection, feedstock and process needs, and pipeline customer storage injection requirements.
- (3) All industrial requirements not specified in (2), (4), (5), (6), (7), (8), or (9).
- (4) Firm industrial requirements for boiler fuel use at less than 3,000 Mcf per day, but more than 1,500 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.
- (5) Firm industrial requirements for large volume (3,000 Mcf or more per day) boiler fuel use where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.
- (6) Interruptible requirements of more than 300 Mcf per day, but less than 1,500 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

- (7) Interruptible requirements of intermediate volumes (from 1,500 Mcf per day through 3,000 Mcf per day), where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.
- (8) Interruptible requirements of more than 3,000 Mcf per day, but less than 10,000 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.
- (9) Interruptible requirements of more than 10,000 Mcf per day, where alternate fuel capabilities can meet such requirements.

The above list of priorities requires that full curtailment of the lower priority category volumes be accomplished before curtailment of any higher priority volumes is commenced.

NOTE #1 - WGL Company will notify DC/OCD at or prior to each STAGE of the nature of the problem, severity, expected duration and areas affected.

NOTE #2 - In addition to notifying DC/OCD utility company plans include notification of certain federal agencies, large private customers and the general public, when appropriate.

NOTE #3 - The STAGES do not necessarily follow a set sequence.

NOTE #4 - DC/OCD will relay Long-Term Supply Deficiency information (NOTE #1), over the Civil Defense Area Communication Circuit (ACC) to local jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions which do not have ACC should make arrangements for notification with another jurisdiction.

#### B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

- STAGE I: Local governments reduce use of natural gas for space heating purposes by turning thermostats to setting advised by WGL. Reduce all other uses of natural gas as is feasible and consistent with maintenance of normal governmental operations.
- STAGE II: Information only through DC/OCD; no action required.
- STAGE III: Information only through DC/OCD; no action required.
- STAGE IV:
- 1) Local governments, in accordance with locally adopted procedures, make appeal for natural gas conservation by the general public.
  - 2) The Executive Director of the Council of Governments, at the request of WGL will make an appeal for natural gas conservation by the general public.

STAGE V: Information only through DC/OCD; no action required.

STAGE VI: Actions due to the curtailment of customers on a priority basis.

ACTION A: Applicable to curtailment of Interruptible Customers.

Be prepared to render assistance to those interruptible human needs customers with no alternative fuels available. This assistance could include:

- (a) Assistance in obtaining alternative supplies.
- (b) Possible relocation of persons to suitable alternative locations.

ACTION B: Applicable to curtailment of Firm Industrial Customers.

1. The Executive Director of the Council of Governments, at the request of WGL will issue an advisory to firm industrial customers, requesting cooperation with WGL effort.

2. Local governments, in accordance with locally adopted procedures, request cooperation of firm industrial customers with WGL curtailment effort.

NOTE - Priority load shedding will be accomplished through WGL operating procedures.

ACTION C: Applicable to curtailment of residential, small commercial, and large commercial customers.

Initiate necessary actions in accordance with locally adopted procedures, consistent with the protection of public health, safety, and welfare.

SITUATION B

SHORT-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY EMERGENCY

SHORT-TERM SUPPLY DEFICIENCY ACTIONS

A. WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY ACTIONS: WGL plans include the following actions, not necessarily in the following sequence, depending on the severity of the emergency.

STAGE I: Actions due to curtailment of supply from pipeline suppliers (Transco and Columbia).

ACTION A: Request conservation or curtailment measures from selected customers.

ACTION B: Request conservation by residential customers.

ACTION C: Curtail interruptible customers consistent with conditions.

ACTION D: Augment existing pipeline supplies with WGL storage gas and production facilities.

ACTION E: Operate WGL transmission so as to utilize fully available supply of gas.

ACTION F: Increase purchase levels from unaffected pipeline supplies under "emergency gas" tariffs.

STAGE II: Actions due to WGL line failure or impairment of delivery facilities.

ACTION A: Applicable actions from situation B, STAGE I actions, above.

ACTION B: Implement section or sections shut-off.

ACTION C: Manipulate gas pressures as needed.

STAGE III: Actions due to loss of pressure control within WGL system.

ACTION A: Applicable actions from situation B, STAGE I actions, above.

ACTION B: Operate other WGL lines at capacity consistent with conditions.

STAGE IV: Actions due to loss of peak shaving plant (occurs only during cold spells).

ACTION A: Applicable actions from situation B, STAGE I actions, above.

ACTION B: Maximum production from remaining plants.

ACTION C: Request more daily sendout capacity from pipeline suppliers.

NOTE #1 - WGE Company will notify DC/OCD at or prior to each STAGE of the nature of the problem, severity, expected duration and areas affected.

NOTE #2 - In addition to notifying DC/OCD utility company plans include notification of certain federal agencies, large private customers and the general public, when appropriate.

NOTE #3 - The STAGES do not necessarily follow a set sequence.

NOTE #4 - DC/OCD will relay Short-Term Supply Deficiency information (NOTE #1), over the Civil Defense Area Communication Circuit (ACC) to local jurisdictions. Those jurisdictions which do not have ACC should make arrangements for notification with another jurisdiction.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS

STAGE I:

- ACTION A:
1. Local governments support, in accordance with locally adopted procedures, cooperation by selected large interruptible customers with WGL curtailment or conservation efforts.
  2. Local governments reduce use of natural gas for space heating purposes by turning thermostats to setting advised by WGL. Reduce all other uses of natural gas as is feasible and consistent with maintenance of normal governmental operations.
  3. Be prepared to temporarily suspend normal governmental natural gas-consuming operations except for critical services necessary for maintenance of public health, safety, and welfare.

ACTION B: Information only through DC/OCD; no further action necessary.

NOTE - Due to the volatile and rapidly changing nature of this stage, all media contact to the general public under ACTION B will be initiated by WGL Company.

ACTION C: Be prepared to render assistance to those interruptible human needs customers with no alternative fuels available. This assistance could include:

- (a) Assistance in obtaining alternative fuel supplies.
- (b) Possible relocation of persons to suitable alternative locations.

ACTION D: Information only through DC/OCD; no action required.

ACTION E: Information only through DC/OCD; no action required.

ACTION F: Information only through DC/OCD; no action required.

STAGE II:

ACTION A: Be prepared to take appropriate actions listed under STAGE I, ACTIONS A-F as appropriate.

ACTION B: (In mild weather): Initiate necessary actions in accordance with locally adopted procedures, consistent with the protection of public health, welfare, and safety occasioned by rotating natural gas outages in mild weather.

(In cold weather): Be prepared to render assistance to those interruptible human needs customers with no alternative fuels available. This assistance could include:

- (a) Assistance in obtaining alternative fuel supplies.
- (b) Possible relocation of persons to suitable alternative locations.

ACTION C: Information only through DC/OCD; no further action required.

STAGE III:

ACTION A: Be prepared to take appropriate actions under situation B, STAGE I, ACTIONS A-F, as required.

ACTION B: Information only through DC/OCD; no further action required.

STAGE IV:

ACTION A: Be prepared to take appropriate actions under situation B, STAGE I, ACTIONS A-F, as required (occurs only in cold spells).

ACTION B: Information only through DC/OCD; no further action required.

ACTION C: Information only through DC/OCD; no further action required.

SITUATION C

IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION HAZARD EMERGENCY

IMMEDIATE DISTRIBUTION HAZARD EMERGENCY ACTIONS

A. WASHINGTON GAS LIGHT COMPANY ACTIONS:

STAGE I: Turn off gas to affected sections of 400 - 1200 dwelling units.

NOTE #1 - WGL Company will notify DC/OCD of the nature of the problem, severity, expected duration, and areas affected.

B. LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACTIONS:

- STAGE I:
1. In mild or cold weather, initiate necessary actions, in accordance with locally adopted procedures, consistent with protection of public health, safety, and welfare, in case of short-term natural gas outage effecting 400 - 1200 units.
  2. In cold weather, be prepared to temporarily relocate persons to suitable locations.

METROPOLITAN WASHINGTON  
NATURAL GAS SUPPLY  
EMERGENCY ALERT PLAN

Area Communications Circuit  
Terminal Point

Date of Resolution

District of Columbia

Arlington County

Fairfax County

Loudoun County

Montgomery County

Prince George's County

Prince William County

City of Alexandria

City of Bowie

City of College Park

Fairfax City

City of Falls Church

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City of Greenbelt

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City of Rockville

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City of Takoma Park