

104TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 292

To improve the collection and dissemination of information relating to the price and supply of home heating fuel, natural gas, and automotive fuel, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JANUARY 4, 1995

Mr. KANJORSKI introduced the following bill; which was referred to the
Committee on Commerce

A BILL

To improve the collection and dissemination of information relating to the price and supply of home heating fuel, natural gas, and automotive fuel, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Energy Price and Sup-
5 ply Information Act of 1995”.

6 **SEC. 2. SURVEY OF FUEL PRICES AND INVENTORIES.**

7 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the Energy
8 Information Administration of the Department of Energy
9 shall conduct and publish surveys of—

1 (1) wholesale and retail prices and primary and
2 secondary inventory levels of home heating fuel on a
3 national, State, and PADD basis;

4 (2) wholesale prices and primary inventory lev-
5 els of home heating fuel on a company-by-company
6 basis (without identifying the names of such compa-
7 nies);

8 (3) wellhead and citygate prices of natural gas
9 by major interstate pipeline;

10 (4) inventory levels of working natural gas and
11 base natural gas held in underground storage by
12 interstate and intrastate operator;

13 (5) wholesale and retail prices and primary and
14 secondary inventory levels of automotive fuel on a
15 national, State, and PADD basis; and

16 (6) wholesale prices and primary inventory lev-
17 els of automotive fuel on a company-by-company
18 basis (without identifying the names of such compa-
19 nies).

20 (b) FREQUENCY OF SURVEYS.—

21 (1) HOME HEATING FUEL AND NATURAL
22 GAS.—The surveys described in paragraphs (1), (2),
23 (3), and (4) of subsection (a) shall be conducted and
24 published weekly during each winter heating season

1 beginning with the first winter heating season fol-
2 lowing the date of enactment of this Act.

3 (2) AUTOMOTIVE FUEL.—The surveys described
4 in paragraphs (5) and (6) of subsection (a) shall be
5 conducted and published weekly throughout each
6 year beginning 6 months after the date of enactment
7 of this Act.

8 **SEC. 3. RECOMMENDED ADEQUATE INVENTORY LEVELS.**

9 (a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall, after con-
10 sultation with the Administrator of the Energy Informa-
11 tion Administration and State energy offices, establish
12 recommended adequate inventory levels for home heating
13 fuel, natural gas, and automotive fuel in accordance with
14 this section. Such levels shall constitute the amount of in-
15 ventories necessary to prevent substantial disruptions in
16 supply or substantial price increases and shall exceed lev-
17 els regarded as minimum operating levels, below which op-
18 erating problems and shortages would appear in the na-
19 tional distribution system.

20 (b) HOME HEATING FUEL.—In the case of home
21 heating fuel, such levels shall be established for primary
22 and secondary inventories on a national, state, and PADD
23 basis. Such levels shall be established before each winter
24 heating season and remain in effect for that season.

1 (c) NATURAL GAS.—In the case of natural gas, such
2 level shall be established on a national basis for natural
3 gas held in underground storage. Such level shall be estab-
4 lished before each winter heating season and remain in
5 effect for that season.

6 (d) AUTOMOTIVE FUEL.—In the case of automotive
7 fuel, such levels shall be established for primary and sec-
8 ondary inventories on a national and PADD basis. Such
9 levels shall be established for each 6 month period begin-
10 ning 6 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

11 **SEC. 4. NOTIFICATION OF INVENTORY LEVELS.**

12 (a) HOME HEATING FUEL AND NATURAL GAS.—

13 (1) PRESEASON NOTIFICATION.—Not later than
14 October 1 of each year, the Secretary shall notify
15 the Congress, the President, and State energy offices
16 concerning whether inventories of home heating fuel
17 and natural gas meet the recommended adequate in-
18 ventory levels established under section 3 for the
19 winter heating season beginning that October 1.

20 (2) SUPPLEMENTAL NOTIFICATIONS.—If, at
21 any time during any winter heating season, inven-
22 tories of home heating fuel or natural gas fall below
23 the recommended adequate inventory levels estab-
24 lished under section 3 for that winter heating sea-
25 son, the Secretary shall notify the Congress, the

1 President, and the State energy office of any State
2 concerned, and shall make recommendations for leg-
3 islative and administrative actions necessary to re-
4 store inventories to such recommended adequate lev-
5 els.

6 (b) AUTOMOTIVE FUEL.—If, at any time, inventories
7 of automotive fuel fall below the recommended adequate
8 inventory levels established under section 3 for that 6
9 month period, the Secretary shall notify the Congress, the
10 President, and the State energy office of any State con-
11 cerned, and shall make recommendations for legislative
12 and administrative actions necessary to restore inventories
13 to such recommended adequate levels.

14 **SEC. 5. REPORT ON INTERRUPTIBLE NATURAL GAS CON-**
15 **TRACTS.**

16 The Secretary shall conduct a study of the effect, if
17 any, of interruptible natural gas contracts on the demand
18 and supply of home heating fuel during the 1989–1990
19 winter heating season. The Secretary shall issue a report
20 on the findings of the study no later than 6 months after
21 the date of enactment of this Act. The report shall include
22 any recommendations concerning alternate fuel storage re-
23 quirements for holders of interruptible natural gas con-
24 tracts and recommendations concerning other matters rel-
25 evant to the purposes of this Act.

1 **SEC. 6. DEFINITIONS.**

2 For the purposes of this Act—

3 (1) the term “home heating fuel” means home
4 heating oil, propane, and diesel fuel;

5 (2) the term “PADD” means Petroleum Ad-
6 ministration Defense District;

7 (3) the term “primary inventory” means manu-
8 facturer inventory;

9 (4) the term “secondary inventory” means bulk
10 plant, wholesaler, and retailer inventory;

11 (5) the term “Secretary” means the Secretary
12 of Energy; and

13 (6) the term “winter heating season” means the
14 period beginning on October 1 of a year and ending
15 on April 30 of the following year.

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