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W. E. WILLIAMSON, CLERK

**Congress of the United States**  
**House of Representatives**  
Committee on Interstate and Foreign Commerce  
Room 2125, Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

December 11, 1973

Mr. J. Richard Downes  
Director, Personnel/Industrial Relations  
Building Components Division  
Rockwell International  
P. O. Box 798  
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505

Dear Dick:

Thank you very much for your letter of December 6 enclosing copy of your communication to Director of the Office of Oil and Gas, Department of the Interior, here in Washington.

I appreciate your taking the time to write me and have noted your feelings with reference to obtaining necessary propane gas for continuing the operation of your Valve Plant at Reedsville, West Virginia.

It goes without saying, I too am extremely concerned and certainly want to do what I can to be helpful.

The House Interstate Committee did report out an emergency fuel bill. The House and Senate Conferees will meet this week.

You can be sure, Dick, I will continue doing my utmost in an effort to be of assistance.

Again, thanking you and with every good wish, I am

Sincerely yours,

HARLEY O. STAGGERS



**Building Components Division  
Rockwell International**

P. O. Box 798  
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505  
(304) 292-6391

December 6, 1973

DEC 7 1973

Honorable Harley O. Staggers  
House of Representatives  
2366 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congressman Staggers:

We have been watching the news media and as yet have not learned of any new legislation which will assure the provision for necessary propane gas to continue the operation of our Valve Plant at Reedsville, West Virginia. Since there is no natural gas piped into the area, it is necessary that we use propane to heat our shell core machines, dry our foundry furnaces and other operational processes.

Enclosed you will find copies of correspondence outlining our efforts so far to insure a propane gas allotment for continuity of operation. I would appreciate any help or guidance you could give us in this matter.

Sincerely,

J. Richard Downes, Director  
Personnel/Industrial Relations

JRD:naw

. Enclosures





Building Components Division  
Rockwell International

P. O. Box 798  
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505  
(304) 292-8391

November 29, 1973

(X) Director of the Office of Oil and Gas  
Department of the Interior (X)  
P. O. Box 19407  
Washington, D. C. 20036

Dear Sir:

Pursuant to the provisions of the Energy Policy Office Regulation 3, Mandatory Allocation Program for Propane, Title 32A CFR, effective October 3, 1973, our supplier, Preston Gas Company, a subsidiary of U.G.I. Corporation, P. O. Box 267, Kingwood, West Virginia 26537, has notified us of their intent to curtail supply of additional propane gas for our manufacturing facility in Reedsville, West Virginia. Such curtailment will impose a severe hardship upon the community and upon the Building Components Division of Rockwell International in that suitable alternatives are not readily available to maintain continuity of production within that facility.

The facility has been operated as a brass foundry and machine shop manufacturing brass valves for industrial and residential applications since 1952. It employs approximately 300 people in a community of approximately 1,500 with an annual payroll of approximately \$2,000,000. It is the largest industrial employer in the town of Reedsville.

Although a program is underway to decrease the dependence upon propane for space heating, there are critical gas fired processes for which there is no suitable substitute. It is important to note that propane has been used in this facility for many years due to the fact that natural gas service has not been piped into the area.



Director of the Office of Oil and Gas  
November 29, 1973  
Page 2

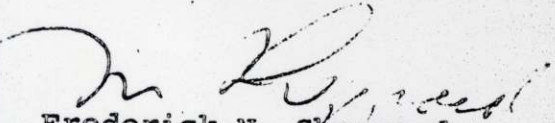
We have notified our propane supplier of our monthly needs for November, 1973 through April, 1974 to maintain production continuity in the Reedsville plant. For other than industrial vehicle applications, for which we understand that we do qualify as a "priority customer" under Title 32A CFR, the monthly requirements are as follows:

November, 1973	13,850 gallons
December, 1973	18,150 gallons
January, 1974	16,450 gallons
February, 1974	16,050 gallons
March, 1974	15,650 gallons
April, 1974	5,991 gallons

Your immediate affirmative consideration is requested in response to this petition in view of the very limited supply of propane presently available at the Reedsville plant and the probability that Preston Gas Company will not supply additional quantities of propane gas without the concurrence of your office.

If further information is desired, please contact the undersigned.

Very truly yours,



Frederick N. Sheppard  
Vice President, Operations

FNS:fld





Building Components Division  
Rockwell International

P. O. Box 798  
Morgantown, West Virginia 26505  
(304) 292-6391

November 29, 1973

Mr. Robert E. Statler  
President  
Preston Gas Company  
P. O. Box 267  
Kingwood, West Virginia 26537

Dear Mr. Statler:

Enclosed is the statement of our requirements for liquid propane gas during the period November, 1973 through April, 1974. The gallonage shown represents the total gas needed to operate the Rockwell International, Building Components Division's, manufacturing plants in Morgantown and Reedsville, West Virginia.

Included in the totals is the gallonage required to operate our industrial vehicles, primarily fork trucks and other in-plant material handling equipment. This monthly usage amounts to approximately 1,700 gallons for the Morgantown plants and 250 gallons for the Reedsville plant for a monthly total of 1,950 gallons.

The remainder of the monthly requirements shown in the enclosure is for the operation of the Reedsville facility. Because natural gas is not piped into the Reedsville area, our Reedsville plant is totally dependent upon propane gas for gas fired processing equipment such as shell core machines, chip dryers, and furnace maintenance. In addition, the facility is partially heated with propane. Although a program is underway to minimize the amount of propane required for space heating, there is no suitable alternative energy for certain of the processing applications.



Mr. Robert E. Statler  
November 29, 1973  
Page 2

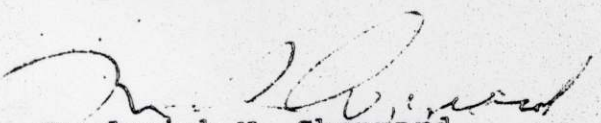
It is imperative to understand that the Rockwell facility in Reedsville employs approximately 300 people in a community of approximately 1,500. It is the largest industrial employer in Preston County and the only industrial employer in the town of Reedsville. It has an annual payroll of approximately \$2,000,000, and has been a significant economic contributor to Preston County and to Reedsville since 1952. Curtailment of plant operations, at this time, would have a severe adverse effect upon the community.

In summary, approximately 1,950 gallons of the monthly requirements shown in the enclosure is essential for operation of industrial vehicles in our Morgantown and Reedsville plants. It is our understanding that Energy Policy Regulation 3, Mandatory Allocation Program for Propane, Title 32A CFR, effective October 3, 1973, does classify such applications of propane as "priority customers" usage.

The balance of the required monthly gallonage shown in the enclosure is essential to the continuity of operations of our Reedsville plant primarily because of the gas dependent processes that are inherent in the operations and due to the unavailability of natural gas in the area.

In view of the very limited available reserve of propane at the Reedsville facility, your prompt response to this request for propane gas allotment would be sincerely appreciated.

Very truly yours,



Frederick N. Sheppard  
Vice President, Operations

FNS:fld

Enclosure



BUILDING COMPONENTS DIVISION/ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL (MORGANTOWN AND REEDSVILLE, WEST VIRGINIA FACILITIES) hereby certifies to PRESTON GAS COMPANY, his propane supplier or one of his suppliers under the regulations for the Mandatory Allocation Program for Propane Issued October 2, 1973, that BUILDING COMPONENTS DIVISION/ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL requires the following gallonage from PRESTON GAS COMPANY for his priority customers during the following months:

<u>Month</u>	<u>Gallonage</u>
November, 1973	15,800
December, 1973	20,100
January, 1974	18,300
February, 1974	18,000
March, 1974	17,600
April, 1974	7,941

PRESTON GAS COMPANY further certifies that to the best of his knowledge his customers' alleged priority use is in fact a priority use. PRESTON GAS COMPANY certifies that he has made his customers aware of the propane shortage, of the need for conservation of propane and other fuels and of ways by which fuel savings can be achieved.

PRESTON GAS COMPANY also certifies to BUILDING COMPONENTS DIVISION/ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL that the amount of propane sold to non-priority customers during the period October 2, 1972 through April 30, 1973 was 103,226 gallons and was purchased from PRESTON GAS COMPANY.

BUILDING COMPONENTS DIVISION  
ROCKWELL INTERNATIONAL

NAME OF COMPANY

BY

TITLE