AUTHENTICATED
U.S. GOVERNMENT
INFORMATION
GPO

Memorandum on Potential Electricity Shortages in Western States
December 30, 2000

Memorandum for the Heads of Executive Departments and Agencies

Subject: Potential Electricity Shortages in Western States

Increased demand for electricity during cold winter weather can make it a challenge for electric utilities to meet the demand of their customers and keep lights on and their homes and businesses warm. Currently, the supply of electric power is tight on the West Coast due to record demand for electricity. The region faces the possibility of electricity shortages in some areas, which would put both consumers and businesses at risk.

The Federal Government is among the largest consumers of electricity in Western States. It is important that the Federal Government lead by example in taking energy conserving steps to reduce the risk and severity of power outages. Therefore, I direct that:

- All managers of all Federal buildings in Washington and Oregon join those in California and take steps to reduce consumption of power to the maximum extent practicable consistent with public health and welfare, and that of employees; and
- Federal agencies coordinate with other State and local government agencies to minimize the use of electricity in all government buildings in Washington, Oregon, and California.

When the Federal Government, State governments, businesses, and consumers work together to use electricity wisely, we can reduce the risk of power shortages in the short term and keep the power on.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON

Memorandum on Keeping the Heating Fuel Distribution System Open
December 30, 2000

Memorandum for the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Transportation, Commandant of the United States Coast Guard

Subject: Keeping the Heating Fuel Distribution System Open

When inclement weather strikes and the demand for heating fuel rises, the distribution system through which fuel is delivered is often placed at great strain. Freezing harbors delay the delivery of critical fuel supplies, and the demand for heating fuel deliveries rises, increasing workload of drivers who deliver fuel to homes and businesses. Last winter, for example, critical deliveries of heating oil were delayed as harbors froze and barges were unable to reach their docks.

In order to minimize the likelihood of bottlenecks in the heating fuel distribution system, I direct the Secretaries of Energy and Transportation to work together and take all reasonable measures to keep the harbors open and the delivery trucks on the roads. If shipping channels freeze, the Coast Guard shall be prepared to keep them open to the extent possible. The Department of Transportation shall inform State and local governments and private companies as appropriate about the criteria and procedures for obtaining waivers from hours of service regulations in order to increase trucking capacity for emergency fuel deliveries and shall respond to such requests as quickly as possible.

Finally, the Department of Energy's Office of Energy Emergencies shall coordinate closely with the Department of Transportation's Emergency Transportation Representative to address any other transportation problems as they arise in order to keep heating fuel moving through the distribution system to the consumer.

WILLIAM J. CLINTON