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COOPERATIVE AGREEMENT FOR

NO. 2 HEATING OIL PILOT PRICE DATA COLLECTION

VERMONT STATE ENERGY OFFICE

END OF SURVEY REPORT

The State, through the Vermont State Energy Office in Cooperative Agreement with D. O. E. implemented a weekly Pilot Survey Program for residential No. 2 heating fuel prices. The purpose of this survey program was to collect weekly price data, calculate the statewide average, submit the results weekly to S. J. Seymour, Chief of Energy Data, D. O. E. Region I, Boston and publish the average prices to the public and the news media.

The methodology used in collecting data was a spinoff of our monthly price survey which has been in place since July 1974. The sample size of the survey was developed at that time and was extracted from a statewide list of heating oil dealers. The selection of dealers was random with approximately 3 or 4 selected from each of the 14 counties for a total of 46. No emphasis was given as to population and or the sales volume of dealers in those counties. The dealer survey was conducted by telephone. The price of No. 2 heating oil in the pilot survey was the posted retail price for residential consumers excluding any credit and or discount practices. Continuous communications with the consuming public regarding fuel prices provided us with a ideal cross-check for the data collected in our survey. This provided us with survey price data validation. All information received through the survey was held to be confidential and we continue to treat it in that manner.

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The outcome of the Pilot Home Heating Oil Price Survey was as follows:

1. The survey documented the value of personal contact with the dealers by the State Energy Office.
2. It demonstrated the S. E. O.'s ability to develop, implement and report on a data collection system providing current information with a minimum turnaround time.
3. It provided the Department of Energy with a secondary source of data for cross-checking and validating the results of their own EIA-9 monthly survey.
4. It provided the State with more current data as it allowed for price surveying on a weekly basis of the retail prices being charged to Vermont consumers. Historically our office had been surveying prices on a monthly basis since July 1974. Since the end of the Pilot Program we have reverted to a once a month survey.
5. It provided statistical price information for release to the media and the public and was used as a basis for short range planning, price projections, and budgeting purposes.

CONCLUSIONS

In summary it was felt the Pilot Survey allowed for more timely data and had the winter heating season been more severe with supply/demand problems, the surveying of prices on a weekly basis would have provided us with a valuable tool in dealing with any energy emergency. The attached table outlining the weekly results from December 1, 1977 to April 30, 1978 indicates a 0.6¢/gal increase over the period. This indicates a stable fuel oil price situation for the first time since the 73/74 embargo. It should be noted that the original Pilot Price Survey period was extended one month to the end of April on a voluntary basis by the states.

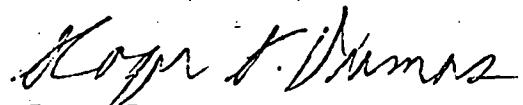
Our recommendation for future energy price surveys is based on our perception that there is a definite need for price data collection as a tool in managing the state energy resources. We feel that the Department of Energy should establish a permanent funding program for energy price surveying and allocation activities which allows the states flexibility in determining the priorities in such data collection programs.

As mentioned earlier, the Vermont State Energy Office has been surveying retail prices of heating fuels and the 3 grades of gasoline since July 1974. The information has been shared with D. O. E. among others, even though D. O. E. in no way supported this effort.

In this regard we feel in the past D. O. E. has been reluctant to share and or inform the states of their activities in these same areas. We ask that the states be allowed to participate and share with D. O. E. in their data collection directly related to our State and that sufficient funding be provided the states to allow for such cooperative efforts.

In closing, I would like to commend Mr. Seymour of D. O. E. Region I, Boston for his assistance and help on the general activities of the Pilot Program. I look forward to working with him in these and similar activities in the future.

Kindness regards,



Roger Dumas
Chief of State Fuel Allocation
Vermont State Energy Office
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
September 5, 1978



STATE OF VERMONT
STATE ENERGY OFFICE
PAVILION OFFICE BUILDING
MONTPELIER, VERMONT 05602

March 29, 1978

Mr. S. J. Seymour
Chief, Energy Data
Region I, Dept. of Energy
150 Causeway Street
Boston, Massachusetts 02114

Dear Mr. Seymour:

As per our Cooperative Agreement for #2 Heating Oil Data Collection between the State of Vermont and the U. S. Dept. of Energy, the attached is a summary of the completed work. However, it should be noted that, barring any unforeseen circumstances, we plan to continue the survey of #2 heating prices through the month of April, 1978.

If you have any questions please feel free to call me.

Sincerely,

Roger P. Dumas
Chief of State Fuel Allocation

STATE OF VERMONT
PILOT WEEKLY SURVEY

Statewide Average Petroleum Prices Based on a Phone Survey of 46 Fuel Dealers

Period of	Middle Distillates	
	#2 Fuel	Kerosene
<u>1977</u>		
Dec. 4 - 10	50.0	52.7
	48.0/51.9	49.5/54.9
Dec. 11- 17	50.1	52.8
	48.0/51.9	49.5/54.9
Dec. 18- 24	50.3	53.0
	48.0/52.9	49.5/55.9
Dec. 25- 31	50.4	53.1
	48.0/52.9	49.5/55.9
<u>1978</u>		
Jan. 1 - 7	50.5	53.3
	48.0/52.9	49.5/55.9
Jan. 8 - 14	50.5	53.5
	48.0/52.9	49.5/55.9
Jan. 15- 21	50.6	53.3
	48.5/52.9	49.5/55.9
Jan. 22- 28	50.6	53.4
	48.9/52.9	49.5/55.9
Jan. 29-Feb. 4	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.5/55.9
Feb. 5 - 11	50.6	53.3
	48.5/52.9	49.5/55.9
Feb. 12 - 18	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.5/55.9
Feb. 19 - 25	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9
Feb. 26-Mar. 4	50.6	53.3
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9
Mar. 5 - 11	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9
Mar. 12 - 18	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9
Mar. 19 - 25	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9
Mar. 26 - 31	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9

Note:

The sample size for the survey is approximately 25% of the total number of dealers in Vermont.

It should be pointed out that the Lowest and Highest price reported in the survey do not represent the actual extremes. Our empirical knowledge of the State indicates that the actual extremes in retail prices exceed both ends of the range reported in this table.

Period of	Middle Distillates	
	#2 Fuel	Kerosene
1978		
Apr. 3 - 8	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9
Apr. 10 - 15	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9
Apr. 17 - 22	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9
Apr. 24 - 29	50.6	53.4
	48.5/52.9	49.9/55.9

Example: #2 Fuel

Dec. 4-10 50.0 represents the Statewide Average
 48.0/51.9 represents the Lowest and the Highest reported

by Roger Dumas
Chief of State Fuel Allocation
Vermont State Energy Office
Montpelier, Vermont 05602
March 29, 1978