

## Not All Gas Sources Counted, Hodel Says

WASHINGTON (AP) — More than two-thirds of a 40 percent decline in estimates of gas remaining to be discovered in the United States results from not counting some of it, Interior Secretary Donald P. Hodel said Thursday.

Hodel said he is studying just how the estimates were made and how to revise them. He said the estimates of the U.S. Geological Survey were "very uncertain" but he is not including all the sources of gas in the estimates.

Speaking to a business of operators of the Mid-Continent Oil and Gas Association, Hodel said "the estimates" that the new figures showing a 40 percent decline in both unproved oil and gas will change after review.

Asked by reporters how the figures would change, Hodel said "there's no way for me to guess" which will result from public and scientific comments on the new estimates published by the Department of the Interior.

"I think the perception might be in the end that the numbers have gone up" from the first estimate because the exclusions will be understood, he said.

Exclusion of gas categories used in the earlier 1981 estimates, such as gas found in "light sands" everywhere and gas below 10,000 feet "accounts for over two-thirds of the reduction," Hodel said in his speech.

Both gas in reserves to produce, and the price decline since 1981 could make what is still to be produced more profitable.

Hodel's speech was a defense of the administration's energy policies and a denial that it is in the policy.

Some who complain there is not enough coal, want more government direction of energy industries, which

should be revised, and some want to debate which programs should receive how much support, a charitable debate, Hodel said.

"I've heard in some parts of the country that a national energy policy means an oil import tax," he said, urging the directors not to overstate the idea.

Hodel said Congress would ensure such a tariff contains exemptions for New England, where many homes are heated with oil; the chemical industry would demand help and refiners would

watch it burn. "The government's key witness said Thursday he saw John Kenneth Peed standing near the fishing boat he used to fish for halibut.

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## Witness Says He Saw Peel, Heard Gunshots

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## Pulp Production Up For February at Mill

During February workers at Alaska Pulp Corporation in Sitka produced more pulp per day than in any month since February 1974, mill officials have announced.

The February daily average was the eighth highest monthly average since the mill began producing pulp in November 1970, they said.

"Not only is production reaching an all-time high, but month to the mill is also at an all-time high," said Bob Albrecht, APC mill manager. He said one reason for the increased production is incentive. Employees receive a bonus check based on the daily average each month when the average production exceeds a budgeted figure each month. Since the mill began giving the bonuses, there has been only one month when bonuses were not received, Albrecht said.

Another reason he cited for the high production average is a decrease in the amount of finished pulp that, for various reasons, must be reprocessed to meet buyer specifications. According to Albrecht, pulp mills producing a similar product average about four percent "off-grade" pulp. APC's off-grade pulp in the past has been as high as six percent, but in February the percentage of off-grade was much lower.

"The amount of pulp we reprocess is one of the lowest in the industry," he said. "This factor helps lower our average cost per ton."

Last month workers produced an average of 252 metric tons of pulp per day. The number eclipsed the recent record month of November 1987 when the mill produced 213 metric tons per day. The highest daily average ever for any month for the mill was 345 metric tons per day.

Training for volunteer docents, or museum workers, will be offered through Islands College 7-9 p.m. Wednesday, March 23-May 25. For further information contact Ina Marie Rosemary Carlson at the Sheldon Jackson Museum 747-8881 or Islands College 747-6557. Registration is now open at the college.

Parks and Rec Set Work Sessions

The Sitka Parks and Recreation Committee is currently updating the Parks and Recreation Plan. Work sessions are scheduled as follows: 7 p.m. Tuesday, Blatchley Middle School Library; Noon, March 23, Blatchley Middle School, Room 114; Noon, March 30, Blatchley Middle School, Room 114.

## B.P.W. to Meet

The Business and Professional Women will hold its monthly luncheon meeting noon Tuesday at the Lutheran Church.

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