

Veeco

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million and the reduction in current rates is in excess of \$4.1 million on an annual basis. The additional reduction beginning after 1980 will be in excess of \$500,000 annually.

In its Order the Commission stated, "While these downward adjustments are significant and are the maximum that can be imposed under the General Statutes of North Carolina, they will not result in Veeco's retail rates being comparable at this time to those of other electric utilities serving North Carolina."

"Nor can the Commission preclude Veeco (or other electric utilities for that matter) from filing for increased rates in the future based on increased costs due to inflation in our economy. However, in future rate proceedings the Commission intends to consider adjustments for excess costs as detailed in this docket."

"As a result, it can be anticipated that Veeco's rates during the next few years will be significantly less than they otherwise would be. During these hearings the Public Staff projected that Veeco's rates in the future will attain closer parity with those of neighboring as Veeco moves away from its heavy dependence on expensive oil-fired generation."

Based on the Public Staff's projections and the Commission's downward adjustments, Veeco's retail rates are expected to become comparable in the 1983-84 time frame of Carolina Power—Light Company."

"Furthermore, the Commission will carefully consider in future rate proceedings, Veeco's rate of return on stockholder's equity during the future periods that Veeco must continue to rely on a high percentage of expensive oil-fired generation."

"While Veeco's management cannot justifiably be criticized for making what was not an unreasonable business decision in the late 1960s and early 1970 to rely on a substantial amount of oil-fired generation due to the projected economical advantage of oil over coal at that time, neither does it appear to the Commission that Veeco's stockholders should enjoy more than a very minimum return while their ratepayers are bearing the burden of the higher cost of these oil-fired plants."

However, as required by the General Statutes of North Carolina, the Commission must withhold judgement on the determination of an appropriate future rate of return pending the hearing of further evidence in any general rate case that may be filed in the future.

The Commission would point out that the rate of return on stockholders' investment allowed in Veeco's last general rate case was approximately 10% less than that allowed to the other major electric utilities serving the public in North Carolina.

"These actions as a composite should provide sufficient incentive to Veeco to improve its operations in the areas outlined in this Order. Assuming the Public Staff's price projections, Veeco's present and potential customers should see 'a light at the end of the tunnel' in terms of reaching parity with rates being paid by other North Carolinians for electric utility service."

Hot weather is termed possible health hazard

As the mercury continues to climb during these hot, humid summer months, the danger of on-the-job heat stress increases dramatically across North Carolina.

That warning was issued today by Donald G. Wiseman, director of the N.C. Department of Labor OSHA Division.

Heat stroke is the most dangerous possible result of heat stress, and it can mean a life-and-death emergency situation. Heat exhaustion and heat cramps also cause serious problems in the

work place, according to Wiseman.

Symptoms of heat stroke are extremely high temperature (106 degrees Fahrenheit or higher); failure of the sweating mechanism; hot, dry skin; rapid, strong pulse; and possible loss of consciousness.

"A person suffering from heat stroke must be cooled immediately by any available means," Wiseman said, "even before emergency medical personnel reach the scene."

Grand Opening!

Punkins will hold a ribbon cutting ceremony Saturday at 12:30 to honor their Grand Opening at Harris Shopping Center. Their new location is where Scottie was formerly located. Punkins is owned and operated by Kay and Mickey Knight.



THAT WAS JUST BREAKFAST ON THE FRONT PAGE! — While the menu never varies, enthusiasm runs high at lunchtime.

Social Services

(Continued from page one)

Work Incentive (WIN) program in the state.

For the twelve-month period ending September 30, 1978, the average cost for administration and services of \$834 per WIN registrant entering unsubsidized employment, was the lowest in the country. North Carolina's program also ranks either first or in the top three in other areas.

"During the federal fiscal year 1978, these two agencies through their respective local offices, assisted more than 5,000 Aid to Families with Dependent Children (AFDC) welfare clients in entering unsubsidized employment, of which 700 were AFDC applicants whose welfare grants had not yet been authorized. Annualized welfare savings resulting from the employment amounted to over \$8 million, while an estimated \$1.2 million was generated in Medicaid savings," Duncan said.

Additional benefits accruing to North Carolina through WIN was the \$24 million in annualized wages earned by these welfare clients enrolled in WIN. During the same period 2,500 of these clients went off the welfare rolls completely, according to Duncan.

"These monetary savings are very important to your state and the reason why we bring this to your attention; however, as you readily recognize, the more critical savings are in terms of the human benefits derived as many of the individuals no longer face the specter of welfare as a way of life, but instead have strengthened their self-esteem and now contribute to society in their own right. Your WIN program has made this possible," concluded a letter presented to the Governor by federal officials of both the Departments of Labor and HEW.



"Take My Vacation... Please"

DON'T GO AWAY! — At a time when resort areas across the United States are closing their doors and going bankrupt for lack of business, North Carolina's tourism industry is rebounding with record crowds from perhaps the most disastrous summer in its history.

Struck hard by bad weather, multiple oil spills off its resort beaches, a series of dead fish dumpings, the gasoline shortage and economic uncertainties, North Carolina's attractions have used resourcefulness to reclaim a large share of lost business.

It has come back from an estimated 20 to 30 percent drop in visitation during May, June, and early July to pull almost even with last year's record-breaking numbers.

There are many places to visit in North Carolina, Blowing Rock, the Outer Banks, Grandfather Mountain, Carowinds Theme Park in Charlotte, Maggie Valley, golf areas of Pinehurst and Southern Pines. So North Carolinians: "DON'T GO AWAY."

Public meeting to be held on water purity in Raleigh

A public meeting will be held jointly by the Department of Human Resources and Natural Resources and Community Development concerning the proposed memorandum of understanding between the State of North Carolina and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency.

The meeting is scheduled for August 14 at 7 p.m., in the ground floor hearing room of the Archdale Building, North Salisbury Street, Raleigh. The agreement under discussion covers policy requirements of the Clean Water Act, the Safe Drinking Water Act, the Resource Conservation and Recovery Act, and the Clean Air Act.

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