

creases from \$388.2 million to about \$151 million, Chairman Joseph C. Swidler reported today.

The FPC during 1962 also made substantial progress in its other three natural gas regulatory areas, Chairman Swidler said. He reported:

A reduction of \$16,098,417 in the backlog of proposed annual rate increases by independent producers of natural gas;

A decrease from about \$1.1 billion to \$914 million in the amount of proposed construction in pending pipeline certificate applications;

A reduction from 3,209 to 2,814 in the number of producer certificate applications pending;

The \$1,099,090,000 accumulation of excess rates collected subject to refund 6 months ago by natural gas pipelines was reduced to approximately \$470,779,443 at the end of 1962.

During the quarter ended December 31, Chairman Swidler said, the FPC disposed of 23 pipeline rate increase cases involving \$96,070,000 annually. At the same time it ordered refunds estimated at \$184,946,172, plus interest.

More than two-thirds of the \$151,009,400 in pipeline rate increases pending at year's end was involved in five cases. One of these is before the Commission, two are awaiting initial decision by FPC examiners, and two are undergoing staff investigation.

The annual dollar amount involved in proposed rate increases by independent natural gas producers dropped for both the year and for the last quarter of 1962. The Commission had on hand proposed increases totaling \$167,525,597 at the beginning of the year, and this was reduced to \$158,159,192 by September 30, and to \$151,427,180 at year's end. However, the number of cases on hand rose approximately 5 percent from 2,756 at the beginning of the year to 2,881 on September 30 and 2,905 on December 31.

Chairman Swidler also reported an across-the-board reduction in the amount of proposed construction in pending pipeline certificate applications for both the quarter and the year.

Pending applications, measured by the estimated construction costs, were reduced from \$1.1 billion to about \$914 million for the year; the miles of pipeline in pending applications was reduced from 8,782 to 8,582; and measured by compressor horsepower the reduction was from 772,783 to 612,960. The number of cases on hand, however, rose from 206 to 224 during the year. Corresponding reductions for the quarter were \$1,036,230,973 to \$913,783,652 (construction costs); 9,414 and 8,582 (miles of pipe); and 767,942 to 612,960 (compressor horsepower).

Hearings have been completed on nearly half of the \$913,783,652 backlog of proposed new construction on hand December 31, and approximately \$120 million was being held up awaiting further information or action by the applicants or the disposition of other cases.

More than \$351 million of the pending pipeline construction applications, or more than one-third, is proposed in the five largest cases. Four of these applications are through the hearing stage, and the fifth is ready for hearing. Temporary authorization has been granted for construction of \$138,227,922 of the new construction proposed in pending applications.

The number of pending applications by independent producers seeking authorization to sell gas in interstate commerce was reduced from 3,209 at the beginning of the year to 2,814 on December 31, 1962. The FPC during the year disposed of 2,039 such applications. Temporary authorizations had been issued in 1,892 of the 2,814 cases still pending at year's end. Of the remaining 922 applications, 300 involve service for which temporary certificates have not been requested or which are new filings still being processed. For the last quarter, however, there was an increase in the number pending from 2,557 to 2,814.

The attached tables show statistics as of the end of the last quarter, with comparisons with the preceding quarter and the quarter ended a year earlier. The statistics are divided into four tables—pipeline certificate cases, pipeline rate cases, producer certificate cases, and producer rate cases. The tables include summary remarks concerning the more significant aspects of the statistics.

The publication of these statistics completes the first full year of coverage through the quarterly reports, initiated by Chairman Swidler at the beginning of 1962.