

# STATE NEWS WEEKLY SUMMARY CONTINUED

People who received packets who don't feel they were misled can opt out of the settlement by indicating such in writing to Prudential. The deadline for "opting out" is Dec. 19, 1996. If people don't formally drop out, they will continue receiving mailings regarding the settlement.

—STATE INSURANCE COMMISSIONER  
11/26/96

## MILITARY AFFAIRS

### STATE LAWMAKERS STUDY NATIONAL CEMETERY

■(GIT) Four members of the House Veterans and Military Affairs Committee convened Tuesday at the Capitol for the second meeting of Interim Study 96H-25 on Fort Sill State/National Cemetery Site. Rep. Al Sadler, D-Ardmore, presided over the interim group created to study placing a National Cemetery at Fort Sill north of Lawton.

Department of Transportation representative Bob Rose said, "The Department of Transportation would like to work with the Veterans Affairs Committee and all others to bring the National Cemetery to Oklahoma. We stand ready to offer any kind of assistance."

Sadler asked Rose if any studies had been done on what type of road improvements would be needed.

Rose responded, "No studies have been conducted yet. We are going to need to know if the Federal Government has any specific requirements for access roads into National Cemeteries."

Wells commented, "We need to do a study to find out how many visitors will be traveling to the cemetery." In addition, the committee is looking into whether the Oklahoma Turnpike Authority would waive turnpike fees for funeral processions traveling on the H.E. Bailey turnpike to Lawton.

Possible improvements for access roads include anything from the resurfacing of Jake Dunn Road north of Lawton, and U.S. Highway 277 out of Elgin, to the grading and drainage improvements of the same. In addition, constructing off-ramps on I-40 and installing turn lanes on Jake Dunn Road were discussed.

Towards the end of the meeting, Barbra Warner, Executive Director of the State of Oklahoma Indian Affairs Commission, interjected with her concern that if the pro-

posed land for the National Cemetery is not used by Ft Sill it may revert back to Indian Tribes in the area.

This revelation caused Sadler to adjourn the meeting by asking the committee to examine the land title to discover if there is a possibility of reverter for the land and discuss the issue at the next hearing.

—BRANDON R. WEBB  
11/26/96

## OIL & GAS

### OCC RAISES GAS PRODUCTION ALLOWABLE TO 65%

■(OKLAHOMA CITY) The Oklahoma Corporation Commission Tuesday, Nov. 26, raised the amount of gas most wells in Oklahoma will be allowed to produce in the first quarter of 1997 to the greater of 65 percent of calculated absolute open flow or 1.3 million cubic feet of gas per day.

The limit has been the greater of 50 percent of 1 million cubic feet per day since the second quarter of 1996. The 65 percent production allowable is the highest ever permitted in Oklahoma. The previous high was 50 percent, which has been authorized at various times for about the last 20 years, available records indicate.

The commissioners said increasing allowable production to 65 percent reflects a

strong demand for natural gas for the winter heating season. The commission staff said national gas-in-storage at the end of September was 5 percent below the 1995 level and 8.8 percent below the 1994 level.

Representatives of several major gas producers and the Oklahoma Independent Petroleum Association told the commission in a public hearing that all producers have markets for all the gas they can produce. They also said the demand is expected to remain strong at least through the first quarter of 1997.

The commission staff recommended an increase to the greater of 55 percent or 1.1 million cubic feet of gas per day. But Claude McNully, technical department manager, said the staff had no objection to the higher production allowable proposed by gas producers.

No one opposed an increase in allowable gas production.

The production limit affects unallocated wells, which are not regulated by production allocations for specific fields. About 95 percent of Oklahoma wells are unallocated. The commission staff estimates that the production limit will affect fewer than 1,000 of Oklahoma's approximately 29,000 gas wells since most wells are not capable of producing enough gas to reach the allowable limit.

—OKLA. CORPORATION COMMISSION  
11/26/96

