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UNITED STATES GENERAL ACCOUNTING OFFICE
REGIONAL OFFICE
9226 FEDERAL BUILDING, SIXTH AND ARCH STREETS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19106



May 30, 1975

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Rear Admiral J.E. McKenna
Commanding Officer
Ships Parts Control Center
Mechanicsburg, Pennsylvania 17055

Dear Admiral McKenna:

The General Accounting Office is conducting a nationwide review at Government field installations for the purpose of identifying opportunities to improve energy conservation practices. The purpose of this letter is to advise you of the results of our review at the Mechanicsburg complex. Your command, as host command on this Federal reservation is responsible for coordinating the overall conservation effort for all activities.

Your activity has taken a number of actions to reduce energy consumption, including:

- reducing perimeter and security lighting by 50 percent and changing to more efficient mercury vapor lighting,
- setting thermostats to the 65° to 68° F range in administrative work areas and at 65° F in restrooms,
- reducing temperatures in warehouses to a level consistent with the purpose and material storage requirements,
- reducing thermostats in hot water heaters to 140° F,
- securing about one-third of the window type air conditioners used in the administrative work area,
- rescheduling custodial services to make maximum use of daylight and normal duty hours,
- implementing a car pool program and encouraging personnel to participate in car pools, and
- reducing lighting levels and removing light bulbs throughout the reservation.

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In addition to those measures outlined above, you have instituted other energy conservation techniques when aggregated could contribute to meaningful energy savings. You have also communicated with the various tenant activities concerning their role in the energy conservation program, and briefed special groups on the activities energy conservation efforts.

Energy consumption for fiscal year 1974 decreased for all types of energy based on fiscal year 1973 baseline data. Energy reductions were also achieved for the first half of fiscal year 1975, except electricity which showed a 1.5 percent increase. The Navy Ships Parts Control Center (SPCC) has requested approval from the Naval Supply Systems Command to adjust the fiscal year 1973 baseline, but such approval has not been granted to date. The adjustment recognizes the conversion of coal burning equipment to oil under a pollution abatement project and increased electrical requirements due to approved construction projects.

The following table compares energy consumption in fiscal years 1974 and 1975.

<u>Energy type</u>	<u>Fiscal year 1973 baseline increase (decrease)</u>	<u>Adjusted baseline increase (decrease)</u>
<u>Report for fiscal year 1974</u>		
Electricity (MWH)	(1.8 percent)	(13.7 percent)
Natural gas (MBTU)	(20.1 percent)	(20.1 percent)
Fuel oil and coal (MBTU)	(35.9 percent)	(28.7 percent)
<u>Report for first half of fiscal year 1975</u>		
Electricity (MWH)	1.5 percent	(13.0 percent)
Natural gas (MBTU)	(27.7 percent)	(27.7 percent)
Fuel oil and coal (MBTU)	(39.2 percent)	(32.4 percent)

Total reported vehicular fuel oil and gas consumption for fiscal year 1974 showed a 23.8 percent and 12.7 percent increase, respectively, over fiscal year 1973 baseline data. For the first half of fiscal year 1975 vehicular fuel oil usage decreased by 2.8 percent, while gasoline consumption increased by 13.2 percent over the 1973 baseline. Agency officials advised us that the increase in vehicular fuel oil and gas consumption is attributed to a change in travel policy and increased personnel at the activity.

Although actions have been taken to conserve energy, we believe some additional energy savings are possible in the heating and lighting areas. We were advised that not all buildings have automatic night temperature control thermostats or individual building steam controls. Consequently, temperatures are not being reduced to the suggested 55° F level during nonworking hours.

We have also found that lighting levels have not been reduced in some areas to the suggested foot candle requirements. According to Federal Management Circular 74-1, during working hours overhead lighting shall be reduced to 50 foot candles at work stations, 30 foot candles in work areas, and 10 foot candles in nonworking areas. Our tests showed that in some administrative work areas lighting levels ranged between 55 and 95 foot candles. In some nonworking areas, namely restrooms, lighting levels ranged between 25 and 50 foot candles, and in some warehouse areas, test readings ranged between 15 and 60 foot candles.

We recognize that complete compliance with the standards for lighting and heating may be difficult. However, we believe activity officials should reevaluate their lighting and heating needs for the purpose of making further reductions where feasible. An energy conservation technical survey has just recently been completed by the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and one of the recommendations was to install clock thermostats in selected buildings. The study recommendations are currently being considered by SPCC.

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We appreciate the cooperation and assistance given to us by your staff. We would appreciate receiving your comments on any actions taken or planned with regard to the matters discussed in this letter.

Sincerely yours,



Allen R. Voss
Regional Manager