

GENERAL AGREEMENT ON
TARIFFS AND TRADE

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UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE
MONITORING OF EXPORTS

Bituminous Coal and Coke

The following communication, dated 9 December 1977, has been received from the Permanent Mission of the United States.

The United States Department of Commerce today announced temporary monitoring of exports and contracts to export bituminous coal and coke derived from coal in view of the anticipated reduction in coal production resulting from the strike which began 6 December. Similar monitoring programmes were undertaken by the Department during the coal strikes of 1974 and 1971.

Exporters, producer-exporters and contractors for export of these commodities will be required to report weekly on their actual exports, export contracts, and export prices, according to the Department's Office of Export Administration. Reporting of this information is being required, the Department explained, to assure the availability of accurate and timely data regarding the volume of exports and anticipated exports in relation to domestic supplies of these commodities.

In announcing the monitoring programme, the Department noted that it has examined the near-term outlook for the supply of, and demand for, bituminous coal and coke derived from coal, and had consulted with other appropriate federal agencies. The decision to institute this monitoring programme was made by the Department of Commerce under the Export Administration Act, which requires that the Department "monitor exports and contracts for export of any article, material or supply...when the volume of such exports in relation to domestic supply contributes, or may contribute, to an increase in domestic prices or a domestic shortage and such a price increase or shortage has, or may have a serious adverse impact on the economy or any section thereof".

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The first monitoring report under this programme is to be filed for the week ending as of the close of business 9 December 1977, and submitted so as to be received by the Office of Export Administration no later than 5 p.m., Eastern Standard Time 19 December 1977.

Details of the monitoring programme appear in a notice filed with the Federal Register.

Additional information can be obtained from the Short Supply Division, Office of Export Administration, Room 1617B, United States Department of Commerce, 14th and E Streets, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20230, telephone (202) 377-3795.