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WILLIAM L. FISHER PAPERS, 1976-77

Collection Type

Federal Records

Extent

2.4 linear feet (ca. 4,800 pages)

Record Type

Textual

Access

Open.

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Biography

William L. Fisher

September 16, 1932 - Born, Marion, IL

1954 - B.S. (Geology), Southern Illinois University

1954-56 - U.S. Army

1958 - M.S. (Geology), University of Kansas

1961 - Ph.D. (Geology), University of Kansas

1960-75 and 1977-- Research scientist (1960-68), Associate Director (1968-70), and State Geologist and Director (1970-75 and 1977--)- Bureau of Economic Geology, Texas State Geological Survey

1964-75 and 1977-- Professor, Department of Geological Sciences, University of Texas, Austin, TX (Departmental chairman since 1984)

1975-76 - Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals, U.S. Department of the Interior

1976-77 - Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals, U.S. Department of the Interior

Scope and Content Note

William Fisher joined the Department of the Interior as Deputy Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals in April 1975. Upon the departure of Assistant Secretary Jack Carlson in February 1976, Fisher moved up to that position.

The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Energy and Minerals had oversight over the following offices:

- Alaska Power Administration
- Bonneville Power Administration
- Bureau of Mines
- Defense Electric Power Administration
- Geological Survey
- Mining Enforcement and Safety Administration
- Ocean Mining Administration
- Office of Minerals Policy Development
- Office of Research and Development
- Southeastern Power Administration
- Southwestern Power Administration

He had direct responsibility for programs associated with mineral data and analysis; generation, transmission, and marketing of electric power; mine health, safety and training programs; topographic, geologic, and mineral resources matters; energy, metallurgical, and mining research and development; and

emergency preparedness and natural disaster energy and mineral functions.

Fisher's papers are by no means a complete record of his work in the Department of the Interior. He left behind the bulk of his files at the Department as official records.

The Fisher personal papers at the Ford Library consist of his chronological file of outgoing memoranda and letters and two briefing books. No incoming documents or related studies and reports are included. Only a few documents date from before his promotion to Assistant Secretary in February 1976.

The major focus of the chronological file is on the administration of government programs involving the leasing of mineral rights for public lands and the continental shelf to private companies. These leases allowed the companies to mine for coal and various minerals and to drill for oil and gas.

Other materials in the chronological file concern such topics as ocean mining, mine safety and health issues, the work of the Geological Survey, mineral stockpiles, the Naval Petroleum Reserve, and the Energy Resources Council.

One briefing book contains issue papers for the Department of the Interior's FY 1976 budget request and the other concerns a proposed activities tracking and reporting system for weekly staff meetings.

Related Materials (As of June 1976)

Materials on the offices supervised by Fisher appear in White House Central Files subject file category FG 19 (Department of the Interior) and its subdivisions. Information on topics handled by Fisher appears in Central Files categories NR 5 (Minerals - Metals), NR 6 (Oil - Gas), and NR 6-1 (Naval Petroleum Reserve). The files of Glenn Schleede, Domestic Council Associate Director for Energy and Science, are another important source of information on many of the same issues.

Last Modified Date

2025-03-18

Chronological File, 1976.

(Boxes 1-6, 2.2 linear feet)

Outgoing memoranda and letters concerning all aspects of Fisher's work as Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals. Virtually no incoming memoranda or letters are attached. In addition to information on the operations of the agencies which Fisher supervised, the materials concern such topics as the administration of energy and mineral rights leasing programs for public lands and the continental shelf, mine health and safety, and energy and mineral stockpiles and reserves.

Arranged chronologically.

Box 1 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	January 12 - April 7, 1976

Box 2 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	April 8 - May 31, 1976

Box 3 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	June 1 - July 27, 1976

Box 4 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	July 28 - September 30, 1976

Box 5 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	October 1 - December 19, 1976

Box 6 - Chronological File

Status	Title
OPEN	December 20, 1976 - January 19, 1977

Subject File, 1974-75.

(Box 6, 0.2 linear feet)

A fragmentary file consisting of two briefing books. One contains issue papers used in conjunction with the development of the Department of the Interior's FY 1976 budget request and concerning various programs throughout the Department. The

other book concerns a proposed activities tracking and reporting system for the weekly meeting of the staff of the Assistant Secretary for Energy and Minerals.

Arranged alphabetically by title.

Box 6 (Continued) - Subject File

Status	Title
OPEN	Secretarial Issue Papers - Energy and Minerals
OPEN	Secretarial Issue Papers - Energy Research and Development
OPEN	Secretarial Issue Papers - Fish and Wildlife and Parks
OPEN	Secretarial Issue Papers - Indian Affairs
OPEN	Secretarial Issue Papers - Land and Water Resources
OPEN	Secretarial Issue Papers - Territorial Affairs
OPEN	Secretarial Tracking Reports (1)-(2)