
¹See, e.g., FTC Press Release, *FTC to Hold Second Public Conference on the U.S. Oil and Gasoline Industry in May 2002* (Dec. 21, 2001), available at <http://www.ftc.gov/opa/2001/12/gasconf.htm>; see also

in various places.

I believe it is essential for the Commission to expedite the production of a single report that addresses gas pricing issues in a clear and comprehensive manner. I would have preferred to see the Commission's limited resources directed toward producing such a report. For these reasons, I choose to abstain from the Commission's vote to authorize the staff of the Bureau of Economics to issue the petroleum mergers report at this time.