

ROYAL
SWEDISH EMBASSY

Washington, D. C. November 5, 1962

Mr. William Burke
Division of International Affairs
U. S. Atomic Energy Commission
Washington 25, D. C.

Dear Mr. Burke:

As I told you over the phone some days ago I wrote a letter to Stockholm requesting some specific information as to the questions that Mr. Margen of the Swedish Atomic Energy Company discussed with Mr. Algie Wells in connection with Chairman Seaborg's visit to Stockholm in September, 1962. I just received a reply from Stockholm, according to which Mr. Peter Margen is head of the Division of Reactor Projects of the Swedish Atomic Energy Company (address Othammarsgatan 70, Stockholm). When he met Mr. Wells he had indicated that he was interested in "pressure and suppression principles for Bodega Bay power station". Especially Mr. Margen would be interested in knowing whether the Atomic Energy Commission has requested specific experiments in connection with the Bodega Bay power station program.

Hoping that this information might be useful for you as an indication of Mr. Margen's interests, I remain,

Sincerely yours,

Leif Leifland
First Secretary of Embassy

Another Foe Of Bodega Atom Plant

Another petition against establishment of a \$61 million Pacific Gas & Electric Co. nuclear power plant on Bodega Head has been filed with

the State Public Utilities Commission.

David F. Jessner, secretary of the Bay Area Chapter, Northern California Association to Preserve Bodega Head, asked in a petition filed yesterday that a new hearing be held on the matter.

He said safe radiation standards were not sufficiently well known when the PUC granted authorization to the

P.G. & E. for the facility.

His petition followed by one day a similar petition filed by Dr. John F. Nelands, a biochemist of the University of California at Berkeley. Nelands said University Chancellor Edward W. Strong suppressed a scientific report by a faculty committee which was critical of the plant location next to the site for a marine biological research center.

LA Seeks A-Power

LOS ANGELES — The City of Los Angeles will seek approval from the Atomic Energy Commission to build an atomic power generating plant here.

Mayor Samuel Yorty said Wednesday that it would cost approximately \$12 million. If the AEC approves, it will pay \$10 million of the cost, he added.

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Bodega Head Nuclear Reactor

Safety Factors Questioned

By DON ENGBAHL

None of the speakers at Saturday night's meeting before about 120 persons said flatly the Bodega plant is likely to have an atomic accident; but they said the safety systems are untried on a full scale and that the question of public protection should be more fully explored. A recurring theme was that the "experts" should not be trusted by the public, but that the public should be fully informed of the safety and then make a decision on the plant.

The safety of Pacific Gas & Electric Co.'s proposed nuclear reactor at Bodega Head is the new battle cry of opposition to the company's plans for a power plant there.

A series of speakers at a meeting in Santa Rosa Saturday night sketched the hazards of radiation and of reactors in general terms. And others outlined paths of action that include appeals to the Sonoma County Supervisors and court action to halt the utility company's plans until further studies can be made.

The big opposition in the earlier battle before the Public Utilities Commission—which the company won—were arguments that the plant would destroy the recreation, scenic and scientific potential of the Bodega Headlands and Bodega Harbor.

don declared he found "a thousanding committee" to solicit anti-plant petitions. "This man," Mr. Radu declared, "insults our intelligence! We have the right to dislike anything we want..."

Mr. Grendon apologized. Speakers and issues Some of the speakers and issues raised:

Dr. Malcolm Peterson, representative of the Greater St. Louis Citizens' Committee for Nuclear Information and director of the Washington University Division of Gastroenterology, outlined the sources of radiation and the effects in man—cancer, shortening of life and genetic changes transmitted from generation to generation.

And he said the AEC's proceedings would deal with the questions of reactor safety, and told the crowd that "you can't be your own doctor, you can't be your own expert."

That rankled John Radu, Santa Rosa, who with Marvin E. Brown, Valley Ford, are to form a "steering

There as an observer, Mr. Grendon

Midnight Debate

The relative calm of the 3½-hour meeting was rippled near midnight when Alexander Grendon, the Governor's Co-Ordinator of Atomic Energy Development and Radiation Protection, entered the discussion.

There as an observer, Mr. Grendon

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PG&E Reactor Safety Factors Are Argued

(Continued from Page 1)

error in the test and training relation, he said, and standards now in use in this country are only guesses.

"The safe dose" of radiation, he said, "is no dose."

"But we must consider the benefits and risks" of atomic energy, adding that the judgment on the benefits "should not be made by scientists, who are only observers in the field of nature. The decision rests on you, and should not be delegated to scientists."

Dr. Thornton Sargent, University of California research scientist at the Donner Laboratory of Medical and Bio-Physics, who outlined the major known reactor accidents, including the 1960 accident involving a small boiling-water reactor in Idaho that killed three

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error in the test and training relation, he said, and standards now in use in this country are only guesses.

"The intent of reactor safety design," said Dr. Thornton, "is of course to build in automatic, fail-safe devices to prevent accidents in spite of operator error."

"Nevertheless," he said, "this accident occurred."

The PG&E proposal is for a boiling-water reactor at Bodega Head, using a "new kind of containment system... called pressure suppression containment," Dr. Thornton said, "which is yet to be tested on a working reactor."

Full-Scale Testing

It will be first tested in full-scale operation in the Humboldt Bay plant which PG&E is to put into commercial operation this year.

PG&E says it tested the pressure suppression system in model form and in part of the final reactor before gaining AEC approval some two years ago.

(The company says the "unique design, which protects operating personnel and the public against hazards resulting from an accidental release of radioactivity, is believed to be a significant advance in the art" of reactor building).

Dr. Richard C. Sill, University of Nevada physics professor, who outlined the professional physicists' concern over the dangers of radiation, and who said it is difficult to get "technical information and evaluation from competent scientists who are free from financial or administrative restraint."

He saw "just one way you can proceed at this juncture and retain traditional democratic institutions and processes. You can demand by petition, publicity, and possibly by legal action that the permit granted to PG&E be held in abeyance until the whole subject... has been properly evaluated."

He later said two possible consultants who would be "independent" are Dr. Ralph E. Lapp, of Arlington, Va., on the reactor, health and physical hazards part of the problem and Dr. Harrison Brown, California Institute of Tech-

nology geochemistry professor).

Max Kortum, Petaluma rancher and a strong figure in the battle before the PUC earlier this year, said the group that Sonoma County supervisors were "fooled" by the word "steam" when the permit for the plant was granted.

"I don't know then that the plant was to be atomic-powered," he said, but now he said he hopes a "proper hearing can be held" by the county on the use permit it issued in 1960.

Phillip Berry, Oakland lawyer who represented the Sierra Club at the PUC hearings, told the group he finds strength in the argument that the use permit was illegal, on grounds that PG&E didn't submit complete plans and specifications on application.

"One of the really tragic things," he said, "is the attitude taken by the Board of Supervisors in this county." That attitude he defined as "arrogant and presumptuous" in "not holding one public hearing" on the question of the permit.

David Pesonen, organizer of the meeting and a leader in the Sierra Club battle against the plant before the PUC, told the crowd that "this isn't over yet."

"Skeptical Attitude"

"The democratic process," he declared, "demands a skeptical at-

titude," and urged the audience to be skeptical "of the experts," and to "remain skeptical of the people who spoke here tonight."

He saw Mr. Grendon in the rear of the room at the Odd Fellows hall and asked him to answer a question from the floor about the possibilities of "other uses" of the Bodega site other than an electric power plant.

Mr. Grendon used that as a platform from which to explain the official mechanisms for insuring safety of the plant.

He intervenes in proceedings before the AEC, he said, on behalf of state agencies "to see that nothing is overlooked in the way of safety."

A "measured risk" is a price of progress, Mr. Grendon said, and "we must not stifle progress by not doing anything."

Mr. Pesonen told the state official that he presented "a very able case for a very disabled subject," and said Mr. Grendon answered "glibly," working "at a great tactical disadvantage."

Mr. Grendon objected; he wasn't being glib, he said; his answers were "carefully thought out and honestly spoken."

Mr. Grendon agreed—in answer to a question from Mr. Pesonen—that he'd attempt to get the AEC hearings held locally.

But he warned that only testimony of "experts" or those directly involved would be weighed by the AEC.

After the meeting he made his

"thousand inaccuracies" statement which brought a knot of speakers around him. He said there were "so many that it is impossible to detail" them, but on pressure from a couple of the speakers conceded some might have been "misinterpretations."

But "extravagant things were said" about the "relative hazards" of the plant, and the "tone of the meeting was not to inform, but to mis-inform."

The meeting was sponsored by the Northern California Association to Preserve Bodega Head and Harbor, the Bodega Bay Chamber of Commerce and the Santa Rosa Unitarian Fellowship.

Peril at Bodega Head

Editor—The Public Utilities Commission has approved the P.G. & E. Bodega Head project—virtually as presented by P.G. & E. and with no safeguards assured for that scenic and unique area.

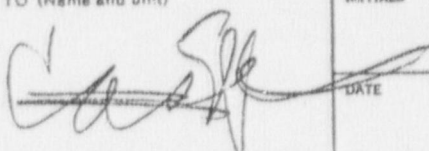
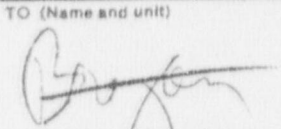
The arguments by Dr. Thornton Sargent (The Chronicle, November 11) seemed convincingly to refute the reasons presented by P.G. & E. for its choice of this location.

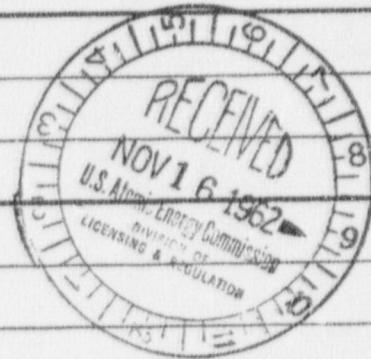
Specifically, the very great possibility that a temperature inversion in the local waterway could raise temperature for as much as a few days to a level where much of the life would be killed alone makes the site most incompatible with the needs for producing power . . .

ASHTON BROWN.

Kensington.

S.F. CHRONICLE 11/20/62

MEMO ROUTE SLIP Form AEC-98 (Rev. May 14, 1967)		See me about this. Note and return.	For concurrence. For signature.	For action. For information.
TO (Name and unit) Robert Lowenstein, Dir. DL&R, HQS	INITIALS DATE	REMARKS		
TO (Name and unit) 	INITIALS DATE			
TO (Name and unit)  File - BODEGA	INITIALS 13 DATE 11/23			
FROM (Name and unit) Rod Southwick Public Info, SAN	REMARKS			
PHONE NO.	DATE 11/14/62			



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LETTER

St. Chronicle 11/14/62

Bodega Bay Reactor

Editor—I would like to make a few clarifying remarks with regard to my statements about the Bodega reactor reported in The Chronicle November 11.

First, at no time did I say the "plant should not be built;" I said only that we should "pause for a closer look."

I described the three major reactor accidents which are known to have occurred in the world since the beginning of the atomic age, only one of which was in the United States . . . Your story said "there have been a number of reactor failures in the Nation in the past few years," which gives a rather different impression. I also stated that the safety record of the atomic energy industry has been excellent as a whole.

Although both the SL-1 reactor at Arco and the proposed P.G.&E. reactor at Bodega are boiling water types, this is the end of their similarity. Your story says they are "of the same basic type," which is an oversimplification. I did not mean to imply that the potential for an accident was of a similar level in the two . . .

I took some pains to state that reactor technology is not my field, and that because the people in Sonoma county were unable to find an expert on reactor safety who was willing to talk, I was trying to fill the gap. I think P.G.&E. should be willing to meet the public frankly on the subject of reactor safety . . .

THORNTON SARGENT.

Berkeley.

The China War

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