

Files

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Division of Public Information, HQ

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50-205

BODEGA WEEKEND CLIPS

MI:RLS

Enclosed are news clips from the San Francisco Bay Area papers on  
developments at Bodega Head.

Enclosures:

- 1. S.F. Chronicle - 3 clips: 2-5/25; 1-5/27/63
- 2. S.F. Examiner - 1 clip, 5/26/63

cc: w/encls - Bob Lowenstein, DL&E, HQ  
Howard Shpar, OGC, HQ



MI

SOUTHWICK:wt

5/27/63

8709210540 351217  
PDR FOIA  
FIREST085-665 PDR

Charles de Young Thieriot, Editor and Publisher

George T. Cameron, Publisher 1925 to 1955

Founded 1865 by Charles and M. H. de Young

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## Udall's Warning On Bodega Plant

SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR Stewart L. Udall has entered the heightening controversy over construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head on the Sonoma Coast. Noting that the site of the proposed plant lies close to the San Andreas fault—cause of the San Francisco earthquake of 1906—he expressed grave concern over its hazards to public health and safety.

In a letter to Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission (which will make final judgment on the project), Secretary Udall observed that a major nuclear accident at this power plant could make the Government liable to as much as \$500 million in indemnities.

Spokesmen for the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. reply that they have consulted the best scientific and technical authority and have been adequately assured that a nuclear power plant may be safely sited on Bodega Head. The Atomic Energy Commission, itself, has recently received a report from its Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, which submits the opinion that—under certain specified conditions—"the proposed reactor can be designed and built at the proposed location on Bodega Head with reasonable assurance that it can be operated without undue hazard to the health and safety of the public."

FROM ITS INCEPTION, this project has raised numerous grave questions and excited vigorous opposition. Feelings have run high on both sides. Involved, besides the issues of public safety and Government liability, is the dilemma posed by the conflicting public need for a new source of power (now afforded by the nuclear reactor) and for conserving irreplaceable natural values. The participation of a Cabinet officer now serves to point up the extreme importance of this controversy.

Clearly, the right decision will not be reached through emotionalism. The public interest alone, it must be hoped, will influence the Atomic Energy Commission after it has studied the facts and heard the opinion of experts soon to be expressed in a hearing at Santa Rosa.

SF Chronicle  
5/25/63

## Udall Stand On Bodega Attacked

Interior Secretary Stewart L. Udall's objections to the proposed Bodega Bay nuclear power reactor were labeled "specious and phony" by Representative Craig Hosmer (Rep-Calif.) yesterday.

Secretary Udall warned the Atomic Energy Commission that the Bodega Bay plant, being planned by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, might be hazardous because of its proximity to the San Andreas earthquake fault.

Hosmer, a member of the joint committee on atomic energy, declared in Washington that earthquakes do not present any "particular hazard" to nuclear power reactors.

"They are safe enough to be put aboard ships at sea, have been designed for use in airplanes and rockets and have been built to be hauled over rough terrain on heavy trailers," said Hosmer, of Long Beach.

Hosmer said Udall might have "ulterior motives" in questioning the Bodega Bay undertaking. He said the Secretary was "trying to grab control" of all the Nation's electrical energy.

## Risk Seen In A-Plant

### At Bodega

SF EXAMINER 5/26/63  
Examiner Capitol Bureau  
SACRAMENTO, May 25. —

A legislative inquiry into health and safety hazards that might occur from establishing a nuclear reactor at Bodega Head in Sonoma County was demanded Saturday by Assemblyman Philip Burton.

The San Francisco Democrat noted recent misgivings of Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall over the location's proximity to the San Andreas earthquake fault.

"The population centers of the San Francisco Bay area are a scant 40 miles from this site," Burton said. "A large percentage of the dairy products consumed in the San Francisco area come from this region. San Franciscans are particularly aware of the impact of disturbances along the San Andreas fault. One such disturbance resulted in the San Francisco earthquake and fire of 1906.

"I will introduce a resolution in the Assembly for a study of the potential health and safety hazards of constructing an atomic power plant in this area. . . . The public should be fully informed before a final decision is made in this matter."

SF Chronicle 5/25/63

## PG&E Says Its Bills

## Free of Political Taint

The Pacific Gas and Electric Company formally denied yesterday that its customers are billed for the company's political, promotional and advertising activities.

These expenditures, according to a brief filed with the State Public Utilities Commission, are absorbed by the

company and its stockholders. They are not passed on to the customers.

Thirty-nine disgruntled customers last month claimed these costs were reflected in the monthly bills and asked the commission investigate.

The PG&E's brief asked that the complaint be dismissed.