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Division of Public Information, HQ

January 3, 1964

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PG&E vs. NEW YORK TIMES - PART II

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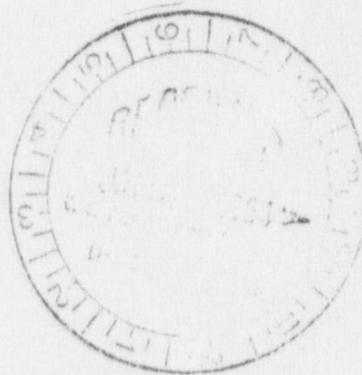
50-205

The Santa Rosa Press Democrat yesterday carried the enclosed story on the New York Times editorial and PG&E's reply relating to the status of the Redaga project. Full text of the PG&E reply was transmitted yesterday to Lowenstein and Fouchard.

Enclosure:

Clip, as stated

cc: Harold Price, RBG, HQ, w/encl.
Robert Lowenstein, DL&R, HQ, w/encl.
F. K. Pittman, DED, HQ, w/encl.
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PG&E Denies It Has Halted Bodega Project

1/2/64

Bodega Project

The Pacific Gas & Electric Co. "opportunity" to place the head-
quarters of its Bodega Head project in the state's park system
has been denied and repeated is not lost.

The company said that the nuclear
plant site there will be
available.

The company, to a New York
editorial of late Decem-
ber, the utility company says
that it is including one that
the company has "cancelled
contracts"—are "sub-
stantial errors."

The editorial, which ran in
the Western Edition of The
Times Dec. 23, called Bodega
Head a "wild scenic promontory
several miles north of San
Francisco," which "only a few
months ago... seemed certain
to be lost."

It said Bodega Head was in
the state's master plan for
parks and in 1957 the state leg-
islature appropriated \$550,000 to
buy it.

But the Pacific Gas & Elec-
tric Co. moved more swiftly
than the state and purchased
the site in 1959 for a nuclear
power plant.

In anticipation of hearings
before the Atomic Energy Com-
mission, PG&E began excava-
tion for its reactor unit last
spring. Then, in August, an
earthquake fault was found
through the very center of the
site of the proposed generator.
All construction has now been
halted and the company has
cancelled further contracts. For-
tunately, Bodega Head is not
irreparably damaged.

The Times editorial concluded
by saying that the "golden op-

PG&E Replies

All of which produced a
bristling reply from the utility
company in a Dec. 27 telegram
and a subsequent letter to the
newspaper.

The telegram called it a
"shocking distortion of facts,
apparently based on unchecked
charges from misleading
sources."

"Bodega project not aban-
doned," the telegram said, "no
contracts cancelled. Your earth-
quake fault statement is gross-
ly exaggerated."

The company's telegram said
its engineers and consultants be-
lieve the site to be "excellent,"
and predicted AEC hearings by
spring.

It denied that Bodega Head
is "wild" or "scenic," but rather
or "barren" and, in the opinion
of "local newsmen," really is
"ugly, desolate, inaccessible
and seaside slum."

Determination that Bodega
Head would be a park rested
with Sonoma County, PG&E
said, rather than with the state
—which had rated Bodega as
"only 93rd among 123 through-
out California."

PG&E will provide roads,
park facilities, landscaping and
roads at the project, the tele-
gram said, and "objective ob-
servers agree project will im-
prove site for public enjoy-
ment."

Sonoma County wants the
(Continued on Page 6, Col. 3)

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(Continued from Page 1)

plant, the telegram said, and
the state has issued a certificate
of public convenience and neces-
sity for it.

The state, it said, has re-
jected petitions by small, local
group of opponents seeking to
halt it.

(While the State Public Util-
ties Commission has rejected
such petitions, the state Su-
preme Court has agreed to lis-
ten to arguments over whether
the PUC should be ordered to
reopen hearings to examine
questions such as the earth-
quake hazards at the site.)

Letter Followed

In its letter, the utility com-
pany provided some documenta-
tion of the rebuttal and in-
cludes some quotations from a
variety of visitors to Bodega
Head who didn't think it was
beautiful.

Among those quoted are Rep.
Craig Hosmer ("barren, brown,
windswept . . ."); a San Fran-
cisco newsman, who called Bode-
ga Park across from Bodega
Head a "seaside slum," and
editorials from the Herald-Ex-
aminer (Bodega Bay will be
far more attractive than it ever
has been, thanks to the fact
that PG&E has appeared"),
the Salinas Californian (which
quotes from The Press Demo-
crat that "beauty is in the eye
of the beholder" and says the
conservationist opposition is "a
contrived front for ideological
opposition to private industry's
ingenuity in supplying the pub-
lic with services it needs . . .")
and the San Juan Mission News,
which said the plant construc-
tion will "aid the cause" by
opening the area to the public.

As for its plans, the utility
company says it excavated the
reactor site in accordance with
AEC regulations, exposed the
foundation material and reports
of consultants in geology and
seismology "are now being pre-
pared for transmittal to the
AEC."

It said that the company
reached the decision to build the
foot of the head and for the location of
the reactor, the company said.
"Then, the state's decision
that work was halted and
contracts cancelled because of
an earthquake fault . . .
is incorrect."

"I don't know how," said
the letter, "that the project will
improve Bodega Head for pub-
lic enjoyment."

MEMO ROUTE SLIP Form A-10-98 (Rev. May 14, 1962)		See me about this. Note and return.	For conc. e. For signature.	For action. For information.
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