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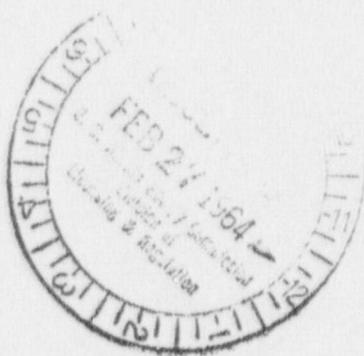
BODEGA BAY *50-705*

FI:ELS

Attached are recent letters to the editor, a news story and
releases from Sierra Club and the Bodega Head preservers.

Attachments:
As stated

- cc: / Harold Price, REG, HQ, w/attachs.
- Robert Lowenstein, DADR, HQ, w/attachs.
- F. K. Pittman, DSD, HQ, w/attachs.
- J. D. Lyman, BFI, HQ, w/attachs.
- R. W. Smith, Compl. V., SAN, w/attachs.



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*Santa Rosa
Sierra Club Press Release*
**Atomic Power
Isn't Necessary**

EDITOR: Most subjects that are highly controversial, have one thing in common — the most salient feature are often completely ignored, or over-stated. The Bodega power plant is typical—it just isn't necessary.

The PG&E isn't concerned with expense, Uncle Sam, or her customers—with no competition we are trapped and will eventually pay for something that was built with deducts. An interesting thing in connection with the Bodega plant is that there is a possibility that it will be obsolete even before completion. Any day now we may hear the announcement that the inefficient and expensive U235 is to be replaced by what is called a "breeder reactor." The scientists who are working on the project claim that the use of U235 is like "burning gold."

Northern California has a great many gas wells capable of producing millions of cubic feet of gas a day with a new one coming in every few weeks; the last two wells tested out well over a million cubic feet a day, each.

There is a whole colony of these wells in just one area of Northern California. All of these wells are capped, and unused.

There is a large oil field in Wyoming with lots of gas; and no consumers; the PG&E just recently turned down an offer.

The state of Oregon tried to make a deal with the Rogue and Umpqua rivers, and got no place. These rivers are right in our back yard and have terrific fall and volume the year around; millions of potential kilowatts pouring into the ocean every day.

Northern California has several rivers that could be harnessed with inexpensive diversion dams. There is enough fall every few miles to operate a whole series of Pelton type turbines. These wouldn't even require an attendant on the job, and could be serviced from a distribution and voltage control center at the foot of the grade.

There are several large plants now in operation on streams with enough fall so that they could be penstocked several times between them and the valley. There is no good reason why most, if not all, of northern California could not be served from these.

With the new technology coming up every day there is no reason for hysteria concerning future power demands. Maybe our Mexican cousins could show us something—the village of Puerto Penasco, state of Sonora, is producing 3,000 gallons of fresh water daily from salt water—with a solar furnace! The greatest potential source of energy is right up there in the sky—who knows what's next?

BOB LOWELL
Healdsburg

*Santa Rosa
Sierra Club Press Release*
**'PG&E Should
Heed Opponents'**

EDITOR: I have friends, relatives, and acquaintances who are employed by PG&E in positions ranging from vice president downwards. They have the right and privilege as citizens to make decisions on public issues. Not all of their opinions of the proposed reactor at Bodega Bay necessarily agree with the company's official position.

Many stockholders in PG&E disagree with the company on the Bodega Bay reactor, and they have made their views known to PG&E. The company would be wise to heed their counsel.

PATRICIA WATTERS
Cotati 2/21/64

Sierra Club
**Legislature
Prodded on
Bodega Study**

Members of the State legislature were prodded by the Sierra Club yesterday to get on with a promised investigation of the PG&E's atomic power plant at Bodega Bay.

The legislature passed a resolution calling for the inquiry last year but, according to Sierra Club executive director David Brower, the resolution has been "bottled up."

"The legislature is quick to take a look at the Baldwin Hills disaster or some crumbling timbers at Oroville Dam," Brower said, "but when it comes to PG&E proposals at Bodega, the Rules Committee seems clearly to have done nothing on a matter referred to it last June."

Brower said the citizens of California deserve "a full and fair" hearing so the "smooth and proper development of nuclear power in our State" can be properly explored.

THE SIERRA CLUB
Hills Tower
San Francisco 4, Calif.

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

February 22, 1964

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SIERRA CLUB URGES LEGISLATURE TO ACT ON BODEGA INVESTIGATION

The Sierra Club today urged the State Legislature to get a promised investigation of the Bodega Bay atomic power plant "moving again." The request, made in a letter to the legislature, carried an implied charge that Assembly Rules Committee Chairman Tom Bane (Dem.-No. Hollywood) had "bottled up" a resolution passed during the 1963 General Session, which directed an investigation of the controversial Pacific Gas and Electric Company installation.

"The legislature is quick to take a look at the Baldwin Hills disaster or some crumbling timbers at Oroville Dam" said David Brower, Executive Director of the 23,000-member Sierra Club. "But when it comes to PG&E proposals at Bodega, the Rules Committee seems clearly to have done nothing on a matter referred to it last June."

In his letter to the Assembly and Senate members, Brower added: "It would seem most regrettable in a matter of this importance for the public to assume that the measure is being bottled up."

"The Bodega controversy has become an issue of national attention." Brower noted. "The citizens of California deserve a full and fair hearing in order to explore legislation which will allow the smooth and proper development of nuclear power in our state--without the waste of human energy that results from controversies which could have been prevented by proper state action."

(more)

The resolution referred to was passed by the legislature during the closing days of the 1963 General Session. It was introduced by Assemblyman Alfred Alquist (Dem.-San Jose). Alquist said at the time, "I particularly am disturbed by the way they (PG&E) ruined Morro Bay with their steam plant and likewise Moss Landing."

A PG&E spokesman said in 1963 that the company "welcomes the opportunity to appear before a legislative committee to state once again the facts about our Bodega Bay Atomic Park."

In its letter today, the Sierra Club said: "In light of the willingness of all parties to see the issue aired, what could be the reason for holding up the hearing?"

The Sierra Club resolution leading to Brower's request was voted last June 9, 1963, and immediately forwarded to each member of the Legislature. It stated: "The Sierra Club requests that the Legislature pass an appropriate resolution urging that no further construction on a power plant be permitted at Bodega Head, and that the matter be referred to an interim committee of the Legislature for study of an amendment to the Public Utilities Act of California to provide for the consideration of scenic and community values in determining the issuance of a certificate of public convenience and necessity."

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U.S. GEOLOGICAL SURVEY FINDS NEW QUAKE RISKS

San Francisco (Jan 20)--The Atomic Energy Commission today released a second report on the geology of the Bodega Head reactor site which found a fault--definitely of earthquake origin--crossing the reactor shaft.

"The Shaft fault," said the report, "is one of the principal faults cutting the granitic bedrock in the reactor shaft area" and it is "an important zone of weakness."

In the event of another earthquake at the site comparable to the 1906 shock, "displacement on the order of a few feet, either horizontally or vertically, should be anticipated."

A key finding of the report was that there is clear evidence of displacement along similar faults off the main San Andreas Zone on Point Reyes resulting from the 1906 temblor.

"THE SITE SHOULD NOT BE USED"

PG&E's consultant on structural design, Dr. George Housner of Cal Tech, wrote to Chief Civil Engineer Worthington of PG&E in 1960:

"As regards gross ground movement produced by faulting, I would say that if there appeared even a small likelihood of this happening, then the site should not be used."

THE MORAL ISSUE

The AEC's Brookhaven Report (WASH-740), estimating the consequences of a major reactor accident in a plant half the size of the proposed Bodega installation, found human damage ranging to an upper limit, "in the worst case, of about 3400 killed and about 43,000 injured. ...Property damages ranged to an upper limit in the worst case of about seven billion dollars...due to assumed contamination of land with fission products. It was estimated that people could be killed at distances up to 15 miles, and injured at distances of about 45 miles. Land contamination could extend for greater distances."

PG&E's original geological consultant, Dr. William Quaide, said after release of the latest USGS report: "There is a chance that the fault could break beneath the plant's site in case of an earthquake...It is necessary to face the moral issue: 'If there is even a slight chance of danger, should we go ahead and build the plant?'"

"SUPERFICIAL"

PG&E's seismologist, Don Tocher, and the geologist who replaced Dr. Quaide, Mr. Elmer Marliave of Sacramento, flatly denied the USGS findings in their own report submitted to the AEC. However, their report largely ignored the findings of sympathetic faulting on Point Reyes during the 1906 shock.

QUOTE OF THE MONTH...Robert M. Hutchins, former President and Chancellor of the Univ. of Chicago, ...in "Science, Scientists, and Politics," by the Center for the Study of Democratic Institutions at Santa Barbara:

"The foundation of morality in our society is a desire to protect one's reputation...The narrower the field in which a man must tell the truth, the wider is the area in which he is free to lie. This is one of the advantages of

"A VERY DUBIOUS PLACE"

In a follow-up development, Dr. Joel Hedgpeth, Director of the Pacific Marine Station at Dillons Beach, announced that electronic probes off the seaward side of Bodega Head, conducted by the Scripps Institute of Oceanography, had revealed a "great complex" of faults.

Dr. Hedgpeth termed Bodega Head a "very dubious place to put up an atomic reactor...or, in fact, a bridge or anything."

The announcement came in a letter to Secretary of the Interior Udall requesting him to ask that the AEC defer its hearings on the project until the off-shore study is completed, about May 1964.

* * *

MOSS LANDING: A CARBON COPY?

George Dusheck of the San Francisco News-Call Bulletin revealed on January 30th that PG&E is condemning 151 acres at Moss Landing on Monterey Bay for "an exclusion area necessary for the construction and operation of a nuclear-electric generating plant..."

On April 24, 1963, PG&E's late President Sutherland announced plans to expand the current Moss Landing facility--but indicated it would be conventionally fueled.

After Dusheck's article, a PG&E "spokesman" said in the Oakland Tribune that the Moss Landing plant would "probably" be nuclear, depending on experience at Humboldt and Bodega Bay. Although Bodega is far from built, readers will recall PG&E spokesmen saying in Sonoma County that the Bodega plant would be nuclear or conventional--depending on experience at Humboldt Bay, which plant had not been constructed before CPUC hearings on Bodega were completed.

This looks like a game of nuclear leapfrog down all of the fine harbors of the California coast, each one being picked off in the name of speculation about success at the previous ones.

* * *

THE UTILITY ETHIC

There is something in the ethic of a big utility that finds the public to be very troublesome when it becomes more than an assortment of meters to be read.

PG&E's public relations staff is working overtime denying that Consolidated Edison Co pulled out of New York City because of public opposition to the Ravenswood nuclear plant.

But the decision was read in most Eastern circles at least a partial concession to public opinion. The New York Times editorialized along somewhat different lines from the PR department of either PG&E or Con Ed, as did the Long Island Press and several other papers.

"WHO'S IN CHARGE"

The Association held a press conference on Jan 29th in San Francisco to announce that it will no longer accept faceless statements from PG&E "spokesmen" on the Bodega controversy. Responsibility for prolonging the matter must lie with one man from now on, it was charged: Mr. Robert Gerdes, President of PG&E. Mr. Gerdes had no comment, said a PG&E spokesman. * * *



OUR EXPERTS

'Right or wrong'

Government geologists have reported to the Atomic Energy Commission this week that the site of the proposed nuclear power plant on Bodega Head lies near a fault, and that a 2 1/2 to 11 foot surge of earth could be expected if a major earthquake occurs along the San Andreas Fault. In spite of these and other findings, PG&E maintains the site is suitable for location of the plant, and that its faith in its own experts is undiminished. PG&E certainly has faith in her own experts. We have never heard of one's judgment being questioned, even though other government and independent experts and scientists aren't nearly so convinced of the suitability of the site. PG&E's defense against all criticism on this plant borders on the savage. If we printed a story that the weather is bad today on Bodega Head, we'd probably get a convincing denial from the company's public relations department the next day. We don't pretend to know who's right in the matter of safety. And when we don't know who's right here, we think it prudent to ask that the plant be built somewhere else.

VOTE ALREADY IN

Plant approved

There isn't much chance that the AEC will disapprove PG&E's application to build the plant if and when the long-heralded "public hearings" are held in Santa Rosa. That body's approval was given more than three years ago, else the company would not have proceeded with the purchase of land and preparation of the site. Come the hearings, AEC officials will listen to petitions from both camps, then render the decision it reached more than three years ago—only this time it will be open and official. It is no secret that the AEC wants the plant at Bodega Head as much as does PG&E. The AEC must maintain and extend its dominance in the atomic field, as any normal government bureaucracy seeks to do. The hearings have been delayed and postponed to permit opposition to die down. Those who oppose the plant and who are relying upon the AEC to give them aid and comfort, had better brace themselves for the worst.

Reprinted from the Sebastopol Times, January 23, 30, 1964

HIGH COURT HEARS BODEGA ARGUMENTS

San Francisco (Feb 4)--Oral argument before the California Sup Court was heard today, as the prolonged controversy over PG&E construction of a 325-thousand kilowatt nuclear power plant moved toward eventual conclusion.

Chief Justice Tobriner disqualified himself and was replaced by Justice Pierce.

The Court said that it saw several tough and important legal issues raised by the exchange of briefs between the NCA/PERNH on the one hand and PG&E and the CPUC on the other.

During the hearing Justice Traynor asked if the CPUC had not exceeded its discretion in denying a petition to reopen hearings last Summer for the presentation of new evidence and to cross-examine PG&E experts. If it had, said Justice Traynor, the Court should remand the case for new hearing before the CPUC--fast.

Benjamin Dreyfus, Counsel for the Association, argued that the powers of the CPUC were pre-empted by the Atomic Energy Commission, (1) the CPUC should have said so when it granted PG&E certificate, rather than waiting until a petition to reopen hearings was filed, and (2) the ultimate significance of such a finding would be to strip the CPUC of its powers to regulate utility plans.

OBJECTION

Over-ruled

Rod Southwick, head of the Atomic Energy Commission office in Berkeley, has telephoned to object to our speculation in this column last week that the AEC had already given its approval to PG&E's construction of the A-plant at Bodega Head. Our point was that PG&E would not have entered the atomic field, would not have bought the Bodega site, would not have gone ahead and prepared the site at a cost of \$3.9 million had not the AEC given its prior approval, either formal or tacit. Mr. Southwick's point is that it just isn't so. And in return, our point on Mr. Southwick's denial is, "that's just what we expected." There is no use for the AEC to deny its eagerness to have this atomic power plant built. If the AEC had not favored the plant, would it have arranged to have the proposed plant's liability insurance of \$100,000,000 assumed by the government? Would the AEC have contracted to buy back, again with taxpayer money, the by-products of the plant's atomic fission—which is tantamount to a government subsidy? Would Craig Hosmer, a member of the Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, make a hurried flying trip out here and issue a public statement saying, prematurely, that the plant would be safe—and at the same time ridiculing opponents of the plant? Would Mr. Seaborg, chairman of the AEC, rush onto television to support the Bodega effort and to say he wouldn't be afraid to live next door to a nuclear reactor? Would these things have happened had the AEC not been involved in behalf of PG&E, and are these things characteristic of a body which Mr. Southwick now says has not even given "tacit" approval of the plans for the reactor? Knock it off. Not all taxpayers were born yesterday.

Richard Tuttle, Chief Counsel for the CPUC, argued that his Commission had no authority to rule on the safety of a nuclear installation. John Morrissey, Counsel for PG&E, argued that the State Supreme Court had no authority to rule on the matter because the issue was within the discretion of the CPUC.

Then Morrissey seemed to waver toward explaining that PG&E is being picked on—and not allowed to spend "nearly \$4 million" without the risk of having it go down a hole.

The Justices of the Court appeared exceedingly well-informed on the issues before them. They carefully lifted each of the attorney by the scruff of the neck and then set him again—not always gently.

The written opinion of the Court will be handed down probably in April. There are many ways that the Court might go on this, but that no one is betting on the outcome. But we're optimistic.

* * *

TWO RESOLUTIONS FROM PRESNO: LOBBYIST PRECHARGED...COLUMBIA RIVER POWER ALTERNATE

Two separate organizations meeting in Fresno on January 20-21, passed resolutions attacking the Bodega power plant.

The California Democratic Council accuses the Assembly Rules Committee and its Chair Tom Bane of succumbing to PG&E lobbyist pressure in refusing to hold hearings on the resolution passed during the 1963 Session--introduced by Assemblyman Alfred Alquist of San Jose, as a full and thorough airing of the matter.

The Western Water and Power Users Council passed a strongly worded resolution urging that PG&E follow the example of New York's Consolidated Edison Company and withdraw from Bodega in favor of high-voltage transmission of surplus power from the Columbia River.

An agreement between Canada and the U.S. announced on January 21, for joint development of the Columbia River, providing about 2 1/2 kilowatts of surplus power for the U.S. The Department of the Interior has proposed a carrier transmission line through California to the Pacific Southwest, which could meet the States power needs for many years to come.