

Northern California Association  
To Preserve Bodega Head and Harbor

2701 Dufferin Avenue • Berkeley 4, California  
3008 Dana Street

156

## ADVISORS

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*Executive Secretary*

February 6, 1965

Dr. W. D. Manly, Chairman  
Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards  
United States Atomic Energy Commission  
Washington 25, D.C.

RECEIVED  
ADVISORY COMMITTEE  
ON REACTOR SAFEGUARDS  
U.S. A.E.C.

FEB 8 1965

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Dear Dr. Manly:

Thank you for your letter of January 25th, outlining the Committee's policy on public access to its proceedings. I do not feel, however, that it is entirely responsive to my original letter of November 12th.

I am under contract with Coward-McCann, Inc., of New York to write a case history of a particular reactor project. The publishers rightly feel that the public is entitled to understand precisely what happens in these proceedings, beyond the broad generalizations incorporated in the Code of Federal Regulations.

The fact that this is already a matter of public interest is shown by the enclosed copy of PG&E Progress (December 1964), which the applicant has distributed to approximately 2 million households in northern California. You will note that the company has emphasized that reservations about the safety of the Bodega installation were a "minority view," implying that the ACRS was unanimous in its approval of the project. But the ACRS report of October 20, 1964, mentions no such unanimity and offers no support for the inference that disapproval of the site was a "minority view."

I can find no support in 10 CFR 2.9--cited in your letter--for the implication that either administrative or Congressional intent was to discourage public access to ACRS proceedings, after the fact. Indeed, a close reading of the regulations suggests that the intent was just the opposite--to facilitate such access, except where matters of national security are involved. Clearly national security is not involved in the Bodega Bay Atomic Park application. Since the ACRS is a publicly constituted body, since national security is not involved, and since I cannot agree that the Committee's own internal policy, as outlined in your letter, has anything to do with the Committee's ability "to perform its functions effectively," I must again request permission to interview participants in the ACRS' Bodega Bay deliberations.

cc: Honorable John E. Moss, Jr.  
Coward-McCann, Inc.

Sincerely,

David E. Pesonen

Purpose: To work for preservation of the scenic and historic headlands of Bodega Bay and to insure the ecological int.



## Bodega Atomic Plant Plan Withdrawn

### Decision Follows Disagreement by AEC Committee and Staff

PG&E has decided to withdraw its application to the Atomic Energy Commission for the construction of the Bodega Bay atomic plant. In making the announcement, Robert H. Gerdes, PG&E president, declared:

"We have repeatedly stated that if any reasonable doubt exists about the safety of the proposed Bodega plant, we would not consider going forward with it.

#### Many Experts Found It Sound

"The Bodega site and the engineering design of the plant were studied extensively and confirmed as safe by eminent consultants in geology, seismology and seismic design. The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, an independent group of twelve eminent scientists and engineers established by law to advise the Atomic Energy Commission, came to the same conclusion. We are convinced that these views are sound.

"The regulatory staff of the AEC, however, has recently reported that it has some doubt 'at the present state of our knowledge' about the capability of the structure to withstand the maximum assumed earthquake. Although agreeing that 'the proposed engineering principles appear reasonable,' the Staff has

expressed concern over the lack of any experimental or experience proof-test of them.

"The doubt raised by the Staff, although a minority view, is sufficient to cause us to withdraw our application. We would be the last to desire to build a plant with any substantial doubt existing as to public safety.

"We have made provision for adequate electric generating capacity elsewhere to take care of our customers' needs for the several years immediately ahead.

#### Nuclear Power Future Bright

"Our decision to withdraw the Bodega application does not mean we have lost any confidence whatsoever in nuclear-electric generation. Atomic plants are safe and dependable, as experience in California and elsewhere has shown. Nuclear fuel is plentiful and rapidly is becoming the most economic heat source for power generation. Its application is especially important for meeting the future energy needs of growing California.

"PG&E's purpose remains, as always, to provide our customers with the most efficient, reliable and safe service at the lowest feasible rates. Further development of this important peaceful use of the atom is essential to this objective."

(Additional comment on the Bodega Plant, Page 2.)

## S. F. Utility Rates Second Lowest in U. S.

Once again monthly charges for combined gas, electric and telephone service for a typical San Francisco household are the second lowest among the 25 largest cities in the United States, according to a survey by the California Public Utilities Commission.

Only in San Antonio, Texas, where gas and electric services are provided by a tax-exempt, municipal system, are the rates lower.

Based on usage of 50 therms of gas, 150 kilowatt hours of electric energy and individual line residential telephone service, San Francisco residents pay \$13.74. This figure is down 27 cents from last year due to a rate reduction for both gas and electric customers of PG&E. San Antonio's gas and electric rates were not reduced during the past year and the combined total is \$13.59.

Los Angeles, also with a tax exempt municipal electric system, was third lowest in the nation at

\$14.18.

Only six large cities in the United States have bills of less than \$15. The highest charge for the three services is \$24.94 in Boston and 14 cities have bills of more than \$16.

Although gas and electric service rates vary somewhat throughout the PG&E service territory, charges in San Francisco reflect low rates in Northern and Central California. Fifty therms of gas cost \$4.00 in San Francisco, down from \$4.03 last year and 150 kilowatt hours of electricity cost \$4.69, down from \$4.93 last year.

An analysis of the Utilities Commission's figures shows that PG&E customers spend only \$1 for gas and electric service which on the average in the other cities covered by the survey costs \$1.28.

PG&E's gas and electric rates are lower now than they were 30 years ago when the value of the dollar was considerably higher.

# Public Press Commends Bodega Decision

A number of California newspapers have issued editorial comment on the recent decision of PG&E to withdraw its application before the Atomic Energy Commission for the construction of a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head.

The S.F. CHRONICLE said:

"By cancelling its nuclear power project at Bodega Head, the Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has lived up to its own repeated promises to make safety its overriding consideration in going forward there.

"In the face of conflicting judgments by two different groups connected with the Atomic Energy Commission, the PG&E intelligently concluded that it would be unwise to build a nuclear plant that left any substantial doubt existing as to public safety. It reached this conclusion even though it remains convinced that its engineering design for the plant is entirely safe.

"We compliment the PG&E management for acting in what clearly is the public interest and for showing such good faith and good will.

"To concede a point like this in the realm of engineering and geological expertness is not easy for an organization that takes pride in its engineering skill and knowledge. All the more credit, therefore, to the PG&E for electing not to make a stubborn and implacable fight of it.

"The question of nuclear installations for electric power of course still remains in the picture. If not at Bodega, an atomic plant will doubtless be proposed for somewhere else in or near the Bay Area; a particular site, not the advance of nuclear technology, has been defeated."

The S.F. NEWS CALL BULLETIN said in part:

"PG&E President Robert H. Gerdes was up against conflicting reports from AEC sources on the safety of the company's proposed nuclear power plant at Bodega Head.

"Three million dollars already had been invested in preliminary work when the AEC staff and the AEC's Advisory Commission disagreed on safety factors.

"So, faced with a reasonable doubt, Gerdes did what PG&E had always said it would do under such circumstances: He withdrew the application.

"PUC Commissioner William Bennett—hostile to the plant—said Mr. Gerdes is entitled to the 'greatest credit for his courage and judgment.' We concur.

"This does not mean the end of nuclear power generation in California. The program will be pushed in other sites where earthquake hazards are not acute. Resultant economies will be felt by all electric consumers."

In an editorial headed "PG&E Gets 'A-Plus' for Responsibility," the San Jose MERCURY said:

"Pacific Gas & Electric Co. deserves an 'A-plus' for community responsibility.

"The company this week abandoned plans—and \$4 million worth of site development—for a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head in Marin County.

"The decision was taken on the advice of a minority staff report from the Atomic Energy Commission. The majority of AEC experts in seismology and nuclear reactor construction felt the Bodega Head plant would be safe. A minority thought it would probably be safe but that the present state of knowledge about earthquakes and reactor construction made it impossible to give unqualified approval.

"That was enough for PG&E. It abandoned the plans and the millions already invested so that there could be no question of endangering public safety.

"This is community responsibility of the highest order. Pacific Gas & Electric Co. deserves the praise and the gratitude of all of Northern California. The MERCURY is proud to salute this firm."

The Sacramento BEE had this to say:

"The decision of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to cancel its plans to build a nuclear power generating plant at Bodega Bay is commendable.

"A staff opinion by the atomic energy commission that there is lack of proof of safety of the plant because of its location adjacent to the San Andreas earthquake fault prompted the company to scrap its plans.

"PG&E President Robert H. Gerdes has declared this decision will not deter the utility from pressing forward its program to build nuclear powered generators.

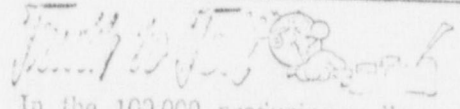
"Naturally it should not, because the development of power from nuclear fueled plants is as inevitable as tomorrow's sunrise. But until man knows more about this source of energy and how to control it, no one should take unnecessary risks such as building a plant on an earthquake fault. Moreover, the Bodega site was unsuited because of its recreational potential."

The Stockton RECORD said:

"The PG&E made a wise decision, one that will earn wide public approval."

The Bakersfield CALIFORNIAN said:

"The company, after the AEC had examined all of the facts and ruled that some question remained regarding the safety of the proposal, has withdrawn its application in a public-spirited gesture. It is to be praised for its action."



## Talk About Digging Your Way to China

In the 100,000 producing wells that supply the United States with natural gas, drillers have dug through the earth from here to China more than 12 times over.

The energy flowing through the nation's gas lines each day is equivalent to the daily output of 630 Hoover Dams.

It is estimated that a new color television set costs PG&E customers an average of 83 cents a month to operate. New black and white sets cost 63 cents per month to operate.

More than one out of five U.S. families now enjoy an annual income exceeding \$15,000. Each year 400,000 families join this group and about a million join the \$10,000 group.





OFFICE OF THE CHAIRMAN  
 DR-771  
 WHITE HOUSE MAIL  
 7-28

TO: GENERAL MANAGER  
 DIRECTOR OF REGULATION

REPLY WITHIN 48 HOURS (SEE SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS BELOW)  
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REMARKS \_\_\_\_\_

Rec'd Off. Dir. of Reg.  
 Date 7-28-66  
 Time 3:45  
 Beth.

ARNOLD R. FRITSCH  
 FOR THE CHAIRMAN DR-771

U.S. GOVERNMENT PRINTING OFFICE: 1964-738-70

FROM: <b>Brooks H. Hatch</b> <b>Redeys Bay, Calif.</b>		ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE	
TO: <b>The President</b> <b>(Dir. to AEC f/approp. reply)</b>		DATE OF DOCUMENT <b>undated; rec'd AEC 7/28</b>	FILE LOCATION
DESCRIPTION: <b>LET</b> <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Original <input type="checkbox"/> Copy <input type="checkbox"/> Other		ACTION PROCESSING DATES Acknowledged _____ Interim Report _____ Final _____	INFORMATIONAL COPY DISTRIBUTION <input type="checkbox"/> Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> ADNS <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> GM <input type="checkbox"/> ADA <input type="checkbox"/> SS <input type="checkbox"/> Dep. Dir. <input type="checkbox"/> OGC <input type="checkbox"/> SLR <input type="checkbox"/> A.D. <input type="checkbox"/> RL <input type="checkbox"/> ML
<b>wants AEC to allow PG&amp;E to build nuclear plant at Redeys.</b>		REMARKS	
REFERRED TO	DATE	PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:	
<b>Dooly f/approp. reply</b>	<b>7/28/66</b>	CHAIRMAN <input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	
<b>Cy Rpt Price</b>		DIRETOR OF REGULATION	
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<b>Hamm</b>		.....	
<b>Henderson</b>		.....	
<b>Dean</b>		.....	
<b>Shaper</b>		.....	

P.O. BOX 336  
Hé - Bodega Bay  
California 94923

DR-771

The President  
White House  
Washington, DC

Dear Mr President  
You are no doubt aware of the declining  
value of our special  
Economic is anyone's guess  
In the interests of conserving the resources  
of the nation please direct the Atomic  
Energy Commission to allow the P&G  
Co of Calif to build their plant here  
at Bodega Bay  
While I maintain communication with  
the Soviet Union, I still don't like  
to see our nation go down the drain.  
I have lived here for over a year  
and have evaluated the decision.  
It should be reversed.

Respectfully,  
Brooke H. H. [Signature]

U.S. AIR FORCE  
RECEIVED  
1966 JUL 27 10 5 02  
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FROM <b>L. F. De</b> / Executive Secretary <b>ACRS</b>	CONTROL NUMBER <b>156</b>	ACTION COMPLETION DEADLINE
	DATE OF DOCUMENT <b>2/9/65</b>	LOCATION
TO <b>E. L. Price</b>	ACTION PROCESSING DATES Acknowledged _____ Interim Report _____ Final _____	INFORMATIONAL COPY DISTRIBUTION <input type="checkbox"/> Chairman <input type="checkbox"/> ADNS <input type="checkbox"/> COM <input type="checkbox"/> GM <input type="checkbox"/> ADA <input type="checkbox"/> SS <input type="checkbox"/> Dep. Dir. <input type="checkbox"/> OGC <input type="checkbox"/> SLR <input type="checkbox"/> A.D. <input type="checkbox"/> RL <input type="checkbox"/> ML

DESCRIPTION  Memo  Original  Copy  Other **w/attach.**

re inquiry from D. Pasanen dtd 2/6/65 concerning interview with ACRS Members re Bodege Bay.

(See NR-059)

REMARKS

*file*

**50-585**

*Bodege*

REFERRED TO	DATE	PREPARE FOR SIGNATURE OF:
<b>E. L. Price f/action</b>	<b>2/9/65</b>	CHAIRMAN
<b>Cy to: Sanderson</b>	<i>2/11</i>	DIRECTOR OF REGULATION
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