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DEDICATION OF HUMBOLDT BAY REACTOR

MI:RLS

Attached are stories on the dedication of the Humboldt Bay Reactor (PG&E) at which Senator Pastore (D-R.I.), Chairman of the JCAR, was principal speaker.

Attachments:

1. Clip, Oakland Tribune, 9/23/63
2. Clip, S.F. Chronicle, 9/24/63
3. Clip, S.F. Examiner, 9/24/63
4. Clip, Santa Rosa Press Democrat, 9/23/63

CC: Richard X. Donovan, Special Assistant for
Congressional Relations, OGC, HQ, w/attachs.
Harold Price, REG, HQ, w/attachs.
Robert Lowenstein, DLR, HQ, w/attachs.
F. K. Pittman, DRE, HQ, w/attachs.
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Eureka A-Plant Dedicated

EUREKA—The Humboldt Bay nuclear power plant, a pioneering project ushering in an era of competitive atomic power, was formally dedicated today.

But even as national and state leaders launched the \$21 million project—already straining past its licensed output of 51,500 kilowatts—they were looking to the near future when nuclear energy will be as cheap as that from coal and oil.

Sen. John Pastore, D-R.I., chairman of the Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy was principal speaker at the ceremonies honoring the birth of the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. facility.

He looked ahead to the time when "atomic plants will dot this country, bringing low-cost, safe and reliable electric energy to a growing industrial society."

C. C. Wheelchel, PG&E vice president for engineering, revealed that the utility has plans to build nuclear units of one million kilowatts in the 1970s.

He predicted that nuclear power units will be located along the California coast from Eureka to San Diego.

He said the Eureka plant, as anticipated, has been found to have greater capability than originally announced and is expected to reach 70,000 kilowatts, for which Atomic Energy Commission permission is being sought.

Wheelchel said future plants, like Humboldt Bay, "will be clean, quiet and safe. They will be the 'conventional plants' of their day."

At its second loading with nuclear fuel about 1965, PG&E engineers say it will match the cost of power from a comparable oil or gas-fueled electric plant.

The project was financed by the company without government subsidy as a commercial undertaking.

PG&E's controversial move to locate another privately fi-

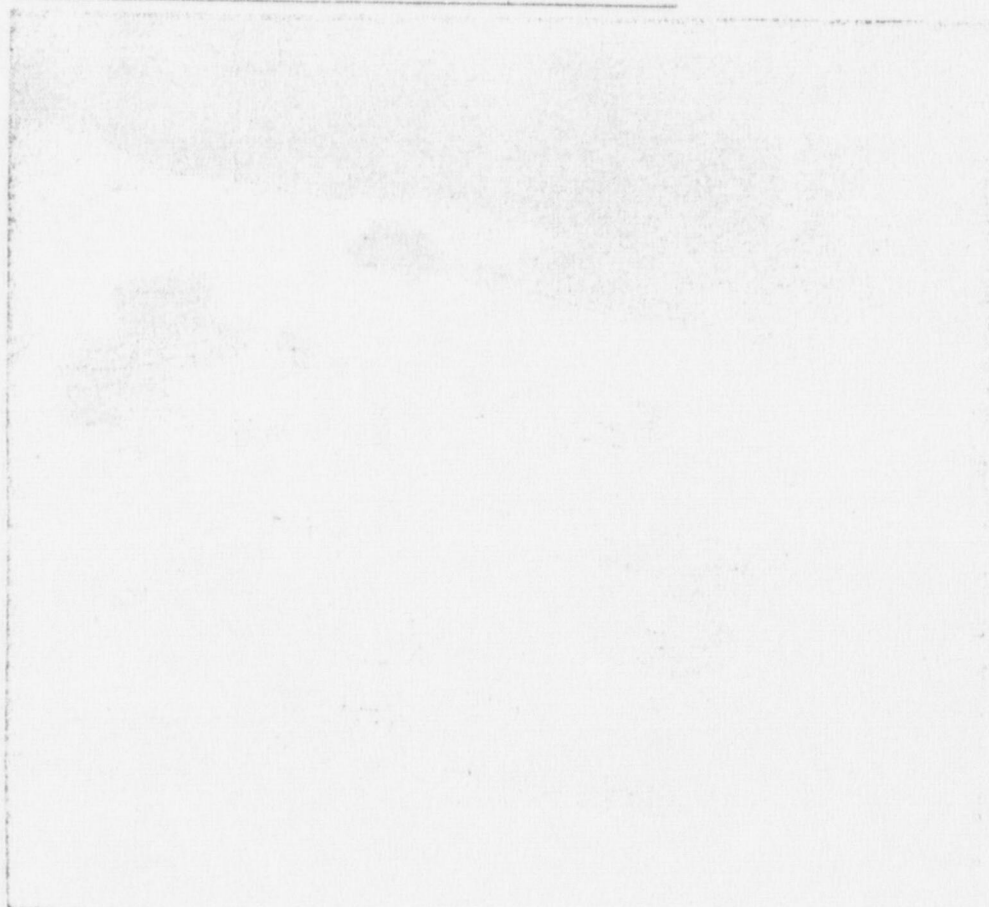
nanced reactor at Bodega Head drew a boost from Pastore. "This is a healthy development," he said.

"Atomic power appears to be crossing its economic 'Rubicon'—it shortly will stand on its

own feet as a competitor of fossil fuel," Pastore said. "This competition must inevitably benefit one very important group—the electric consumers of America—which happens to mean every single one of us."

The Humboldt Bay plant is located at Buhne Point, four miles southwest of the center of Eureka.

10 D Oakland Tribune Mon., Sept. 23, 1963



ATOM POWER COMES TO CALIFORNIA TODAY IN EUREKA PLANT
Striped stack at right marks site of nuclear power plant at Buhne Point

SP 1/14/63
Humboldt Station

Dedication of PG&E A-Plant

Eureka

Senator John O. Pastore (Dem-R. I.) helped dedicate the Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s first nuclear power plant yesterday and praised the company's controversial Bodega Bay project.

"Here at Humboldt bay we have the commonsense expression of nuclear power for peace and prosperity," Pastore said at the ceremonies inaugurating PG&E's 60,000-kilowatt project on Humboldt bay.

"You have built a temple to the advancement of mankind."

PREDICTION

Pastore, chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, predicted that nuclear-powered plants will "dot" America, bringing "low cost, safe and reliable electric energy."

"I am pleased that Pacific Gas and Electric is already planning another privately financed reactor at Bodega Head," Pastore continued. "This is a healthy development."

Pastore said atomic power appears to be on the verge of crossing "its economic rubicon," where it will be able to compete with coal, oil and gas in the cost of producing electricity.

NEED

Robert H. Gordes, president of the utility, said nuclear power will be needed in future decades for the continued growth of California.

C. C. Welchel, vice president in charge of engineering for PG&E, reported the Humboldt bay plant has been in commercial operation since August 1.

It has been working so well, he said, that the company has decided to ask the Atomic Energy Commission for permission to increase the plant's output to 70,000 kilowatts.

SENATOR PASTORE
Praises for Bodega project

California And the Atom Age

Special to The Examiner

EUREKA — California officially entered the atomic power age yesterday with dedication of PG&E's \$21,000,000 Humboldt Bay nuclear plant.

Actually, the uranium-fueled electric plant has been operating commercially since Aug. 1. It has been doing so

Photo on Picture Page,
Page 56

well that engineers predict it will compete economically with oil and gas-fueled plants around here in a couple of years.

Already on the utility's drawing boards are a string of similar coastal plants — including the hotly contested Bodega Head project and some 1,000,000-kilowatt giants for the 1970's.

Each of them will generate more electricity than all of the eleven power reactors now operating in the United States.

Humboldt Bay's unit has been pulsing its rated 80,000 kilowatts almost uninterruptedly since Aug. 1. It shows so much reserve capacity that the AEC will be asked to approve a boost to 70,000.

More than 600 leaders of public and private community life attended the dedication. Senator John O. Pastore (Democrat of Rhode Island), Chairman of the Joint Congressional Committee on Atomic Energy, was featured speaker.

He lauded PG&E for using its own risk capital, with no government subsidy of any kind, for the pioneer commercial venture.

"The box score is impressive. A total of 11 power reactors are already in opera-

tion with a capacity of nearly one million kilowatts. Moreover, seven reactors are either under construction or planned with a total additional capacity of 1,700,000 kilowatts.

To which C. C. Welchel, vice-president-engineering, of PG&E added the forecast that "after 1970 it is probable that almost all, if not all, new fuel-electric generating plants in the State will be nuclear powered."

"These plants, like this pioneer Humboldt Bay plant, will be clean, quiet and safe," he asserted. "They will be the 'conventional plants' of their day."

PG&E President Robert H. Gerdes observed that "the tremendous importance to the future of California of the economic attainment of this plant may not be fully appreciated because of the current abundance of energy resources. . . ."

But "California's undeveloped economic hydro power resources could meet only a small portion of our future power demands," he warned. "There are no commercial deposits of coal in California. Its indigenous supplies of oil and natural gas are not capable of meeting the needs."

The answer is the atom, he declared, and PG&E is convinced of it.

The PG&E's \$21,000,000 Humboldt Bay nuclear plant was dedicated yesterday. The uranium-fueled electric plant has been operating commercially since Aug. 1 and engineers say it has been doing so well it will be able to compete economically with oil and gas-fueled plants around here within a few more years.

Atomic Power Dedicated to
Humboldt Plant

(Special to The Press Democrat)
FLORIDA—Atomic power plants, successor as PG&E president, Nor-
will dot America, bringing low- man R. Sutherland, who died Sept.
cost, safe and reliable electric 1, as chairman of the board, for
energy for a growing industrial
society, Sen. John O. Pastore (D-
R.I.) predicted here today.

(Continued on Page 3, Col. 3)

Sen. Pastore, chairman of the Congressional Joint Committee on Atomic Energy, spoke as Robert H. Gerdes, president of Pacific Gas & Electric Co., dedicated the pioneering \$21 million Humboldt Bay nuclear electric project for public service in ceremonies attended by 400 officials and community leaders.

The 60,000-kilowatt uranium-fueled generating unit ushers in the era of competitive atomic electricity. At its second loading with nuclear fuel about 1965, PG&E engineers say, it will match the cost of power from a comparable oil or gas-fueled electric plant in the area.

"I am certain," Sen. Pastore said, "that the utility companies, following the lead of Pacific Gas & Electric and others, will shortly be able to construct and operate commercial power reactors as privately financed ventures, standing on their own economic merits. I am pleased that Pacific Gas & Electric is already planning another privately financed reactor at Bodega Head. This is a healthy development."

"It is a symbol — an example of the great good that can come from an enlightened partnership of industry and government," Sen. Pastore said.

"Atomic power appears to be crossing soon its economic 'Rubicon' — it shortly will stand on its own feet as a competitor of fossil fuel, and this competition must inevitably benefit one very important group — the electric consumers of America — which happens to mean every single one of us."

In dedicating the plant, Mr. Gerdes paid tribute to his prede-

