

MEMORANDUM FOR CHAIRMAN SEABORG
COMMISSIONER PALFREY
COMMISSIONER RAMEY
COMMISSIONER TAFT
COMMISSIONER WILSON

SUBJECT: NEWS STORIES FOLLOWING CHAIRMAN'S PRESS CONFERENCE

Attached for your information are copies of newspaper stories which appeared in San Francisco following the Chairman's press conference in Berkeley on October 19.

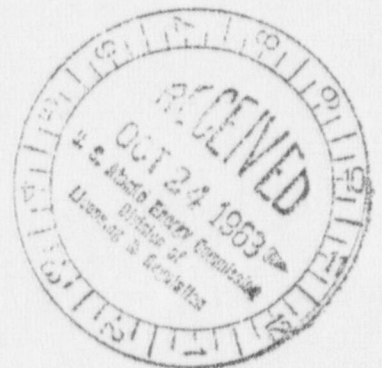
Philip C. Long

Duncan Clark, Director
Division of Public Information

Attachment

cc: A. K. Luedcke, General Manager
N. L. Price, Director of Regulation

R. Lowenstein, L&R
H. Shapar, OGC



Oct 23 1963
KOPC/MLQ/bk

PI

PI

8709230295 851217
PDR FOIA
FIREST085-665 PDR

A-Blast to 10/20/63 Manufacture Earthquake

Nuclear scientists are going to try to create an earthquake with an underground atomic blast in Nevada.
The project was described in an interview by Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission, who is visiting the Bay Area.
Details on Page 4

A-Plants Seen as Water Supply Aid

Nuclear power plants of the type which appears to be most suitable for hydro-salt plants of this future will probably double as de-salination plants, according to Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission.

Dr. Seaborg said it is not yet known whether a large underground test conducted by the AEC in Nevada recently caused an earthquake.

But the AEC will deliberately attempt to cause one in an upcoming shot near Fallon, Nev., an area chosen because it is earthquake-prone.

"We want to find out whether we can cause an earthquake fault to slip with an underground shot," he said.

The Bodega Head atomic plant controversy is receiving close attention from AEC scientists, according to Dr. Seaborg.

"The Commission takes the problems of health and safety to the public very seriously," he said.

THOROUGH STUDY

"The study of Bodega Head is going to be very exhaustive."

Dr. Seaborg said the workability of the nuclear test ban treaty will depend largely on methods of detecting tests by other powers.

Such tests, he said, might enable them to develop an effective antimissile missile or lighter, more effective nuclear bombs.

In his address to the St. Mary's College banquet, Dr. Seaborg discussed the way science is helping researchers in other fields with new tools like atomic dating and chemical analysis.

Dr. Seaborg also revealed here Saturday that:

1. The AEC is planning an underground nuclear blast in Nevada to see if it can cause an earthquake fault to slip.

2. The Pacific Gas and Electric Company's Rodgers Head site for a proposed atomic power plant is under "very careful evaluation" by AEC scientists as a potential hazard to the public.

3. It is vital for America to keep a sharp eye on possible surreptitious tests by other countries if the nuclear test ban treaty is to be observed.

CIVIC BANQUET

Dr. Seaborg addressed the 100th anniversary civic banquet for St. Mary's College in the Kaiser Center Saturday night.

At the banquet, Mrs. Joseph T. Shally, daughter of civic leader Frank J. Youell, accepted the St. Mary's College President's Award for her father. Mr. Youell has been ill for two weeks.

The award is given for civic achievement and service to the school. Youell is a former trustee and regent of St. Mary's and has given the college his active support for many years.

In an earlier press conference, Seaborg said the AEC is giving serious consideration to nuclear power plants which will use their excess heat to extract salt from sea water.

LOSS OF HEAT

Seventy per cent of the heat generated by a reactor to create steam and drive generators in such plants is currently lost, he said.

A large plant of this type could produce 25,000 megawatts of electricity and a billion gallons of fresh water a day, he said.

He said the tentative program calls for building plants with an electrical capacity of 1,000 megawatts. Others would be built in the late 1970's with 5,000 megawatt capacities and this would rise to 25,000 megawatts by the 1990's.

"The larger the plants, the more efficient they would be," he commented.

Dr. Seaborg said the area

SF Examiner 10/20/63
Dam Disaster

Re: Dam disaster at Bel-lun, Italy.

Everyone asks why was the dam built where an avalanche could occur?

This same question some-day may be asked — why was P. G. & E. Bodega Atomic plant built in such a dangerous location?

M. J. YOUNG,
Redding.

P1
**Hard Look
On Bodega
Promised**

SF Examiner 10/20/63
The Pacific Gas & Electric Company's application to build a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head in Sonoma County will undergo an "exhaustive study," the chairman of the Atomic Energy Commission said yesterday.

Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg told a news conference in Berkeley that "we will take as long as required to get all the facts. The commission takes the matter of health and safety of citizens very seriously."

The AEC has said it will conduct public hearings on the controversial plant in the near future at Santa Rosa.

Doctor Seaborg said that

(Continued on Page B, Col. 7)

**Hard Look
On Bodega
Promised**

(Continued from Page 1)

under new AEC procedures, hearing officers are assisted by two technical experts who help in evaluating testimony.

In addition, he said, any decision made by the examiner will be reviewed by the full commission.

Seaborg, who was here to address a centennial civic banquet in Oakland honoring St. Mary's College, also revealed that the AEC will attempt to cause an earthquake with an upcoming shot near earthquake-prone Fallon, Nev.

'FAULT TO SLIP'

"We want to find out whether we can cause an earthquake fault to slip with an underground shot," Doctor Seaborg said.

The AEC chairman also said that the next U. S. nuclear test blast at the Nevada proving area would provide information for detecting underground shots.

The underground test, according to Seaborg, will probably be conducted next week, and would be designed "for use in the event we enter into a comprehensive test ban treaty."

NO EVIDENCE

He added that there was no evidence that Russia had conducted underground tests since a year ago when the United States reported such a blast.

San Francisco Chronicle, October 20, 1963

Seaborg's Promise on Bodega A-Plant Issue

SF Chronicle 10/20/63

The Atomic Energy Commission will carefully study the application of the Pacific Gas and Electric Company to build a nuclear power plant at Bodega head, its chairman said in Berkeley yesterday.

"We will take as long as required to get all the facts," Dr. Glenn T. Seaborg, a former Berkeleyan, said.

The entire Atomic Energy Commission will review the recommendations of its examiner who conducts hearings on the PG&E application, he said.

The utility company's plans for an atomic power plant have been attacked by conservationists, who want to

protect Bodega bay from encroachment, and by some geologists, who contend that the site is close to the San Andreas fault and is, therefore, dangerous.

Dr. Seaborg was in the Bay Area to address a centennial banquet of St. Mary's College held last night at the Kaiser Center in Oakland. The centennial theme—and the title of his address—were the same: "The Liberal Arts; Language of Free Men."

The noted scientist reviewed recent contributions of the physical sciences to the liberal arts. New techniques, he said, are enabling archeologists to date objects of the past with great accuracy.