


NOV 2 1964

Distribution
Document Room
Formal
Supplemental 
DRL Reading
R&PRSB Reading
Originator: NDMason
bcc: E. G. Case

Docket No. 50-205

Mr. Frederick M. Garfield, Director
Division of Field Operations
Bureau of Regulatory Compliance
Food and Drug Administration
Department of Health, Education, and Welfare
Washington, D. C. 20204

Dear Mr. Garfield:

Transmitted herewith for your information is a copy of
the following:

PACIFIC GAS AND ELECTRIC COMPANY

ACRS Report dated October 20, 1964 on
Bodega Bay Atomic Park - Unit No. 1.

Sincerely yours,



Edson G. Case, Assistant Director
Division of Reactor Licensing

Enclosure:
As stated above

8709250017 851217
PDR FOIA
FIREST085-665 PDR

OFFICE ▶	RL				
SURNAME ▶	NDMason:jms				
DATE ▶	10/30/64				

File

MEMO ROUTE SLIP

Form AEC-98 (Rev. May 14, 1947)

See me about this. Note and return.	For concurrence. For signature.	For action. For information.
--	------------------------------------	---------------------------------

TO (Name and unit)	INITIALS	REMARKS
Joe Fouchard, News Service Branch DFI, HQ		Attached are clips: 1. Berkeley Gazette "PG&E Drops Proposal To Build Bodega Plant" - 10/30/64 2. Oakland Tribune "PG&E Drops Plan for Bodega Plant" - 10/30/64 3. San Francisco Chronicle "'Reasonable Doubt' PG&E Decision--No A-Plant At Bodega Bay"-10/31/64
Harold Price, REG, HQ	DATE	
Robert Lowenstein, REG, HQ		4. San Francisco Chronicle "Bodega A-Plant Shelved"-10/31/64 5. Oakland Tribune "PG&E Mum on Plans for Bodega Head" - 11/1/64 6. S. F. Chronicle "A-Power in the State Water Project" - 11/1/64
R. L. Doan, REG, HQ	DATE	
R. W. Smith, Compl. V.,	SAN	7. S. F. Chronicle " "Bid for State Park at Bodega" - 11/1/64 8. S. F. Chronicle "BODEGA - Yes but No" - 11/1/64
	DATE	
FROM (Name and unit)	REMARKS	
Rodney L. Southwick Assistant to the Manager for Public Information		
DATE		
11/2/64		

USE OTHER SIDE FOR ADDITIONAL REMARKS

Berkley Loggell

CALIF., FRIDAY, OCTOBER 30, 1964

PUBLICATION OFFICE: 2010 CENTER ST., BERKELEY, CALIF. 94704
SECOND CLASS POSTAGE PAID AT BERKELEY, CALIF. 10c per Copy—\$1.75 per Month

PG&E Drops Proposal To Build Bodega Plant

Decision Told by Utility *21*

SAN FRANCISCO (UPI) — Pacific Gas and Electric Co. announced today it has decided to drop plans to build an atomic reactor at Bodega Head.

President Robert H. Gerdes said in a statement the company will withdraw its application to the Atomic Energy Commission to build the controversial reactor.

"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," Gerdes said.

PG&E's decision to drop plans for the reactor came a day after Gov. Edmund G. Brown questioned the safety of the Bodega site.

The governor's remarks followed two conflicting reports issued by the Atomic Energy Commission on the safety of building a nuclear power plant on the site near the San Andreas Fault.

The Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards found the site safe but the Division of Reactor Licensing found it unsuitable.

Gerdes said that recent reports from the Atomic Energy Commission doubted the "capabilities of the structure" to withstand earthquakes.

Gerdes said, however, PG&E's decision to withdraw its application did not mean they had lost confidence in "nuclear-electric generation."

"Atomic plants are safe and dependable, as experience in California and elsewhere has shown," he said.

Bodega Head lies at the edge of Bodega Bay and includes the town of the same name.

RECEIVED

OCT 31 1964

157

Saturday Tribune 10/30/64

PG&E Drops Plan For Bodega Plant

The Pacific Gas and Electric Co. today dropped its plans to build an atomic power plant at Bodega Head.

Robert H. Gerdes, president of the company, announced the decision to withdraw the application for the plant to the Atomic Energy Commission.

"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," he declared in a statement.

The regulatory staff of the AEC has recently reported that it has some doubt "at the present state of our knowledge about the capability of the structure to withstand a maximum presumed earthquake, although agreeing that the proposed engineering principles appear reasonable," Gerdes said in announcing the withdrawal of the application.

\$4 MILLION SPENT

PG&E already has spent some \$4 million on the site while a controversy raged over the safety of a reactor near a major earthquake fault.

Earlier this week separate groups of AEC experts offered divergent opinions on the wisdom of building an atomic reactor plant at the edge of the San Andreas earthquake fault.

Five separate AEC reports were made public on Wednesday. One defended the PG&E proposal. Two said the Bodega plant

would be dangerous. One urged great caution although approving the plan. The fifth cited the danger thesis. It expressed concern over the lack of any experimental or experienced proof-test of the engineering principles involved.

No plans to shut the proposed atomic plant to another site were announced by PG&E.

AMPLE PROVISION

"We have made provisions for adequate electric generating capacity elsewhere to take care of our customers' needs for the several years immediately ahead," the PG&E statement read.

The controversy has raged since 1959 when the company first announced plans to build the huge atomic powered generating plant on the head jutting out from Bodega Bay in Sonoma County.

Conservation groups and others led by the Northern California Association to Preserve Bodega Head and Harbor claimed the plant would create an extreme danger. They argued an earthquake or tidal wave could rip the plant apart and contaminate much of Northern California with radioactivity.

After the AEC reports were issued Wednesday, opponents of the proposal asked that PG&E "bow out gracefully." Gov. Edmund G. Brown yesterday also declared that the company should abandon its plans at Bodega Bay.

San Francisco Chronicle 10/2/64
'Reasonable Doubt'
A.1

PG&E Decision ---No A-Plant At Bodega Bay

The Pacific Gas and Electric Co. abandoned its plans yesterday to build a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head.

But there was no indication whether the conservationists, who want to see the Sonoma county site transformed into a park, have won a complete victory.

The site, only 1000 feet west of the San Andreas fault, was dropped as the location for a 325,000-kilowatt nuclear plant because of fears that dangerous radiation would be released in case of a severe earthquake.

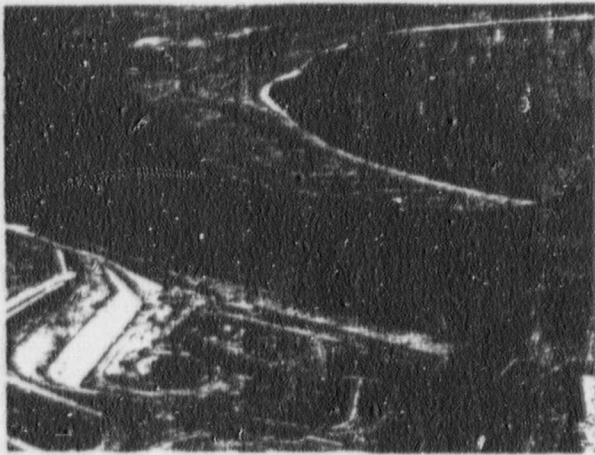
INVESTMENT

Company officials said they were not prepared to say whether they hope to salvage part of their \$4 million investment at Bodega by building a conventional steam plant there instead.

The PG&E decision to withdraw its application for the nuclear installation came two days after an adverse report by the Atomic Energy Commission's Division of Nuclear Licensing.

The Commission's Advisory Committee on Nuclear Safeguards issued a much more optimistic finding at the same time. But for all practical purposes, PG&E couldn't go ahead with just any favorable report—it needed approval from both groups.

We have repeatedly stated that it is very reasonable.
See Page 10, Col. 1



The proposed site of the Bodega Bay nuclear power plant may be used for a conventional plant—or perhaps become a park

PG&E Decision

Bodega A-Plant Canceled

From Page 1

...of exists about the safety of the proposed Bodega plant, we would not consider going forward with it," declared Robert H. Gerdes, president of PG&E.

Gerdes said eminent consultants in geology, seismology

and seismic design had pronounced the location safe.

"We are convinced these views are sound," Gerbes continued. "But 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."

The decision on Bodega does not mean PG&E will give up its plans to build other nuclear power generators, Gerdes said.

'SAFE'

"Atomic plants are safe and dependable, as experience in California and elsewhere has shown," his statement continued.

The company's action was greeted with prompt congratulations from Public Utilities Commissioner William M. Bennett, who was outvoted 4 to 1 when he tried to halt the project.

"It took a great deal of courage and judgment and concern for the public welfare for Mr. Gerdes to make this decision, and he is entitled to the greatest credit for his action today," Bennett said.

ANDERSON

Lieutenant Governor Glenn M. Anderson, also a critic of the proposed plant, said: "The unusual nature of the Bodega Bay and its headland has great appeal to many Californians. I don't think it could possibly be put to better use than as a beach and park development."

If PG&E attempts to build a conventional power plant at the site, they'll "have a hell of a fight on their hands," said David Pesonen, executive secretary of Society to Preserve Bodega Head and Harbor.

For a long time, Pesonen and his associates battled PG&E alone. Gradually they won the support of Secretary of the Interior Stuart Udall and others in their venture.

Except for the presence of the San Andreas fault, whose stirrings caused the San Francisco earthquake of 1906 and many other major quakes, Bodega Head was a virtually perfect site for a nuclear power plant.

It was to be built near the tip of the narrow peninsula that forms the outer boundary of Bodega Harbor.

SYSTEM

Water to cool the great installation was to be drawn from Bodega Bay and then, heated seven degrees by its contact with the plant, was to be discharged into the Pacific ocean.

This same system of drawing water for cooling the installation will be used if PG&E builds a steam plant, using oil and natural gas as fuel.

And like a nuclear plant, a conventional steam installation would require a towering smokestack on the western shore of Bodega Bay.

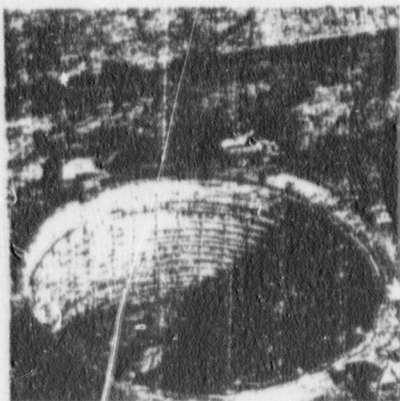
Preparations for the nuclear plant were well under way when construction was halted a little more than a year ago.

HOLE

A hole 140 feet wide and 70 feet deep was dug at the site to house the nuclear reactor.

The reactor itself was to rest on a bed of sand and to be surrounded by three feet of spare sand. PG&E engineers believed, to allow room for as much movement as an earthquake could produce.

No matter what is done—whether the area is turned into a park or whether a conventional steam plant is built—PG&E is faced with the chore of filling in an enormous hole in the ground.



This 73-foot-deep hole was designed to house the Bodega plant's nuclear reactor

C.F. Examiner
10/31/64

Bodega

A-Plant

Shelved

PG&E Abandons
Long Fight

By FRED KIRSTOWSKY

Pacific Gas and Electric Company unexpectedly gave up its three-year fight for permission to construct a \$61 million nuclear power plant on Bodega Bay in Sonoma County yesterday.

President Robert H. Jones said the company could not ignore the "doubt" raised by the licensing division of the Atomic Energy Commission that the site near the San Anselmo fault was unsafe.

STILL FEEL SAFE

Despite the setback, Jones said the firm feels the location to be safe. Jones, however, said it is likely would re-evaluate the site. It would be the last time to build a plant where "substantial doubt exists as to public safety."

Earlier this week the AEC announced that the site was not suitable at this time for a nuclear plant, even though a 11-member AEC advisory committee had declared otherwise.

Whether PG&E now will seek a conventional steam plant is not clear.

(Continued on Page 16, Col. 5)

PGE Shelves Bodega Plan

(Continued from Page 1)

generator plant on the 225-acre tract on which it has spent \$4 million in preparation was not immediately answered.

A company spokesman declined to comment. However, the feeling around PG&E's headquarters here is that the utility will build a conventional power plant rather than use what it already has invested.

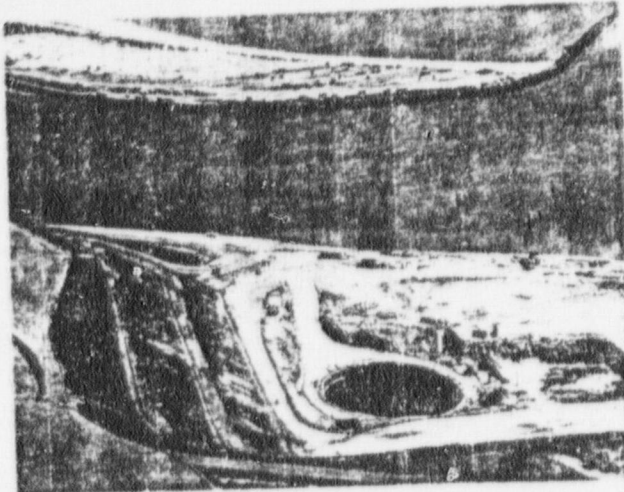
And Sonoma County Supervisor E. J. Guidotti, a leading proponent of the atomic plant, suggested that PG&E could build a conventional plant and recoup its losses.

Guidotti and Supervisor Leitch Shoemaker expressed disappointment at Gerdes' decision.

Guidotti said, "I am surprised that the company did not even open an AEC hearing into this matter. It must have more information than we have received."

However, the opponents of the atomic power plant would not be satisfied with anything less than total evacuation of Bodega Head by PG&E.

The decision, expected to be announced by the National



PG&E'S \$4 MILLION EMPTY HOLE FOR ATOMIC REACTOR AT BODEGA BAY. Said a hoppy opponent: "I think the state should now acquire the site"

California Association to Preserve Bodega Head and Harbor, declared.

"Now will be a fine time for the Sonoma County Board of Supervisors to reconsider the master plan for Bodega Head to include a State park on the headland."

"It is unlikely that PG&E would be allowed to build a conventional plant there for the same safety reason."

And State Public Utilities Commissioner William M. Bennett, the only one of the five panelists who consistently opposed the atomic plant, said:

"I think now that the State of California should think about honoring the site if Proposition I, the \$100 million bond issue is approved at Tuesday's election."

Similar sentiments were expressed by Congressman Don Clausen and Lt. Governor

Anderson and Bennett praised Gerdes for a "courageous decision."

Gerdes promised PG&E, which already operates atomic plants in Vallecitos in Alameda County and at Eureka, will seek to build more.

"Our decision to withdraw the Bodega application does not mean we have lost any confidence whatsoever in clear-electric generation," he said.

"Atomic plants are safe and dependable, as experience in California and elsewhere has shown. Nuclear fuel is plentiful and rapidly becoming the most economical source for power generation."

However, he said the company already has adequate conventional power to service the area "for the several years test immediately ahead."

kilowatt capacity for its Bodega plant which would have made it the largest in the nation upon completion.

The Vallecitos plant turns out only 5,000 KW's while the successful (and popular in that area) Eureka plant is rated at 50,000 KW's.

To prepare the site, the company had dug a pit 70 feet deep and 142 feet in diameter to locate the plant on bedrock.

The company had rallied scores of eminent geologists who said there would be no danger of radioactive fallout should the powerful San Andreas fault shake the earth.

But the AEC licensing division and demurred proof positions and PG&E's engineers had not devised an experiment to service the area "for the several years test immediately ahead." The various rigors of a major PG&E planned a 325,000

PG&E Mum on Plans for Bodega Head

Whether the Pacific Gas and Electric Co. will try to salvage its \$1 million investment at Bodega Head after abandoning plans for an atomic plant there is a matter of conjecture to PG&E officials referred to during the proposal of building a generating plant at the site on the Bodega Head. PG&E officials refused to discuss the possibility of building a generating plant at the site on the Bodega Head. PG&E officials refused to discuss the possibility of building a generating plant at the site on the Bodega Head.

ing the site if Proposition One is approved at Tuesday's election, Bennett said.

Proposition One is the \$150 million park bond issue on the state ballot.

U. Gov. Glenn M. Anderson, another opponent of the proposed atomic plant, said the plan is to abandon the plan because of a breach of fresh air. He favors use of the site as a park. The construction of a generating facility on the Bodega Head would permit the state to build new power plants near the Bodega Head.

truly exceptional and attract five coastal recreation areas, he claimed.

Pacific Gas and Electric Co. already had done considerable work on the site before dropping operations.

A hole 140 feet wide by 72 feet deep was dug as part of the preliminary work in order to test the bedrock. A large part of the work at the tip of the head, justing into Bodega Bay also has been reserved all from the preliminary work. PG&E's announcement yesterday said its decision to abandon the plans for the plant was based on an Atomic Energy Commission staff report questioning the safety of the operation. The report said that in the event of a large earthquake, roads, drainage ditches and other facilities had been installed. This work, plus the original bond purchase price, amounts to a \$1 million investment for the company.

SF Chronicle 11/1/64

A-Power in the State Water Project

Sacramento

The Department of Water Resources forwarded an engineering study to Governor Edmund G. Brown yesterday which underscored the advantages of nuclear energy to power the pumps of the State Water Project.

William E. Warnie, the department's director, said the engineering study, made by the Fluor Corp. of Los Angeles, considered the probable costs of several alternative sources of power.

The firm has been retained by the department to help find the most economical power source.

The report of the consultants indicates the State has been pointing in the right di-

rection in considering a State-owned nuclear plant," Warnie said in a statement.

DETAILS

But Warnie said no immediate decision would be made and that "the report shows that we have a year in which to reach a decision on a final plan for supplying power to the pumps."

He forwarded to Brown a 37-page summary of five volumes of reports made by the Fluor Corp. to cover its 23-month investigation into 40 possible energy sources.

The State water chief said that considerable red tape was still involved and that "in this rapidly changing field a year may be necessary to complete negotiations with the Atomic Energy Commission, private utilities

and other power purchasers and suppliers."

Warnie's report to Brown showed that the annual power cost in 1961, when the project is to be operating at capacity, was calculated by the Los Angeles firm at \$32.5 million for State nuclear generation.

ESTIMATE

The consultants' estimate of the 1961 annual power bill if purchased from the California power pool of private utilities—Pacific Gas & Electric Co., Southern California Edison Co. and San Diego Gas & Electric Co.—was \$2.6 million.

This is \$9.1 million or 27 per cent higher than the cost of producing power in a State nuclear plant, Warnie said.

Now under construction, the project will conserve the Feather river water behind Oroville Dam and deliver water for use in homes, farms and factories, via aqueducts from the State's northern counties to Southern California. Nearly two thirds of the State's residents live in the south.

The Fluor Corp. estimated that the cost of water delivered in 1961 to Perris reservoir in Riverside county, the southernmost terminus where power costs will be highest, show about \$44.90 per acre-foot if State nuclear power is used and about \$17.40 with private utility power.

Warnie said the many energy sources considered by Fluor in the study it began in January, 1963, included conventional power plants fueled by gas, oil or coal.

Studied were power plant locations near the fuel sources near the Tehachap pumping plant south of Bishopfield and on the sea coast. They also considered both State-owned and privately-owned plants.

First deliveries of water are scheduled to be made in Kern county by 1969, in Los Angeles county by 1971 and in Riverside county by 1972.

PUMPING

Energy requirements for pumping are high. This is particularly true at the 1965-

foot high Tehachap mountain crossing over which the project will pump 100 million gallons of water per hour—more water than the combined summer flow of four of the State's largest rivers—the Feather, American River and Yuba.

The State Water Project's total energy requirement in 1991 Warnie said, when full pumping capacity will be needed, will exceed 12 billion kilowatt hours. This is two billion greater than the City of Los Angeles used in 1963 to meet all of its needs.

The project will have 18 pumping plants, the largest being the one that makes the "big lift" over the Tehachap is

S F Chronicle 11/1/64

Bid for State Park at Bodega

The Sierra Club suggested yesterday that Pacific Gas and Electric Company "get together" with the State on plans to convert PG&E's nuclear power plant site at Bodega Head into a State park.

Sierra Club President William E. Siri advanced the suggestion after congratulating the power company on its decision Friday not to build a nuclear plant at Bodega Head.

"The Sierra Club has long opposed erection of a power plant at Bodega Head," Siri said, "and we are pleased by the Pacific Gas and Electric Company's decision.

GOOD WILL

The company regained much of the public goodwill that was jeopardized during the long and bitter controver-

sy over a nuclear installation."

Siri said the State Park Master Plan eight years ago anticipated a State park at Bodega Head and that the National Park system had recommended one there.

The Sierra Club, Siri said, favors nuclear power plants in "proper locations."

"Bodega Head," he said, "now appears to have been an unsafe location for an atomic plant and it remains an unsuitable place for any power plant on the original grounds of historic and biological preservation."

HOLE

PG&E, which has already dug a hole 73 feet deep and 140 wide at the Bodega Head site, has not yet stated

whether it will build a conventional power plant there.

The company's decision to abandon plans for a nuclear plant at Bodega Head followed an adverse decision by

the Atomic Energy Commission's Division of Nuclear Licensing.

The site is only 1000 feet west of the San Andreas fault, which slips occasionally and causes earthquakes.

SF Chronicle
BODEGA 11/1/64

Yes But No

Pacific Gas and Electric Co.'s hopes for building a nuclear power plant at Bodega Head, already in limbo for over a year, were dealt a severe setback last week as the Federal Government issued two conflicting reports.

The Atomic Energy Commission's Advisory Committee on reactor safeguards, a 13-member agency headed by Herbert Kouts of Brookhaven National Laboratory (winner of last year's Ernest O. Lawrence Award for physics), concluded that a reactor could be operated at Bodega without "undue hazard."

But offsetting this was a pessimistic opinion from the Commission's Division of Nuclear Licensing, which advised flatly: "Bodega Head is not a suitable location for the proposed nuclear power plant at the present state of our knowledge."

In its report, the licensing group said it felt the proposed power plant 1000 feet west of the San Andreas fault zone met with safety standards "in all respects except one."

And on Thursday Governor Edmund Brown urged PG&E to seek a site that would be less "earthquake prone" than Bodega Head.

San Francisco Sunday Chronicle