

*Demonstrations*

# 50 Anti-Nuclear Demonstrators Converge On PG&E

Chanting "No nukes!" and carrying hand-lettered signs, some 50 demonstrators marched in front of the downtown PG&E office on the Pacific Garden Mall Friday afternoon.

The demonstration was one of 126 anti-nuclear protests going on simultaneously at PG&E offices around the state.

A spokesman for the sponsoring People for a Nuclear Free Future estimated that 200 people had turned out for a rally at 11 a.m. Friday in San Lorenzo Park, where speakers addressed the "economic issues" raised by current nuclear policies.

Following the rally in the park, demonstrators marched into the downtown area and proceeded down the Mall to the PG&E office, where they continued their demonstration into the afternoon.

Although the numbers of marchers had not increased noticeably from earlier similar demonstrations, PNFF member Melanie Mindlin commented, "since the Three Mile incident, it's become quite in vogue to be in anti-nuclear events. People are starting to listen, and a lot of people are more interested in what we have to say."

Santa Cruz Police reported a minor incident between a demonstrator and employees at Penniman Title Company. According to the report, a demonstrator was bumped by a door as an employee was entering the building. The demonstrator became angry and ran inside, grabbing a flag pole and running up a stairway after the employee. Another employee confronted him and a scuffle occurred. No charges

have been filed, according to the police report.

Demonstrators distributed leaflets calling nuclear power "the power we can't afford." The brochure, prepared in Santa Cruz and distributed at the other demonstrations throughout the state, claimed

that uranium costs had risen 990 percent since 1971.

It pointed to increased costs of waste

storage and recommissioning of nuclear facilities as further evidence of increasing costs for this energy source.

"The government has claimed that nuclear is clean, cheap and safe," said Mindlin. "Since Three Mile Island, we all know it's not safe. Doctors and others are telling us it's not very clean. And now we're finding out it's not even cheap."

She went on to claim that in light of PUC regulations guaranteeing PG&E a 10-percent profit on its investments, added costs of new nuclear development, including the licensing of the Diablo Canyon

plant near San Luis Obispo, would be passed on to the consumer.

Saying that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a three-month moratorium on the licensing of new plants, she said such groups as People for a Nuclear Free Future and other members of the anti-nuclear Abalone Alliance were trying to generate public sentiment to stop the issuance of a license for Diablo Canyon once the moratorium ends.

"We're trying to draw enough attention to it that the people in power do something about it," she said.

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