

PG&E Considers Davenport For Atomic Plant

By WALLACE WOOD
Sentinel Staff Writer

Official announcement that Pacific Gas and Electric Company is considering a site for a \$200-million atomic generating plant about two miles north of Davenport was made this morning.

At the request of Third District Supervisor John R. McCallie and Supervisors' Chairman Dan Forbus, PG&E officials broke the news they are taking out a land option to purchase

more than 6800 acres of Coast Dairies and Lands property on the north coast.

Rumors of the impending power plant forced the "premature" announcement, McCallie explained. Some opposition to the plant already has developed.

The option, which could run as long as a year, does not mean PG&E will build the power plant, which would be the fourth site in a string of atomic generating plants along the California coast.

"There is no assurance we will end up buying the site," said Ellis Langley, PG&E division manager for the San Jose region. "This option is to allow us to investigate and to make ecological and environmental studies." County and state approval of the site also must be sought within the year.

Even if the site is purchased, the normal lead time for construction is seven to eight years, PG&E Vice President Fred Melke added.

PG&E already has a site for a proposed atomic power plant next to its conventional plant at Moss Landing.

The Davenport atomic plant would not replace the Moss Landing site, but would supplement it. It eventually could be enlarged to include as many as six "units" generating one million kilowatts of power each, with each unit costing about \$200 million.

It takes about 60 employes

to run each atomic generating unit, PG&E said.

Major power transmission lines would have to be constructed across the Santa Cruz Mountains to take the power to the Monte Vista power substation in Los Altos and the Metcalf substation near south San Jose, PG&E's chief engineer, Burton Shackelford, explained.

PG&E officials denied that the plant will contribute significantly to either thermal pollution of the ocean waters or cause

any hazard from radioactivity. While atomic power plants use water to cool the reactors, the rise in ocean temperatures would only be about 20 degrees at the most.

This, Shackelford, compares with the natural temperature variation of about 12 degrees, and the warm water would cover only a few acres until it dissipates its heat. "It's like a spoonful of warm water in a bathtub," he said.

The atomic plant would re-

quire only 400 or so acres of the total property. But Coast Dairies and Lands owners insisted on the option to buy the entire 6800 acres, Melke said.

Studies will be made for other development on the remainder, including possible residential and recreation use. This will include the question of public use of beaches on the property, according to Melke. "We intend to retain land use consultants

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