

4/4/78 Davenport

Lone Star Wants To Move To Coal

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A proposal by Lone Star Industries to "modernize and convert to coal" at its Davenport cement plant ran into some tough questions at Central Coast Commission meeting Monday, with commissioners expressing major concern over "coal dust."

The cement plant is proposing an expansion of its facilities to increase production from 475,000 tons a year to 775,000, at a cost of from \$40 million to \$50 million.

Attorney for the company, John Ritchey, surprised the commission, saying that even as the existing permit application is being processed, the company is looking at new plans that would increase the height of its pre-heating tower, but eliminate three other buildings at the Davenport site.

Commission Chairman Mary Henderson and the commission's attorney advised the company to handle the two

proposals separately.

Lone Star has approval of the county government for its expansion permit, and at the local level agreed to cooperate in improving the town of Davenport's water supply, and to enter into a study to determine if the plant can be of use in the town's sewage disposal.

Also at the county level, supervisors supported dedication as parkland a couple of small pieces of land owned by the company on each side of Highway 1.

Ritchey testified that a dedication did not make much sense, as the seaward parcel is composed of a dangerous bluff-top and that the benchland side would only provide an access for off-road vehicle onto beach lands.

Commissioners Henderson and Ruth Andreason said they were extremely concerned about the possible effect of coal dust raised by its delivery and movement in Davenport.

Davenport Fire Commissioner Fred Bailey urged the commission to write in

a condition that Lone Star join in a cooperative effort "to beautify the town" in compensation for its expulsion of low level dust.

He also indicated the company should be included in the Davenport Fire Protection District, as the district has a verbal mutual aid pact with the company and the state Department of Forestry.

Bailey said that forestry was stationed in the area only six months of the year, and he was concerned about the Davenport fire crew's ability to fight a coal fire.

He said the company had contributed some equipment to the district, but it was not enough "as to improve service."

Public hearing on the permit was held over to a future date.

In other action, commissioners postponed public hearings on the Scotts Valley wastewater pipeline, north Monterey County and Pajaro sewer plans, and a 20-unit condominium project in the La Selva Beach area, asked by John King.