

Earthquakes

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Ancient fault found at proposed plant site

Preliminary investigation of the 800-acre site north of Davenport being considered for a nuclear power plant by Pacific Gas & Electric Co. has revealed there is an earthquake fault on the site.

However, company representative Jack Koehn Tuesday told Santa Cruz County supervisors that the fault was tens of thousands of years old and was not considered something that would preclude the use of the site for the power plant.

It is the geological opinion that there has been no movement at all in the Marine deposits for eons of time, and that the deposits were laid down after the time the fault occurred," Koehn said.

Koehn said the fault had been

investigated by the company's consultant, Richard Jahns, professor of geology and dean of the college of earth sciences at Stanford University.

Asked whether there were other faults on the site, Koehn said that he did not know, but added that investigation of the site would continue.

"We looked at this one first because it stuck out like a sore thumb," he said. "It's right on the cliff on the seaward side. Anyone can see it."

Koehn said that other studies on the site are underway, but that none of the data collected so far is conclusive.

PG&E has extended an option (for another six months) to buy 7,000 acres of coastal land from Coast Dairies and Land Co.

While Koehn indicated that his company's studies made during this period might convince the PG&E to buy the property for the plant site, there was still a possibility the plant would not be built there.

Asked by Supervisor Henry Mello if the company would continue to develop studies (if they bought the property) that might preclude the building of the plant, Koehn replied: "Absolutely."

Koehn said that even if the plant is approved by the necessary public agencies, there would be no set timetable on its construction. It would go into the company's hopper of plant sites.

Other studies being conducted on the site, Koehn said are:

—A land-use program for the area other than the 800-acre plant site. Eckbo, Dean, Austin and Williams, a consultant firm from San Francisco has been hired to conduct the study.

—Regional geologic mapping, exploratory trenching and seismology studies will be done by Stewart W. Smith, head of the department of geophysics, University of Washington.

—A second oceanographic survey is due to be completed this week.

—Meteorological measurements to record wind speed and direction, humidity, barometric pressure, solar radiation and precipitation.

Koehn said a preliminary cooperative ecological reconnaissance was conducted by state Fish and Game and PG&E divers on Aug. 5, and descents were made at various locations in 15 to 30 feet of water to make observations and inventories of plant and animal species and their habitats. Wheeler North, associate professor of environmental health engineering at Cal Tech, has been retained to participate in ocean environmental studies, Koehn said.

Koehn's progress report to the board was interrupted for about 10 minutes when Supervisors' chairman Dan Forbus refused to allow former county counsel Henry Faitz to ask Koehn some questions.

Forbus denied Faitz' request, saying the meeting was not a public hearing. "If you want to ask questions, go out in the hall with Jack when he leaves," said Forbus.

Faitz, representing a citizens group opposed to the power plant, persisted but got nowhere with Forbus. A compromise was offered by Supervisor Ralph Sanson. He suggested that the group or other interested citizens send their written questions to the board and they would be referred to PG&E.

"Why don't you simply invite Jack to a meeting and then ask him all the questions you want to," suggested Mello to Faitz.

Faitz finally gave up his efforts to be permitted to question Koehn and "an objection for the record" that Forbus' ruling was "undemocratic and not in keeping with our system." Then he followed Koehn into the hallway and posed his questions there, in the presence of reporters who went along.

New art course at Soquel High

An exploratory art course being offered for new students Soquel High School this year help them decide if art is their thing, and, if so, what kind of art.

Principal James Coulter said the students are receiving instruction in drawing, ceramics, sculpture, pottery making, and art history.

"We did this same thing with vocational education last year," Coulter said. "We started a course in 'exploratory shop' and exposed youngsters to metal, woods and mechanical drawing. It was very successful—our shop courses are oversubscribed."

Odgers' job expanded

John T. Odgers of Capitola, California Division of Forestry ranger, was recently appointed ranger in charge of the San Mateo-Santa Cruz Unit as a result of administrative reorganization of the Division's unit structure.

Odgers, 41, has served with the Santa Cruz Ranger Unit since 1965. His appointment was announced by James G. Stearns, director of the Department of Conservation.

PV bonds

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And for some time, no one talked about bonds or taxes.

Last night, chairman Janet Bell broached the issue again, saying that several parents had asked her when another election will be held.

"I think it's time to get started on the groundwork for another bond and perhaps override election," she said.

"What do you think?" she asked trustees.

No one said anything for a long time.

Assistant superintendent Clark Cox broke the silence by reminding trustees that vacationing superintendent James Runge is all for another election soon. (It's too late for any bond to be on the November ballot.)

Trustee James Popin said he is "in favor of moving," but that he'd rather wait and see how the court rules on the majority vote issue.

Bell warned him that the decision could come as late as April and "if so, we've lost it for '70." Trustees would have to have the money before then to work it into the budget for the fiscal year.

"Well," Popin said, "I wouldn't be prepared to wait that long."

Trustee Don Reasons said that it would be good to at least begin laying the groundwork for an election as soon as possible.

"We still need the bonds," added trustee Bruce Richardson, "whether the court throws this out or not. Necessity is not the question. I would certainly not wait for the Supreme Court to get started.

"We need classrooms and we need them badly," said trustee Richard Del Piero.

As soon as she saw that trustees were in agreement, Dr. Bell suggested they work directly this time with a citizens' committee modelled on the plan of a district that has seen approved 12 consecutive bond issues.

The committee, working with trustees, would make the decision on how much money to ask for.

Business manager Frank

