

# 30 speak out against PGE proposal

By KATHLEEN MONJE  
Of the Emerald

Testimony from more than 30 people strongly opposed Portland General Electric (PGE) Company's request to the federal Atomic and Safety Licensing Board to increase its storage capacity for spent nuclear fuel.

The public hearing on PGE's request, which began Wednesday in Portland is expected to continue through Jan. 20. PGE hopes to obtain approval from the board for extension of its storage capacity for radioactive material, from four to ten years.

The power company contends it needs the extension because it must replace, in stages and before 1982, the fuel core at the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant.

Among speakers opposing the extension was Janet Gillaspie, director of the University Survival Center. Her statement took exception to the Oregon Assistant Attorney General's opinion that expansion of spent fuel storage does not violate a state law prohibiting permanent radioactive waste storage.

"Hollow pledges by the federal government (to provide for nu-

clear waste storage) do not alter legislative intent to prohibit the storage of radioactive wastes in Oregon," Gillaspie told the board.

Also of concern to the Survival Center is the increased heat additional spent fuel will release into the Columbia River, affecting salmon.

"Expansion of the spent fuel pit will increase heated water discharged into the Columbia River by 2.4 million BTU's per hour," Gillaspie said.

Because Trojan refueling is scheduled in the spring during the

Columbia River salmon run, she said, the increased water temperatures could potentially eliminate the fish on the river.

"The salmon are extremely sensitive to increases in water temperature, within one-third of one degree....increased water temperatures from other sources have already severely damaged the salmon run," according to her testimony.

Peter Bergel, a former Eugene resident and Trojan Decommissioning Alliance member now living in Sheridan, enlivened the hearing when he refused to comply with five-minute testimony limit.

Chairer Sheldon Wolfe ordered Bergel to stop when he exceeded the limit, but Bergel refused and continued reading. Wolfe then adjourned the hearing for lunch and left with the rest of the panel.

After the recess, Wolfe gave Bergel another five minutes to

finish his statement. Bergel accused PGE officials of lying during the 1976 nuclear ballot measure campaign when they said PGE had no plans to store nuclear waste in Oregon for long periods of time.

State Sen. Ted Hallock also spoke in opposition, saying Oregon law does forbid long-term radioactive waste storage in Oregon. Hallock said the Legislature intended to ban such storage in bills passed in 1975 and 1977. He disagreed with the opinion the PGE request does not violate state law, saying "That ruling will be litigated."

The continuing hearing will move to the U.S. Court of Appeals chamber in the Portland Pioneer Courthouse on Monday. Don Godard, director of the state Department of Energy Trojan monitoring program, said all questions raised by witnesses will be addressed.

## Awards give professors more time, \$ for research

Because research is often time-consuming, the University offers several research awards so professors can devote more energy to special projects without neglecting their teaching obligations.

Fred Wilhelm, who manages the program, says there are three kinds of awards financed mainly with state funds allocated to the University office of scientific and scholarly research.

Professors wishing to take an academic year for a project should make formal applications to the

graduate school, including an itemized budget. The academic-year award can be used for travel, equipment or a graduate assistant, and averages from \$500 to \$2500.

Summer awards are given mainly to non-tenured professors because they often have more difficulty getting established in research. "It's really just a stipend," says Wilhelm. "This way they don't have to teach or get another job for the summer and they can pursue their research."

Summer awards are for about \$2,000 and applicants do not have to submit budgets with their applications.

A new award is "release time," which is provided during the academic year for professors so they can work on research without having to teach at the same time or so they can teach fewer classes than usual. Departments usually use professors' regular salaries to hire other instructors during the "release time."

Deadline for research award applications is Feb. 1. Professors may pick up applications at the graduate school. Wilhelm says the results should be known by April.

## Lane VISTA grows

Lane County Commissioners recently approved a contract with VISTA to place up to 40 VISTA volunteers in the County in 1978.

According to VISTA director Rob Bunnett, the federal government gives VISTA a certain number of work months each year. They received 264 months this year, just enough to maintain the 28 volunteers they currently employ.

VISTA is a part of ACTION, which is sponsored by the federal

government. Their main goal is to solve poverty problems. "VISTA is the domestic equivalent of Peace Corps," says Bunnett.

Volunteers sign up for a one-year contract to work with a government or non-profit agency within Lane County. VISTA helps the volunteers with all training, placement and problems that might occur.

The volunteers are given allowances directly from the government.



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