

While protestors rally in Salem

Disobedience workshops cap week

Story and Photo
By TODD ADAMS
Of the Emerald

SALEM — People concerned about the development and use of nuclear power, including members of the Trojan Decommissioning Alliance (TDA) of Eugene, climaxed a week of anti-nuclear activity here Saturday by holding civil disobedience workshops and taping letters to the office door of Gov. Bob Straub.

About 200 anti-nuclear protestors gathered in Salem Friday for a two-day rally at the State Capitol Building, and about 60 of the protestors stayed overnight for Saturday workshops in preparation for a planned August 6 occupation of the Trojan Nuclear Plant site near Rainier, Ore.

Members of the rally, which included people from several anti-nuclear groups, attempted to contact Gov. Straub and Department of Energy head, Fred Miller, Fri-

day afternoon, but neither Straub nor Miller addressed the protestors.

Straub apparently was in Pendleton, Ore., until late Friday and, although the rally members said they left messages with the governor's secretary, no contact was made with the rally members late Friday or Saturday.

The Governor's office was closed Saturday, and in lieu of personally meeting with Straub, the 60 or so rally members wrote

letters to the governor and taped them to the outer office door on the second floor of the Capitol Building.

Joe Balestreri, one of two rally representatives who tried to reach Straub, said he thought the governor would be more willing to talk with him and other members of the Columbia Environmental Council, an anti-nuclear group based in Columbia County.

"We wrote a letter to him because we didn't think they (Straub or Miller) wanted to talk to the TDA," said Balestreri, of Clatskanie. "We thought they would talk to us because we live right there (Rainier is located in Columbia County)."

Although unable to reach Straub or Miller, the rally members did hear speeches Friday from Lon Topaz, the former head of Oregon's Department of Energy, and Susan Garrett, a Citizen Intervenor in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's spent fuel hearings.

Late Friday night, after a break for dinner, the rally gathering formed a candlelight procession back to the Capitol.

Saturday's workshops centered on practicing non-violent, civil disobedience techniques to be used during the planned occupation of the Trojan plant. Last November 25, 123 protestors were apprehended during a previous occupation held at Trojan.

"We insist that everyone have non-violent training," said a TDA spokesman, Skeeter Duke of Eugene. "I think we had about 20 new people participating in the training this weekend."

Trainees are members of "affinity groups," units consisting of

7-15 people, eliminating the need for centralized authority and making communication easier and more efficient during occupation.

"This is our way of preventing violent actions," said Duke. "It is difficult for any member to become a provocator when all decisions in the group are made by consensus of the full groups."

Saturday's rally ended about 4 p.m. when members held a brief celebration, sang a song and then turned their backs to the Capitol building to show displeasure at not having been received by government officials.

The rally marked the end of "Knock Nukes Week," six days designed to educate Oregonians about nuclear power dangers. The TDA distributed leaflets during the week and held an open house last Tuesday night at TDA headquarters, 348 W. 8th Ave., Eugene.

Several TDA members began their march to the Salem rally Wednesday, departing on bikes from the Eugene Water and Electric Company parking lot at 8:30 a.m.

A scheduled public forum sponsored by the TDA failed to generate public attendance Wednesday evening, but TDA members Chuck Johnson and Olive Bowers, along with guest speaker Tony Lemay, still outlined their opposition to nuclear power.

Johnson reported that 39,000 signatures had been collected on a petition to stop utilities from charging customers for construction work in progress. The "CWIP" petition needs 46,000 signatures by July 7 to have a measure placed on the November election ballot.



More than 60 anti-nuclear protestors prepared for an August 6 occupation of the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant near Portland, with civil disobedience work-

shops in Salem Saturday. "We insist that everyone have non-violent training," a TDA spokesperson said.

Trojan owners petition nuke commission

By CATHERINE SIEGNER
Of the Emerald

Portland General Electric Co., Pacific Power & Light, and the Eugene Water & Electric Board, owners of the Trojan Nuclear power plant, have petitioned the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Com-

mission (NRC), asking that the plant be allowed to operate during public hearings on planned modifications to the control building.

The petition is also supported by Governor Straub, Oregon's Department of Energy (DOE), and the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA).

The control building, which houses the systems that would be relied upon in case of an accident, was found to be structurally deficient during examination by Bechtel Corporation of San Francisco. The building's walls are scheduled to be reinforced to meet design specifications for

withstanding earthquakes.

After Trojan's annual refueling and maintenance in March, the NRC ordered the plant to remain closed until June 26 in order for interested parties to request public hearings, and may order that it stay closed until those hearings are over.

"The NRC position is unlike other positions it has taken in similar situations," says Don Godard of Oregon's Department of Energy. The DOE reviewed a draft of the Governor's support letter to the NRC and agreed with cost estimated based on the expense of acquiring replacement power should Trojan remain shut down for the rest of 1978.

Portland General Electric Co., the principal owner of the plant, would have to fire up its oil com-

bustion turbines to make up for the loss of Trojan power, which would mean an estimated cost to the company of \$3 million in July, 1978, and \$5 million in August.

Currently, there is enough surplus hydropower from spring runoffs to offset the loss, but this surplus will run out by mid-July, according to EWEB and the DOE.

"The NRC's decision to keep the plant closed until June 26 was not protested because this surplus, though interruptible, was available," says Tom Santee, public information officer for the Eugene Water & Electric Board (EWEB). "But the power will be needed soon."

The 30 percent of the plant owned by EWEB is "net billed" to the BPA—that is, EWEB has con-

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