



By Catherine Siegner

Portland General Electric Co.'s (PGE) request for a preliminary injunction to stop the Trojan Plant occupation August 6-9 was denied Friday in Washington County Circuit Court. PGE had attempted to enjoin

over 100 persons and two organizations from demonstrating at the plant. Judge Albert R. Musick said he could not enjoin unincorporated organizations whose membership was unclear from trespassing, although he did issue an order that would place 27 individuals in contempt of court if they participate in the occupation.

Pacific Power & Light Co. (PP&L) and Portland General Electric Co. (PGE), Oregon's two private investor-owned utilities, have filed separate suits against the Bonneville Power Administration (BPA) to gain a share of guaranteed federal hydropower.

BPA is required by the 1937 Bonneville Act to give preference to public bodies and cooperatives (such as the Eugene Water & Electric Board and the Springfield Utility Board) when marketing power produced by federal dams on the Columbia River.

The two suits seek to break this "preference clause" and obtain "firm" power—power that is guaranteed by contract and cannot be cut off by BPA—for PP&L and PGE.

Since 1973, when the private utilities' contracts with BPA expired, both PP&L and PGE have not been able to buy firm power from BPA, and have had to pur-

chase "surplus" hydropower that was not needed by the so-called preference customers.

The State Board of Forestry held hearings Thursday and Friday in Salem on two proposals to regulate aerial herbicide spraying in Oregon.

Over 100 persons presented testimony on proposals that were submitted to the board by Gov. Straub and the Oregon Environmental Council (OEC).

The Governor's proposal would set up 200-foot buffer strips around large streams and open bodies of water, and the OEC proposal would require posted notice in all areas to be sprayed as well as the 200-foot strips.

Currently, the board's regulations on aerial spraying of herbicides require "one swath" be left unsprayed on either side of streams. The two proposals would each define "swath" as 200 feet.

Testimony was evenly divided on the proposals. Proponents of either proposal cited evidence that aerial herbicide spraying inevitably contaminates streams, while opponents claimed the 200-foot buffer strips would remove too much timber from production.

The board will rule on the proposals late this month.

Teledyne Wah Chang of Albany, which manufactures the metal zirconium, used in flash cubes and fuel rods for nuclear power plants, will reopen at midnight, August 13.

The plant has been closed for a month to reduce inventory. The State Health Division ordered Wah Chang two weeks ago to remain shut down until it submitted a detailed plan to control the radioactive waste that results from the zirconium manufacturing process.

Last Friday, the company complied with the order and drew up a safety plan to keep waste from spreading from the plant.

A spoon-billed sandpiper was spotted near Vancouver, B.C. last Wednesday by two reporters from the Vancouver Sun. The species has only been seen three times in North America in the past 64 years—once in 1914 and again last year.

The spoon-billed sandpiper (*Eurynorhynchus pygmaeus*) is from Siberia and apparently is found in this part of the world only when it loses the way on its normal migration route.

The State Department of Environmental Quality (DEQ) has lifted air pollution alerts in both Portland and Medford.

DEQ cancelled the warnings last Friday after a one-day posting in Portland, and a three-day posting in Medford.

The cause was not photochemical oxidants or carbon monoxide, but excessive levels of ozone in the air.

Cooler air came in Friday in both cities and provided the necessary ventilation to lift the warnings.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has asked the Oregon Department of Agriculture to schedule hearings on the use of the farm chemical heptachlor.

The agency claims that heptachlor, which is used to coat seed grain and protect it from wireworm and other diseases, is killing game birds that eat the treated grain.

The U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) has banned the use of heptachlor on seed grain after Sept. 1, 1982, but the Fish and Wildlife Service claims that "the EPA phaseout period will not safeguard susceptible wildlife."

The majority of bird kills occur in Umatilla and Morrow counties. Canadian wild geese in the area of the Umatilla National Wildlife Refuge along the Columbia River have also been killed by heptachlor poisoning, according to the Wildlife Service.

The Oregon Department of Agriculture has set August 22 as a tentative date for the hearing.

... of environmental concern

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Group promotes humanities study

University Vice Provost Robert Albrecht, former University English Prof. Joan Pierson, and former University Pres. Robert Clark were recently selected to serve on the Oregon Committee for the Humanities (OCH).

The committee is a collection of community leaders and academicians dedicated to promoting a sense of the human importance of the humanities within Oregon communities.

Its primary goal is to encourage historians, writers, philosophers, jurists, linguists and others whose work is collectively termed "the humanities," to relate their study to the experience and concerns of community residents.

Because the Western, mainly literary, tradition usually associated with the word "humanities" does not fit most minority people in Oregon, a full-time staff person works to adapt the OCH program to the differing needs and settings of Oregon minorities.

Committee members believe that social issues are significant

contexts for applying humanistic knowledge and perspectives. The committee funds projects for this purpose. After nine months of funding in January, the committee had awarded 27 grants out of 38 proposals submitted.

The largest grant was \$18,485 to Oregon State University for a project entitled "Television News: Reflection of Reality or Creation of Myth?"

Mini-grants are also awarded in amounts ranging from \$500 to \$1,500 for short programs on political or cultural topics, such as a lecture and discussion series highlighting the contributions of Asians, Blacks, Chicanos, Native Americans, and Scandinavians to the history and culture of the Northwest.

The proposal deadline for mini-grants is August 21. The committee also provides grants for public humanities programs sponsored by non-profit organizations.

For more information write to the committee at 1633 S.W. Park, Portland OR. 97201, or call 229-4821.

Tuesday, August 8, 1978