

For Trojan decision EWEB wants more time

By CATHERINE SIEGNER
Of the Emerald

The Eugene Water & Electric Board commissioners unanimously agreed Monday to ask the Bonneville Power Administration for a one-year extension of the deadline for deciding what to do with its 30 percent share of the Trojan nuclear power plant.

The board also approved a

procedures manual for conducting public rate hearings, a method for determining electric service costs and an agreement to study co-generation possibilities at the Kingsford charcoal briquet company in Springfield.

EWEB's 30 percent of Trojan is now "net-billed" with the BPA — that is, BPA mends the Trojan power in its power pool and

pays EWEB for its share of the investment, even if the plant is not operating. The board must decide by July 1 whether it wants to pull part or all of the 30 percent back into its own system. If EWEB does withdraw any of the power, it would then be liable for that proportion of any expenses Trojan operation and maintenance entails, including decommissioning.

EWEB General Manager Keith Parks told the board Monday he had asked the BPA for an indefinite deadline extension, but "couldn't get that kind of an open-ended arrangement." He said he would like to gather more information on what legal responsibilities EWEB has under different alternatives, and the board agreed.

Board member Jack Craig asked whether government-ordered engineering modifications at Trojan would require EWEB to assume part of the cost.

Board Counsel Larry Cable said the utility would have to make a "good faith" attempt to come up with the funds, but that under the net-billing arrangement, BPA would be required to pay EWEB back.

The board also approved a \$50,000 contract arrangement between EWEB and the Kingsford Company to explore the feasibility of using waste gas and steam from the company to generate electricity.

Herb Hunt, EWEB director of engineering operations, said the investment was risk, but the "upside risk" was the chance of getting 15 megawatts (15,000 kilowatts) from the project.

The co-generation project is likely to cut down significantly on the emissions, which is a relief to company officials.

Lobbying groups seek varied goals

By DAVE OLMOS
Of the Emerald

With higher education as a common concern, the different sides of Oregon's higher education trinity are wooing Salem's 90 legislators.

The Oregon Student Lobby, the Association of Oregon Faculties and the State System of Higher Education all have lobbyists roving the halls of the Capitol. Each has a different goal.

The three groups concentrate their efforts in areas of particular importance to their constituencies — students, faculty, administrators and staff.

The 7-month-old AOF is the youngest of the lobbying groups. Since its organization last October, more than 700 faculty members throughout the state higher education system have joined.

University Pres. William Boyd says the AOF is an idea whose time has come.

"For the last 10 years, higher education has done less well than other parts of state government in representing its interests," Boyd says.

Virtually the first thing AOF did was find a full-time lobbyist. Robert Davis, a veteran of Oregon politics and president of Public Affairs Inc., a Salem lobbying firm, took the job.

Economics Prof. James Tattersall, a University representative for the faculty lobby, says the general success of the OSL influenced the formation of the faculty group this legislative session.

The AOF supports Gov. Vic Atiyeh's base budget proposal for higher education. The base budget is the core figure that excludes improvement requests, which the AOF also supports.

The faculty lobby is currently

working to dissuade legislators from cutting 1-2 percent from that budget through a practice known as "underfunding."

Technically, underfunding means the Legislature would authorize expenditures at a given level, but then appropriate less money. The practice assumes that salary savings occur when a position is left vacant during a search, an uncovered leave, or when a person is replaced by someone at a lower salary level.

The AOF also is developing a stand on faculty salary increases.

"We can make a very strong argument for an increase over the state board recommendation of an 8 1/4 percent increase each year of the biennium," Tattersall says, adding that the AOF recommendation probably will be closer to 10 percent.

The AOF has maintained its opposition to the release of course evaluations on the grounds that the Legislature is not the proper place in which to handle the issue, Tattersall says.

A recent compromise between the state board and the OSL on HB 2831 also may gain the approval of the AOF. The faculty group took no part in the maneuvering that altered the bill to allow accessibility to rather than publication of, course evaluations, but will discuss the compromise at its May 9 meeting.

Representatives of the three groups have varying opinions on the working relationships among the lobbies. The AOF's relationship with the OSL and state system lobbyist, University Prof. Stoddard Malarkey, and Prof. Charles Duncan, working for the University alone, are good, Tattersall says.

The major difference between the AOF and OSL is the student group's support of the course evaluation bill, according to Tattersall.

Dave Jennings, an ASUO lobbyist working with the OSL, says he has doubts about how strong a liaison there should be between the groups. "It should be kept clear that there are separate interests," he says. "Students sometimes get mesmerized by the powers of higher education."

Jeff Warren, ASUO vice president for state and federal affairs, says the OSL has more in common with the faculty lobby than with the state lobby.

"On a personal level we get along fine. We all have the best interests of higher education at heart," says Warren.

Malarkey agrees that the three groups get along well. "I know the faculty and student lobbyists and I admire them whether we agree or disagree."

It is conceivable that a differing view could split the AOF and state board lobbyists over an issue such as faculty salaries. But Malarkey says, "It doesn't do any good to have different factions of higher education at each other's throats. If there was a difference, we'd try to be as gentlemanly as possible."

Malarkey says his primary worry is budget considerations. "There are not a lot of issues in higher education outside of budgetary ones," says Malarkey.

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