

Utilities differ on decisions despite study

Mothballing costly, abandonment cheap...

PUDs support mothballing, snub study

SEATTLE (AP) — If work on two nuclear power plants under construction in Washington state resumes after a 20-month delay, the projects could cost an additional \$1.5 billion to finish, a legislative study says.

The Washington Public Power Supply System, which is building the plants, wants to mothball them until the summer of 1983.

Should WPPSS terminate the plants immediately, instead of mothballing them, it will save ratepayers at least \$200 million, the study says.

The Washington Energy Research Center at the University of Washington and Washington State University were authorized by the Legislature last year to study the future of WPPSS plants Nos. 4 and 5. There are five segments to the study; the first, released last week, estimated a significantly lower regional energy forecast than utilities predicted.

The second segment of the study includes projections of future construction costs of the plants compiled by a panel of construction managers. The panel ex-

amined what it would cost WPPSS to delay construction until 1983 and what it would cost to abandon the plants immediately. The final segments of the report will be released Thursday.

"If WPPSS delays those two \$12 billion plants two years, the study says it can add another \$1.5 billion to their construction costs," said Terry Husseman, staff director of the Senate Energy Committee, who is directing the study. "Because of the delay, they (the panel) project there will be added interest costs and it will cost them more to restart the plants."

WPPSS has not seen the report yet and has no comment on it, said Jim Hughes, supply system spokesman.

The report also states WPPSS overestimated the speed at which it can build the plants if construction is resumed after the mothballing. The panel determined the cost for work already completed would total \$2.064 billion if the plants are terminated immediately. If WPPSS waits until 1983, construction bills would total \$2.269 billion.

SEATTLE (AP) — Four public utility districts in Washington state have officially decided to go along with a plan to mothball two partially completed nuclear power plants.

The Grant and Douglas county public utility districts voted Monday and the Benton County Public Utility District voted Tuesday to participate in the mothballing. The Richland City Council Monday night approved participation in the plan by Richland Electrical, operated by the city.

The Okanogan County Electric Cooperative, which serves about 1,500 customers in the Methow Valley, voted Monday against participating in the mothballing plan.

Richland Electrical has a 1.965 percent share of the two nuclear power plants, while the Okanogan co-op owns a .045 percent share of the two nuclear power plants. The Benton County and Grant County PUDs each own a five percent share, and Douglas County PUD a .01 percent share.

The Washington Public Power Supply

System is building the two plants, one at the Hanford nuclear reservation and the other at Satsop east of Olympia, for 88 public utility districts.

In Oregon, the Drain City Council voted against mothballing. The city-owned utility, which serves 620 customers, owns .067 percent of the projects.

The plants have been on hold since last fall when New York money markets refused to loan more money to continue construction and serious questions were raised about whether the electricity from the plants would be needed.

Three private utilities and 12 large industrial firms, mostly aluminum companies, have agreed in principle to participate in the mothballing but the details of their participation have yet to be hammered out.

If the mothballing plan fails, the supply system will have no choice but to abandon the plants. Outright termination would cost between \$335 million and \$800 million and more than \$2 billion worth of bonds would have to be paid off.

Dropout—

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tries to help students with personal problems.

Meanwhile, as the University scrambles to increase the retention rate of its freshmen, many colleges around the country also are experiencing high attrition rates, he says.

The problem actually began in the late 1960s when colleges went through an "explosion of growth," with enrollment increasing up to 50 percent in 10 years, Lobisser says. Colleges weren't concerned with attrition and retention levels then, he says.

"Institutions spent millions and millions of dollars to build facilities to get ready for the unlimited horizon of students. They were caught off guard when the student body suddenly began to diminish," Lobisser says.

To complicate the attrition problem, the pool of Oregon high school graduates the University recruits from will steadily diminish through 1985. There's also been an increased effort by out-of-state recruiters to attract Oregon students to their campuses, he says.

Yet the administrative emphasis on retention is more than a matter of "keeping bodies around the University," Lobisser says. He says there's a "new consciousness" among the administration to offer support services to students who have invested time and money into a four-year education.

The academic advising office is located in Room 164 Oregon Hall. No appointment is necessary. Office hours are from 10 a.m. to 5 p.m. Monday through Friday.

The counseling center is located in 311 Susan Campbell Hall. Students are requested to schedule appointments.

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