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From Associated Press reports

WPPSS plants 'definitely needed'

PORTLAND

A top official of the Bonneville Power Administration says three nuclear plants being built in Washington state definitely will be needed, but the question

is when.

BPA assistant power manager Walt Pollock said Thursday his agency won't know until late this month exactly when the electricity will be needed from Washington Public Power Supply System plants 1, 2 and 3.

The BPA has completed its forecast of energy demand in the Pacific Northwest for the

next two decades, but the agency still is determining how much power will be available in the region over the next 20 years.

When the power supply is known, Pollock said, BPA officials will tell the WPPSS board of directors whether the construction of the three nuclear plants should be slowed.

Among the questions to be answered in the BPA recommendation is whether delaying construction would save money or add to the expense of the plants.

The BPA planned to release its energy demand forecast today, but the figures were printed in Thursday's Oregonian newspaper.

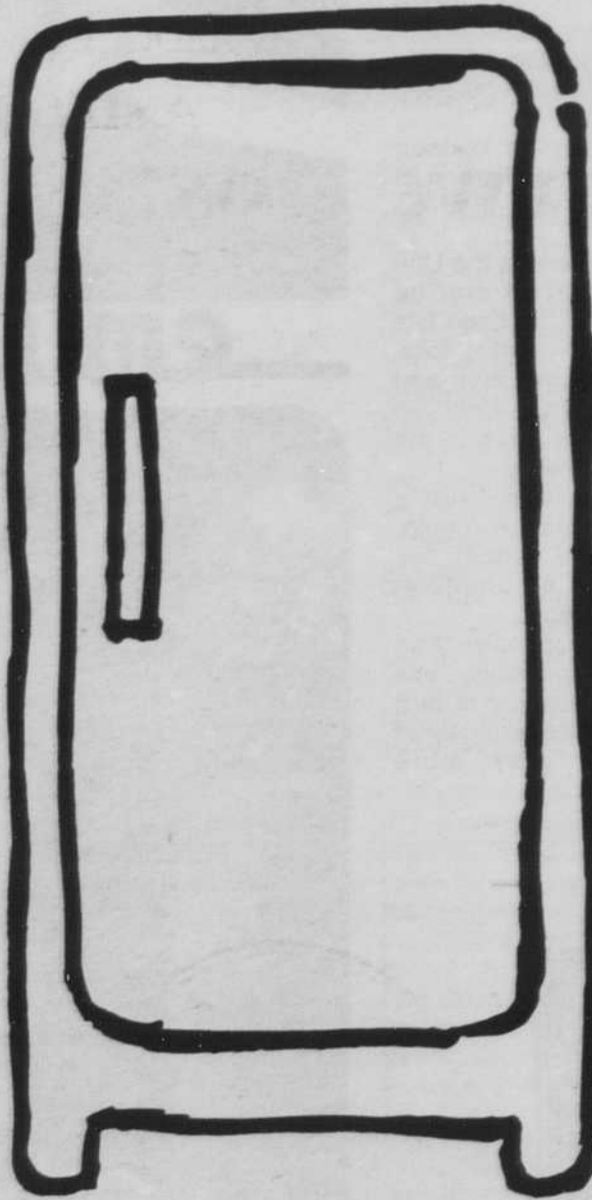
The draft projects an annual growth in electricity consumption of 1.7 percent in the Pacific Northwest during the next two decades.

Compared with past projections, the paper said, 1.7 percent would be an unusually low growth rate in energy demand.

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"Those college kids think they're so smart."

"Yeah, but only we know if the light's on in here."



Feds add money to forest budget

SALEM

The federal government has restored \$10 million to its 1982 Oregon and Washington forest management budget, according to the Oregon chapter of the Northwest Forest Workers Association.

Association coordinator Rick Koven said Thursday the restoration of the money could provide up to 2,000 jobs this summer.

Koven said the forest workers had received confirmation from Sen. Mark Hatfield, R-Ore., that the funds would be restored immediately.

A month ago, the association criticized the U.S. Forest Service for spending too little on reforestation and timber stand improvement. The association, which represents 16 reforestation workers' cooperatives, said the budget was \$15 million short of meeting the needs of the 19 national forests in the Northwest.

Senate protects special tax break

WASHINGTON

The Senate has decided to leave intact a congressional tax break to offset the cost of living in Washington, but the battle over the issue is far from over.

By a narrow vote on Wednesday, the Senate decided to put aside the tax issue, thus allowing a temporary spending measure to be approved and sent to the White House for Pres. Reagan's signature.

The Senate's 81-18 vote on the continuing spending resolution, which already had cleared the House, means that seven government departments will be able to operate through Sept. 30, the end of fiscal 1982.

Sen. William Armstrong, R-Colo., led a two-day effort to repeal the tax break, which permits members of Congress to deduct \$75 daily for each day Congress is in session.

Armstrong said he wanted to have "members of Congress taxed on the same basis as other taxpayers."

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