

## Last plant completed, six years late

**RICHLAND, Wash. (AP)** — The Washington Public Power Supply System's sole remaining nuclear project was declared officially complete today during ceremonies at which utility industry officials pledged to finish two other troubled projects.

The ceremony for the No. 2 plant at the Hanford nuclear reservation came 11 years and \$2.4 billion after construction began. The plant originally was scheduled for completion in September 1977 with a price tag of \$400 million to \$500 million.

Two other WPPSS projects have been terminated and two are mothballed for at least three years.

About 2,500 people, most wearing hard hats, attended the ceremony at the No. 2 project on the Hanford nuclear reservation.

A large green tag was lowered on the side of the project, declaring, "All Systems Complete." The tag is similar to thousands of small tags dangling from pieces of equipment in the plant.

"We have two more plants to complete," Peter Johnson, administrator of the Bonneville Power Administration, said in reference to the mothballed projects. "You build on success and this is a success. We will complete the other two projects as well."

Mazur responded, "We stand ready to do it when you say and do it right."

Mazur noted early problems with the No. 2 plant, including "sloppy management."

"We've been through a lot. We have had to prove to the world that it is safe and we have."

Mazur also noted that the supply system now is an operating public utility rather than just a construction body.

"We will protect the ratepayers' investment and we will operate it safely," he said.

The No. 2 plant must still receive an operating license

from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and pass a rigorous five-month testing program.

"This gives us a feeling that we are succeeding," said Jerry Martin, manager of the No. 2 plant. "I feel good about this plant."

Work on the project was halted in 1980 by a 5½-month labor dispute and an NRC stop-work order based on safety questions raised by the commission's staff. The NRC also fined WPPSS \$59,500, but allowed construction to resume in 1981.

The supply system essentially built the plant for the BPA and its cost is already reflected in the wholesale power rates BPA charges Northwest utilities.

When operating at full power, the plant will produce enough electricity to power a city the size of Seattle, which has a population of about 494,000.

Martin and Mazur will meet with NRC officials in Washington, D.C., later this week to discuss the operating license for No. 2.

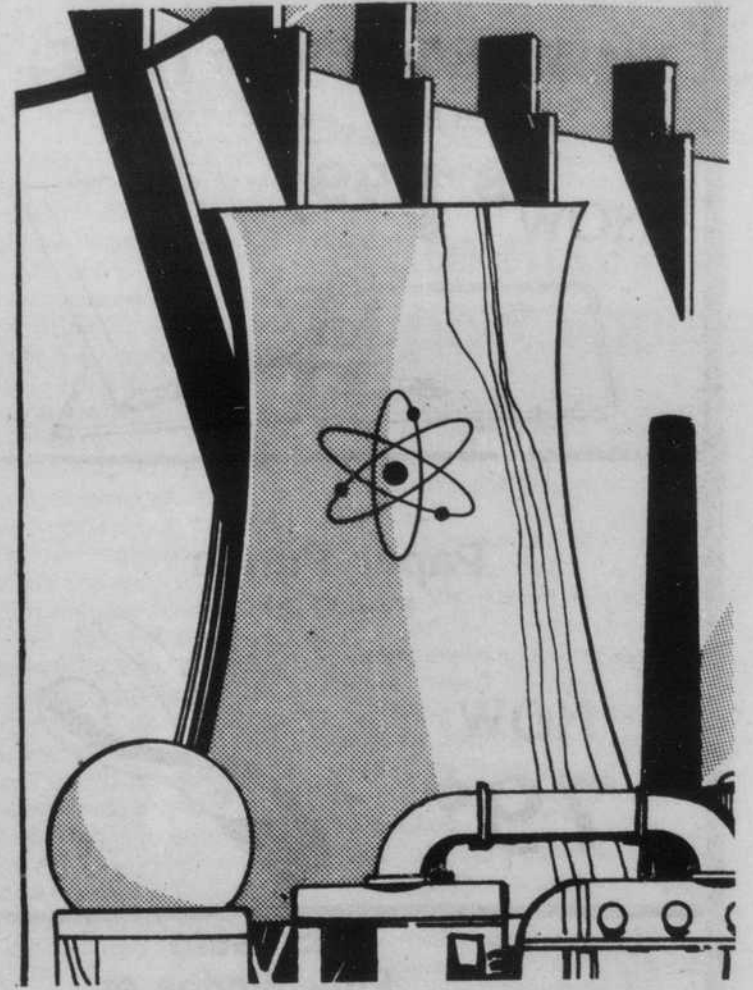
Martin is confident the NRC's remaining questions can be easily resolved and a license granted in November, clearing the way for the loading of nuclear fuel.

"I suspect they will run down to the wire and then everything will be resolved," he said in an interview. Martin said fuel loading could begin 10 minutes after the license is issued.

While the plant is only 99.9 percent finished, in the nuclear industry, that's considered complete.

"No power plant is ever 100 percent complete," said Aflerbach. "There is always something that needs to be done."

About 2,500 people, most wearing hard hats, attended the ceremony at the No. 2 project. A large green tag was lowered on the side of the project, declaring, "All Systems Complete." The tag is similar to thousands of smaller tags dangling from pieces of equipment in the plant.



### Program picks PE

The University's doctoral program in physical education and human movement studies was chosen recently for inclusion in the regional graduate program of the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.

The College of Human Development and Performance was selected to represent WICHE in this academic area because of its international reputation and the program's uniqueness in the region, according to Celeste Ulrich, the college dean.

"We are delighted about our program's acceptance. This will be a benefit to students in the western states and at the same time will help with recruiting and enrollment at the university," she says.

Programs in historic preservation, molecular biology and the neurosciences are also part of the WICHE program.

The program was developed in 1981 to make expensive graduate study more accessible to students in the West and to help states avoid duplication in these academic fields.

## NRC to review financial status

**RICHLAND, Wash. (AP)** — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has been asked by a congressional subcommittee to determine whether the Washington Public Power Supply System's shaky financial situation may affect licensing of the supply system's lone active project.

The nuclear project, No. 2 at the Hanford nuclear reservation, was declared officially complete at a ceremony Tuesday.

Supply system officials believe that technical questions of the NRC can be resolved without delaying the scheduled start-up of the facility next spring.

But the financial questions apparently add a new twist to the licensing procedures.

At hearings last week, the House Energy and Conservation Subcommittee asked the NRC to look at the supply system's financial status and what impact it might have on licensing the plant.

"We're researching it," Tom Bishop of the NRC's Region 5 staff in Walnut Creek, Calif., said in a telephone interview Tuesday.

The NRC legal staff in Washington, D.C., is studying the question and a written reply will be prepared, Bishop said. No deadline has been set.

Asked whether the study could delay licensing, Bishop said, "It's conceivable. Anything is possible. We need to ad-

dress this issue."

Bishop, director of the Region 5 Division of Resident Reactor Projects and Engineering Programs, said it was his personal opinion that "we need to be assured if there was a significant program they would have the resources to deal with it."

WPPSS officials said Tuesday they were not aware of the study.

"I have no knowledge of it," Don Mazur, WPPSS managing director, said. "The only outstanding questions I am aware of involve technical issues that should be relatively easy to dispose of."

WPPSS hopes to receive the license in early November so it can load nuclear fuel into the reactor and begin the five-month testing program leading to commercial operation.

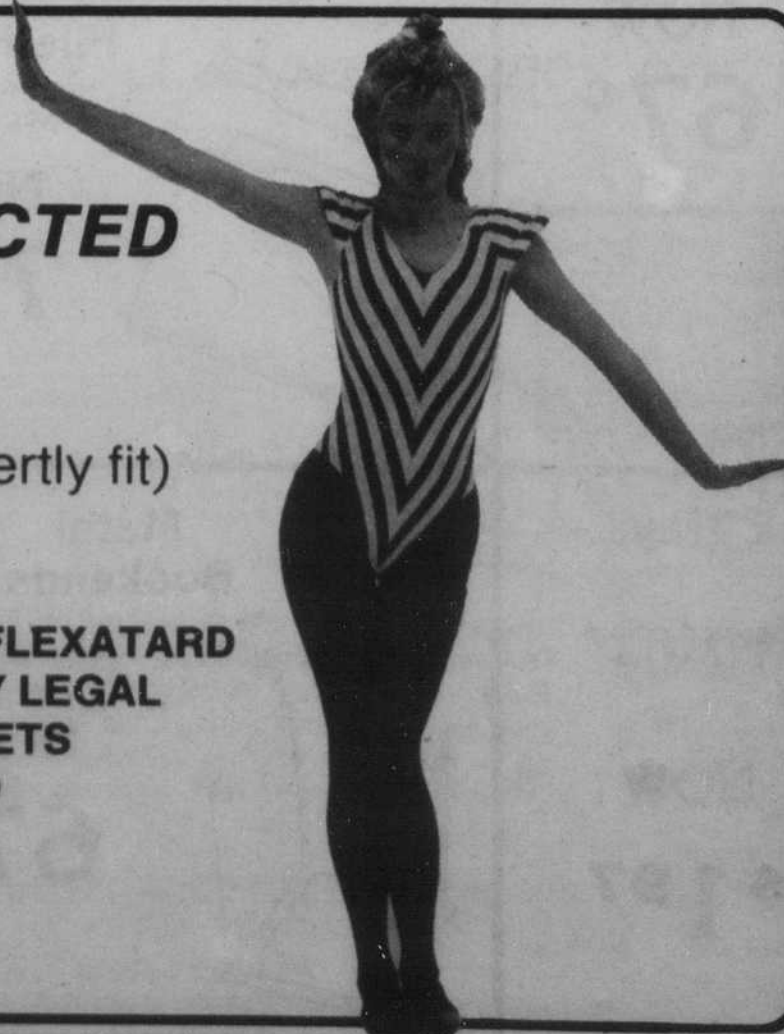
A little over two years ago, the supply system of faculty will benefit the students most directly by reducing the student/faculty ratio and allowing professors more time for individual work with advanced students. It will also increase the number of courses the department can offer.

"You defaulted on a \$2.25 billion debt on the two terminated plants. The default touched off a series of lawsuits that could conceivably lead to a court order attaching the supply system's assets."

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