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## REGIONAL

## State warms Trojan closing costly

SALEM (AP) - A shutdown of the Trojan nuclear power plant could add as much as \$50 a year to the electric bills of Portland General Electric Co. customers, according to a state report issued Thursday.

The report was prepared by the Public Utility Commission and Department of Energy in an effort to give Oregonians an accurate picture of what it would cost if voters approve Measure 4 on the Nov. 6 ballot.

The initiative measure would close Trojan, the state's only nuclear power plant, until a federal repository for radioactive waste is created.

The cost increases associated with closing Trojan would depend on the cost of replacement power, who would pay for closing the plant and the economic impact on PGE, the plant's principal owner and op-

If PGE customers paid Trojan's investment and shutdown costs, rates would range from 4.2 percent to 8.8 percent higher during the next 21 years than if the plant stayed in service, the report said. That would increase annual residential bills by about \$25 to \$52 in today's dollars, it said.

Closing Trojan probably would cost between \$650 million and \$1.4 billion.

The authors said the figures are lower than a Northwest Power Planning Council estimate of \$800 million to \$2.2 billion "because we used different assumptions about Trojan operations, replacement resources and discount rates.

"Until new resources could be developed, existing coal, gas and oil plants in the western United States and Canada would have to increase generation to replace Trojan's output," the report said.

Roy Hemmingway, spokesman for the group that's working to defeat the measure, said the study shows that shutting down Trojan would cost ratepayers and taxpayers "hundreds of millions of dollars, if not billions."

"Closing Trojan would increase rates, would increase our dependence on environmentally damaging power sources, and would have other harmful impacts upon our economy and power system," Hemmingway said.

The measure was one of several a judge threw off the ballot this week on technical grounds. The Oregon Supreme Court on Friday is to hear an appeal aimed at putting those measures back on the ballot.







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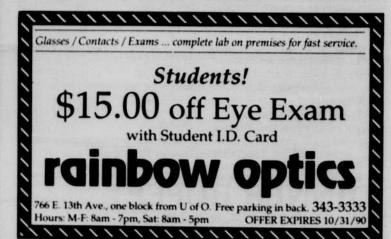
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