

POLITICS

Streetwise

What do you think of Ballot Measure 3, which would impose term limits on Oregon's state and national legislators?



"There's enough problems going on with the bureaucracy right now. We need someone to complete the job."



- Jacqueline Landon junior, english

"If the government officer has worked so long, even if he's not so good, maybe he should stay. It's complicated."



- Tsuyoshi Fujita senior, business

"I think it's a pretty good idea. If we get stuck with a bad (legislator) he won't be there so long. But that also has a bad side if he's a good one."



- Kate Schwarzler freshman, architecture

"They've been in there too long. They're too opinionated, and they don't get anything done."



- Bryan Parker freshman, business

"If you have someone up there, maybe a senator, with out-dated ideas (term limits are good)."



- Ann Peterson junior, english

Trojan's future once again up to voters

By Lisa Kneefel Emerald Reporter

Oregon voters will decide the fate of the ailing Trojan nuclear power plant Nov. 3 via Ballot Measures 5 and 6, but they may not understand the difference between the two measures.

Both propose a ban on operation of the 16-year-old nuclear power plant until studies determine whether Trojan can withstand a possible earthquake.



And both call for a ban on operation until a permanent waste storage site is available.

Measure 6, however, includes a provision that costs of decommissioning Trojan — estimated at \$500 million — will be absorbed by the principal owners of the plant, Portland General Electric.

PGE announced a plan for a four-year phase-out of Trojan Aug. 31 as part of its Least Cost Energy Plan.

Nothing legally binds PGE to the decision, but Sautter said it is unlikely the company will choose to operate beyond the four-year phase-out.

"A decision to rescind the agreement would be nothing short of corporate suicide," Sautter said. "You can't mess with the lives of your operators, nor can you change your story to your regulators."

Under Public Utility Commission regulations, private utilities must submit a least-cost plan every two years that outlines the cost and reliability of the utility and its possible risks to the environment.

Cracks and corrosion found in Trojan's steam tubes would require replacement of its steam generator in five years, costing an estimated \$200 million.

Equipment problems ceased operation of the plant for most of 1991. After considering generator replacement costs and the expiration of the plant's operating license in three years, PGE decided a shut-down of the plant would be more cost-effective than continued operation.

The company opted for a four-year phase-out so alternative energy sources can be developed before the plant's closure.

The Do It Yourself Committee, sponsor of Measure 6, claims four additional years of operation will place too much stress on the structure and pose risks to the environment.

The committee also contends ratepayers will shoulder the bulk of decommissioning costs unless Measure 6 is passed.

PGE officials said decommissioning costs will remain in rates for the four-year period, but the PUC will decide whether inclusion is justified beyond 1996.

Backers of Measure 6 want to close



The fate of Oregon's Trojan Nuclear Power Plant is up to voter's next week with Ballot Measures 5 and 6.

Trojan for several other reasons.

According to Do It Yourself Committee literature, the steam generators have deteriorated 20 percent, which places stress on the rest of the system.

Steve Sautter, a No on 5 and 6 Committee spokesman, said the plant may be operated safely for an additional four years, despite the deteriorated tubes. Sautter is usually a spokesman for PGE.

Sautter said replacement of the steam generator is necessary only if the plant continues to operate beyond 1996.

"We have all conditions under control," Sautter said. "If we don't, then we'll shut down the plant."

The Do It Yourself Committee also maintains that Trojan's waste storage pool is not earthquake resistant and the plant lies within a high seismic risk area.

Sautter flatly denied that Trojan lies on a fault line and said analysis of the plant's earthquake safety has revealed no problems.

The fault line the committee is referring to could be the interface of two tectonic plates, said Matthew Mabey, geotechnical earthquake expert at Oregon Dept. of Geology and Minerals.

Mabey said the Juan de Fuca and North American plates interface below

the Pacific Ocean. The interface extends to approximately 50 km below the Trojan plant.

But Mabey also pointed out that Trojan is the most earthquake-sound structure in the state. He said most concerns about earthquake safety in Oregon hinge on building strength, not tremor severity.

Another point of contention is the plant's waste-storage pools.

The Do It Yourself Committee asserts Trojan's waste storage pool was originally designed to hold 200 spent fuel rods (self-contained units of radioactive waste) but now contains 550 rods.

But Sautter said the waste storage pool can hold 1,408 rods and currently contains 580. He said the committee is referring to a temporary storage pool plan that was scrapped.

Sautter also disputed claims that Trojan has the worst safety record in the United States. He said two full-time Nuclear Regulatory Committee inspectors work at the plant and rate its safety. He said Trojan last received the highest safety rating available.

PGE and the backers of Measure 6 also disagree on the need for Trojan's power.

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Four battle for secretary of state job

By Lisa Kneefel Emerald Reporter

Incumbent candidate Phil Keisling hopes to finish the job he began during his appointed term as secretary of state. But opponent Randy Miller said he wants to end what he called the "Roberts/Keisling administration."

Democrat Keisling and Republican Miller are two of four candidates competing for the office. Also making a bid are Sarah D. Lyons of the New Alliance Party and Shaun Savage of the Libertarian Party.

The secretary of state is the second-highest office in state government. The secretary acts as chief elections officer, records the official acts of the legislature and the executive branch, and oversees the State Board of Accountancy and Tax Service Examiners and the state archives.

Miller said that Keisling and Gov. Barbara Roberts collaborate on policy to carry out "the Roberts agenda," but Keisling dismisses the suggestion.

"It reflects his own lack of substantive arguments," Keisling said of Miller's charge. The secretary of state's office is independent of the governor's office, he said.

However, Miller charges that both Keisling and Roberts are insensitive toward Oregonians, and he said they haven't displayed leadership.

"I hope to provide the leadership that is so lacking today," Miller said, "because I can't stand idly by and watch the situation continue to deteriorate."

Miller said he believes he's the best-qualified candidate because he has "real-world management experience."

Miller's experience includes his position as vice president of Moore Mill and Lumber Co. He holds a law degree from Lewis and Clark Law School and a master's degree in education from the University.

Miller said Keisling lacks experience for the office, but Keisling countered his charge.

"He's got a title, but I really question how much hands-on management experience he's got," Keisling said.

Keisling said he's proud of the work he accomplished during his year-and-a-half term. Prior to his appointment he worked as a state representative, a senior legislative assistant, an editor for the Washington Monthly, and a reporter for Willamette Week.

Keisling took some heat earlier this year after some people objected to the inclusion of Ballot Measure 9 on the election ballot. He received some nasty mail, including a letter that compared him to Hitler.

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