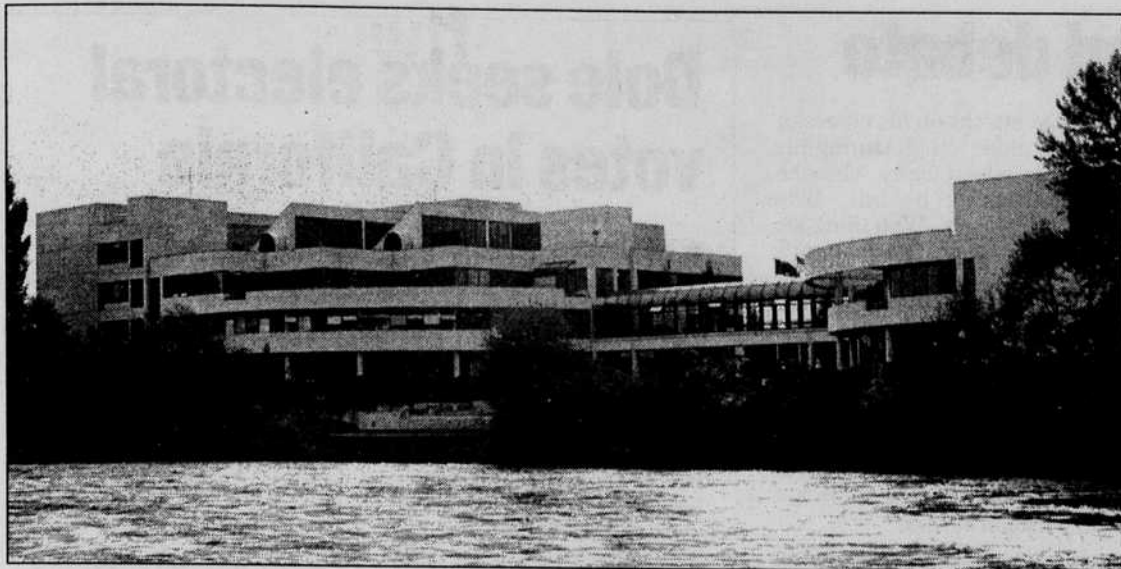




The Eugene Water and Electric Board is one of the companies that could be affected by the energy plan that Northwest governors are developing for the region in order to deal with deregulation. MATHEW STIFFLER/Emerald

Governors' panel details energy plan

■ **POWER:** Industry experts visited Eugene last week to explain their vision for increased competition in the Northwest

By Jean Bond
Community Reporter

Power company deregulation is bringing changes and perhaps confusion for electric and gas company customers, according to the Northwest Power Planning Council.

Like telephone and cable companies, power companies are being deregulated, increasing competition among electric and gas companies.

To deal with changes brought on by deregulation, the governors of Oregon, Montana, Idaho and Washington have put together a panel of experts to develop an energy plan for the Pacific Northwest.

Last week, the panel visited Eugene to explain their plan, which deals with the possible break-up of the

Bonneville Power Administration, increased competition between power companies, energy conservation and salmon recovery.

The panel will have nine more meetings throughout the region to explain the plan and get public input, said Judy Hertz, spokeswoman for the planning council.

If approved, the plan would require customer choice of energy suppliers by 2001, a split-up of the BPA, up to \$500 million for a salmon recovery project and voluntary energy company contributions for energy conservation efforts and renewable energy projects.

The public comment period will last until November, Hertz said. In December, the committee will put together a final plan, taking public comment into account and present the plan to the governors. The governors will then decide which of the changes to implement.

For more information call 1-800-222-3355.

City Council opposes proposed prison site

■ **RESOLUTION:** Local officials draft conditions for negotiation with state department of corrections

By Jennifer Schmitt
Community Editor

The Eugene City Council unanimously passed a resolution Monday night opposing the siting of a state correctional facility in the Eugene-Springfield area.

"Because of the timing and everything else, we couldn't do anything but oppose it," said City Councilor Jim Torrey. "We were informed on a Friday, and a few days later we have to be ready to

make informed decisions. We have very little information."

Eugene was not a nominated site in the first round of nominations, but city councilors are expected to be named in the next round of nominations.

To prepare for the possible nomination, City Council members worked with prison site committee staff to draft a list of conditions to be presented to the state in negotiations.

"All of the possibilities we are discussing are to be conditions," said City Councilor Shawn Boles. "These should be presented with facts and figures to back them up. These are demands, not just what

we think would be nice."

The most important condition discussed was the requirement that the new prison facility be located within the city's Urban Growth Boundary. The projected site along Hwy. 99 is on the edge of the boundary with one half of the land in the city area and the other half beyond the boundary.

"The UGB is so vital to this community and its future plans," said Mayor Ruth Bascom. "There is still developable land within the boundary, and we need to stress we don't want to expand that boundary to annex the prison site."

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