

For Trojan Nuclear Power Plant We cannot rule out cheap power source

by Frank Jordan
Copy Editor

With the sockeye salmon being placed on the threatened species list by the U.S. Department of Fish and Wildlife, our continued hopes for cheap hydroelectric power have taken a turn for the worse. So, what other choices do we, as consumers of electricity, have as we approach the 21st century. Some say that solar power is the wave of the future, while some will say that we need to find sources like wind power.

But while these sources of power would be a great help in quenching our never-ending need for "juice," we have a source of power that has served us well for the last 15 years.

That source of power is the Trojan Nuclear Power Plant, run by Portland General Electric. Although Trojan has never proved to be as reliable as once was thought, it still is one of our primary sources of electricity, and

should not be shut down, just because no one likes the thought of nuclear power anymore.

Nuclear power has always proved to be one of the cleanest sources of power generation that we have come up with. Unlike the coal power plant in Boardman, OR, on the Columbia River, which is now only used in case of power emergencies, nuclear power generation does not produce pollutants that fill the air.

The biggest problem that we have with Trojan is that it does not run all of the time. Fuel rods need to be changed periodically, and there is always the routine maintenance that accompanies a nuclear power plant. But when Trojan is up and running, the plant produces between 15 and 20 percent of our power needs. This is quite a bit. With the inevitable cutbacks in hydroelectric power that will occur to protect the sockeye salmon, we cannot rule out this cheap, clean source of power.

Against Trojan Nuclear Power Plant Plant represents health risk

by Eddie Murphy
Staff Writer

The issue here is not if nuclear power itself is good or bad, but rather does this particular plant (and its future operation) represent a benefit or a risk to all of the residents of the Pacific Northwest.

Trojan produces less than 3% of the Northwest's power grid; has the worst safety record in the U.S. (out of 111 in operation) and has overloaded waste pools next to the Columbia River.

Recently, a fault was discovered directly underneath the reactor. In light of all this, the decision to undertake megabuck repairs must stem from either greed, pride or blind political bias because a populace with their own best interests at heart would surely opt for a saner solution!

"There is, unfortunately, a substantial history of identified

problems that were not sufficiently corrected, and in some cases were not acted on at all. And that just isn't the way you run a nuclear power plant," said Greg Cook of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

"It isn't safe to continue operating the plant, given that there is no place to take the used radioactive fuel rods," said Governor Barbara Roberts.

Item 1: Repairs to Trojan are estimated by Portland General Electric to be over 200 million dollars. Last year, the Oregon Public Utilities Commission awarded PGE a residential rate increase of 4.6%. This was to cover the increased operating and maintenance costs.

Item 2: Temporary storage of waste was promised to Oregon voters in 1976. In 1976, questions were raised by the NRC about the safe storage of radio-

active waste.

Item 3: Trojan is at the Northern tip of one of the highest earthquake areas in the state. Trojan would not be able to shut down safely in the event of an earthquake in the magnitude range of 7.5 to 8.5. "We now realize that the most dangerous fault in the U.S. lies off the Pacific Northwest," said Director Thomas Heaton, seismologist with the U.S. Geological Survey.

Item 4: NRC reports that workers have been subjected to unnecessary high doses of radiation. NRC inspectors say repair work has been sloppy and inefficient. Radioactive material from Trojan that was released into the air was reported in the Oregonian February 15, 1992.

"... to the village square, we must carry the facts of atomic energy. From there must come America's voice," said Albert Einstein.

Letter to the Editor

Justifying AIDS empowers Neo-Nazis

To the Editor,

I was quite bothered by a response made by one of your readers in relation to an article written about the OCA a few weeks ago. In this article, Eric was quoted as saying, "That is why AIDS is here. God has allowed AIDS to flourish because of these sex sins." This person goes on to say that he disagrees with what the OCA practices, but yet, he blatantly describes that because people are homosexual, that they are somehow deserving of the disease AIDS. As far as I'm concerned, the person who wrote that article is no better than the OCA itself. His feelings are that certain people deserve to get AIDS

for their actions. To me, this is on the same wavelength as the OCA's attack against homosexuals. My question to this particular person is: How do you feel about AIDS being a heterosexual disease in Africa? Does this mean that God only disapproves of homosexual relations among men but not women? And what about cats--did you know that cats have their own version of the AIDS virus? Does God not like cats either? Do you also hold the same feelings for people with other ailments? That they are somehow deserving of them? What other excuses will you come up with to justify the suffering of all kinds of people? My last

question--Why believe in a God that is so revengeful towards its own people? I would much rather believe in a God who is not judgmental and accepts that all people are different. By you justifying God's revenge on homosexuals, you also give power to all those Neo-Nazi groups and white supremacist groups out there who believe its "OK" to beat up or kill gay people because God doesn't like them either.

Oh, by the way, the next time you have a headache or a cold, don't go run to that medicine chest for cures, maybe God wants you to be sick!

Nancy Medici

Letter to the Editor

Responsibility instead of revolution

To the Editor,
Mr. Hibberd,

I have some real problems with your editorial in *The Clackamas Print*.

First of all, I thought we were in America. Sir, we live in a democracy, we don't and I repeat, don't riot, we vote. I know this idea may seem a bit new to you but really it's not that new at all. As a matter of fact, many men and women have died for this right. Many men and women in other countries around the world are currently fighting and dying for this right alone.

I know our system is not perfect but it's the only one we have. Why destroy it? Why not work together to improve it? You commended the violence in L.A. What about the 50 plus people who died there? Please, think about them for one moment, they were the innocent, they did not deserve to die.

I in no way commend the officers who viciously beat Mr. King. They should be and will be convicted by a higher power,

the Federal Civil Rights attorneys in a court of law. Again, our system is not perfect, that is why it is so important to vote. We have the power to vote out any politically corrupt man or woman in office. Instead of moving the "brothers" to violence, why not move them to the voting booth?

The theme of your editorial as I read it was this, "The system is not working, so let's destroy it!" If you don't like something about the system, change it, but do it legally and morally. Would you commend me for burning down my professor's house if he gave me a grade I felt was unjust? Should we shoot our parents if they ground us? Of course not! Why should we riot against our government when we have the legal power to change it?

I would like you to take responsibility for your editorial. What would your editorial say to the black community who did not riot? What would your editorial say to the black families who are trying to raise their chil-

dren with a sense of moral value? What would it say to the parents who made their children take back the merchandise they looted? Those people are the heroes of this whole incident. On the subject of responsibility, don't let the government or your leaders talk for you if you don't agree with what they say. Take responsibility for yourself. Don't blame your government, your society, your leaders for the riots in L.A. Blame the people who actually broke into these stores, who actually murdered innocent people on the streets, who actually shot firemen who were trying to put out the infernos in L.A. Make them responsible.

The majority of Americans condemn with all their hearts the violence that took place in L.A. Except for you. You don't scare me, Mr. Hibberd, because I have faith in peace, I have faith in Americans and I have faith that we can fix anything if we only try. Violence is not the answer.

Karen Nassif

News Briefs

See the stars at Clackamas

The observatory at the John Inskeep Environmental Learning Center is open to the public every clear Wednesday, Friday and Saturday night from 7:30 to 11:30. Admission is \$1.50 per person.

Run Off volunteers needed

On Sunday, June 28, 7,500 runners will pour through the streets of downtown Portland for the 15th annual Cascade Run Off. Assistance is needed race weekend to register athletes, serve water, hang banners, monitor the course, assist at the finish line and help with the Kids' Cascade. Those interested can call the volunteer hotline at 226-1441.

Attention graduates

Caps and gowns will be available in the Small Dining Room in the Community Center beginning June 1. Hours for issue are Monday and Tuesday from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., and Wednesday and Thursday from 12 to 6 p.m.

Jazz Night postponed

Jazz Night, originally scheduled for May 21, has been canceled and rescheduled for June 2.

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