First Private Atomic Power Plant Set For N. California

SAN FRANCISCO (UP) — The first atomic power plant to be built by private industry will be feeding electricity to homes in Northern California sometime next year.

General Electric Company announced yesterday that it will build an atomic generator at its new 1653 acre laboratory site in the Livermore-Pleasanton area of Alameda County.

The generator is expected to produce as much as 5000 kilowatts, enough power for a city of 15,000.

General Electric will sell the electricity to the Pacific Gas and Electric Company, which will feed it into its regular network.

The atomic plant actually is being established for research purposes. Sale of the power will help GE defray the cost of research.

In addition, the atomic plant will serve as a pilot for a larger plant to go into operation near Chicago in 1960.

Steam to generate electrical power will come from an experimental nuclear reactor, which will be part of the Pleasanton laboratory. PG&E will operate and provide the turbine generator.

The reactor from which the steam will be drawn will be fueled at first by uranium 235, the familiar explosive content of the standard atomic bomb. Later, the reactor will use partially enriched uranium dioxide, a cheaper type of fuel.

Atomically produced electricity has been used previously in at least two communities in the United States, West Melton, N.Y., and Idaho Falls, Idaho. In both cases, the atomic energy was produced with federal financing. Russia also has used atomic electric power in local power networks, but this too was government financed.

Francis K. McCune, vice president in charge of the Atomic Products Division, said the Pleasanton project "is an important step forward" towards meeting America's power needs in the next 10 years.

CHURCHILL

NICE, France, (AP) — Sir Winston Churchill, puffing a cigar and carrying a gold-headed cane, came back to the Riviera Thursday to resume his interrupted vacation. The 81-year-old former Prime Minister appeared in good health. Churchill had been on the Riviera earlier this winter, but returned to London to see his wife off on a cruise.

Morty Meekle

Eisenhower Seems Relieved That Big Decision Is Made

WASHINGTON (AP) — Somebody remarked that President Eisenhower looked as happy and relieved as a fellow going fishing after shedding the cares of the world.

Actually, only a few hours earlier he had announced his willingness to hang on to the cares of the presidency for a second term.

Just the same, he did look relieved that the big decision was behind him as he waited there in his White House office last night. He was about to go on television and radio to tell the American people why he decided as he did.

Grouped off to his right were members of his family—his wife, their son and daughter-in-law, the First Lady's mother and the President's youngest brother Dr. Milton S. Eisenhower. The President had a cheery greeting for all of them as they arrived from the White House living quarters.

Eisenhower himself showed up 20 minutes before time to go on the air, and he was in a jaunty mood. He sized up the big battery of television, newsreel and still cameras lined up in front of his big desk, then remarked with a grin:

"I'm ready. Let's get started."

The newspaper photographers crowded around for pictures of him going over the pencil-edited text of his talk. Meanwhile, his coach, TV producer Robert Montgomery, asked the President to put on his glasses so the other cameramen could make sure there was a minimum of glare reflected from the big lights.

The President wore a gray suit, light blue shirt and a navy blue tie. He wanted to roam around the office and Montgomery had to call him back to the desk for further camera adjustments.

"What did we do with Gen. Grant's clock?" Eisenhower asked his press secretary, James C. Hagerty, after noticing that the old time piece which President Grant brought to the White House had been removed from the table behind his desk. Hagerty pointed out the clock in a temporary position across the room.

TRAFFIC ACCIDENTS

CHICAGO (AP)—Nearly 3,000 persons were killed in traffic accidents in January, a 5 per cent increase over January 1955. It was the 11th straight month of increased traffic tolls, the National Safety Council reported. The nation's traffic deaths in the first month of 1956 totaled 2,960 compared with 2,820 in January 1955.

Portable Hospital To Appear Here

PORTLAND (AP) — A portable, 200-bed hospital will be traveling about Oregon on display this year.

It is to be on permanent loan to the state from the federal government. The state Civil Defense agency will use it for training, and, if necessary, for disaster relief.

The hospital is to be displayed in Salem, Eugene, Medford, Bend, Klamath Falls, Tillamook, Pendleton or Baker, Roseburg or Coos Bay, and Portland.

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