

Local

Electricity used to keep bacteria off pipe

By RUTH M. DALY
Battalion Reporter

Researchers at Texas A&M University are experimenting with electrochemistry to overcome the biggest problem scientists have confronted in using seawater as an energy source.

An electric current injected into the seawater keeps bacteria from depositing on power plant pipes. Bacteria deposits in the past have been the reason seawater hasn't been used as a source of energy.

The bacteria deposits block the movement of hot gas which is needed to provide the energy, said Dr. Hari Dhar, research assistant.

Dhar said the primary purpose of using electricity is to generate a toxic on the pipe surface so the bacteria won't collect. Electricity is not used to kill the bacteria, he said, but if the bacteria does settle on the poisonous surface, it will die.

Seawater, which is warm on the surface, is passed through the boiler at a power plant where the water is heated. This heating process causes some gases to escape from the water, Dhar said. The gases then turn the turbine at the plant, providing power.

When bacteria collects on the pipes, it doesn't let the gases escape from the water, making the power plant ineffective, he said.

Research at the University has utilized low-voltage currents, whereas similar research has

used high-voltage currents in the water, Dhar said.

Low voltage is better than high voltage, Dhar said, because high voltage causes calcium carbonate deposits on the pipes, which hinder the power supply in the same way the bacteria does.

Dr. John Bockris, leader of the research group, said more than \$150,000 from the Texas A&M Sea Grant Program and the Department of the Interior has been used to fund the research, which began in October 1979.

Dhar said the research has been conducted on a small scale so far. But within the next six months, he said, research can be conducted on a larger, more realistic scale.

Currently, the researchers — who also include Elizabeth Yancey, David Howell and Dr. Don Lewis — are studying the idea of current, Dhar said, to find the best combination of voltage and intervals between electric pulses. The best voltage will generate the optimum amount of toxic, and the best interval will use the minimum amount of electricity.

Within the next year, Dhar said, "mini-plants" can be set up to test results of the research under realistic conditions.

When the technique is perfected, seawater can be used in an ocean environment, or at any other power plant where bacteria deposits are a problem.

Council raises utility deposits

By BELINDA McCOY
Battalion Staff

Anyone moving into College Station from now on will have to pay more money to get his electricity and water turned on than any of his neighbors probably had to pay.

The College Station City Council Thursday night approved an ordinance revising city utility deposits.

Electricity deposits will be raised from \$60 to \$105, and water deposits will be raised from \$10 to \$30, the ordinance says.

The city now fails to collect about 18% of its utility bills over \$70, City Secretary Glenn Schroeder explained later.

Since the deposits are used to cover bills not collected, the higher deposits will lower the percentage of bills never collected to 5%, Schroeder said.

The council passed a resolution renaming the portion of Kyle Street which recently underwent major improvements and now connects Jersey Street to Puryear Drive. The new portion will be called Jersey East Street.

The new street name will mean address changes for residents in

Tanglewood Apartments and the Culpepper Companies, said City Engineer Elrey Ash.

"Those affected by the address change will be notified in the near future," Ash said.

The council agreed to transfer \$5,168 from city salary accounts to pay for the printing of brochures that were used to explain capital improvements propositions in a recent bond election.

City Manager North Bardell discussed with the council changes in charges for city garbage collection.

The changes being considered will raise the monthly garbage collection charge levied by the city from \$3.50 to \$4.00 for single- or multi-family households. Charges to businesses would also be raised, on a proportion basis, depending on the size of the garbage containers. The number of garbage pickups being proposed could change from 22 per month to 26 per month, Bardell said.

Factors affecting the increase in charges include the building of a new landfill site for \$240,000 and the purchase of new equipment such as a dragline for \$185,000, Bardell said.

The city staff is still working on

the proposed changes, he said, and will officially present the changes to the council in two to four weeks.

Board restructure gets RHA approval

By BERNIE FETTE
Battalion Staff

Members of the Residence Halls Association gave their stamp of approval Thursday to a restructuring of the existing judicial boards system.

The proposal, which would be evaluated after a one-year trial period, calls for the consolidation of individual judicial boards into several sub-area boards.

Tom Murray, chairman of the Judicial Board Committee, said the main need for the restructuring is to remedy the problem of inconsistency of separate boards.

RHA Adviser Nolen Mears cited better training, supervision and consistency as advantages to the new plan.

Most of the discussion among members centered around the idea that with the existing judicial boards, violators frequently have friends on the board, while under the sub-area boards there would tend to be less familiarity.

Most members agreed that under the revised structure there would be more consistency and therefore more fairness in the decisions.

RHA members also heard Mike Sicilo, a Texas A&M University

medical student, ask them for support in "The Eyes of Texas," an organ-donation program being sponsored by Alpha Phi Omega and Student Government in association with the Living Bank in Houston. The registration drive will be held April 20-24 with a goal of 10,000 persons donating.

Sicilo said the program has the approval of George Bush as well as the endorsement of most religions.

"A&M donates more blood than any university in the nation," Sicilo said. "Why not carry that one step further?"

He said that if the program meets with the approval of students, this will be the first time a campus-wide organ drive has been sponsored.

"I'd like to see Aggies get national acclaim for something that is truly exceptional," Sicilo said.

In other action, openings for directorships were announced for the following areas: external affairs, facility operations, public relations, programming and projects.

Also, reports were given on Almost Anything Goes, Casino, the National RHA Convention and Parents' Day.

Dethloff named new history dep't head

Dr. Henry C. Dethloff, a specialist in American economic and agricultural history, has been named head of the Texas A&M Department of History, effective Sept. 1.

Dethloff has served as interim department head since last Sept. 1 when he replaced Dr. Keith L. Bryant, who was named dean of the College of Liberal Arts.

Plans are underway, Dethloff said, for a master's degree in history with a business opportunity minor which will create new job opportunities for liberal arts graduates.

New faculty members are being sought with specialties in naval history, Indian and Texas history, the history of technology and business history, he said.

Dethloff, a native of Louisiana, earned his bachelor's degree in law at the University of Texas at Austin in 1956. He received a master's in history from Northwestern State University and a doctorate in history from the University of Missouri.

He taught at the University of Southwestern Louisiana from 1962 until coming to Texas A&M in 1969. Among his publications are "The Centennial History of Texas A&M University" and "The Pictorial History of Texas A&M University," as well as "Americans and Free Enterprise" published in 1979.

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.49	4A	1450	1300	.24	4A	525	475	.22	3A+	425	385	.17	3A+	275	250	.35	3A	630	570
.53	2A	950	855	.25	3A+	550	495	.24	3A+	500	450	.37	2A+	775	700	.46	3A	1250	1125
.71	3A	1785	1610	.28	4A	625	565	.25	3A+	550	495	.38	3A	825	745	.49	3A	1225	1105
1.06	3A+	5500	4950	.33	3A+	710	640	.33	3A+	760	685	.49	3A+	1370	1235	.51	3A+	1425	1285
				.44	3A+	1071	970	.43	3A+	1050	945	.58	3A+	1700	1530	.64	3A	1600	1440
				.61	4A	1950	1755	.44	3A	1050	945	.72	3A+	2350	2115	.75	3A	1725	1555
				.66	3A+	2075	1870	.45	2A+	975	880	.72	4A	2400	2160	1.06	3A	3390	3050
				.74	4A	2200	1980	.82	3A+	2750	2475	1.02	3A	3450	3105	1.18	3A	3700	3330
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.25	2A+	390	325	.37	3A+	890	800	.61	3A	1890	1625
.27	3A	410	350	.41	3A	1050	950	.62	4A+	3400	2200
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