

# State

## Nuke firm admits 'screw up'

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — The controversial Comanche Peak nuclear plant, three years behind schedule, will cost 4.5 million ratepayers in Dallas and other Texas cities another \$1.2 billion — five times the original estimate — and the cost overrun may go even higher.

For the past six months, Texas Utilities spokesmen have consistently said the plant would cost \$2.24 billion — their 1980 estimate. But the company said Monday the controversial plant near Glen Rose would be delayed three years and cost an additional \$1.2 billion.

Utility officials indicated costs could increase even more.

"As brilliant as we are, we screw up some, too," said Lou Fikar, vice president of Texas Utilities, the company that owns the plant.

A congressional report said Monday that even without the new delay, the plant is a "sadly familiar saga of construction, financial and safety problems."

The new announcement contrasted with repeated company denials this year that the cost of the plant ultimately would exceed \$3 billion and possibly reach \$4.1 billion. Monday's announcement was the plant would cost an estimated \$3.44 billion.

Originally, company officials estimated the twin nuclear reactors for the plant would be completed in 1980 and 1982 at a combined cost of \$779 million. The new figures released Monday represent a 54 percent cost increase.

Company officials now concede the first reactor will not be completed until 1984 and the second

in 1985. The anticipated completion date for the plant has been pushed back five times.

Officials said the most recent 18-month delay was because pipes used in Unit One of the plant did not fit precisely. Fikar said a 500-person engineering team was trying to solve the pipe problem — which is approximately one person for every 26 non-fitting pipes.

Texas Utilities Board Chairman T.L. Austin Jr. said the latest cost increase was caused by changed regulations of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

But in Washington, a staff mem-

ber of the House subcommittee on the Environment, Energy and Natural Resources said a recent

examination of completion delays and increased costs at 10 nuclear plants — including Comanche Peak — showed the problems usually were the result of utility companies' own technical staffs.

The congressional report, for the panel headed by Rep. Toby Moffett, D-Conn., used Comanche Peak as an example that the utility companies, not government regulation, are stalling construction.

## 'Dead' son really alive, officials mistake identity

**United Press International**  
FORT WORTH — Marshall David Knox's parents were relieved to find him in the intensive care unit of John Peter Smith Hospital — almost an hour after they had been told he was dead.

Knox, 22, was involved in an auto accident early Sunday that led to a seven-car pileup. He and a passenger were thrown from his pickup truck.

Police, who found Knox's

wallet between the two men, said the pictures on Knox's identification looked nothing like him — and a lot like the deceased passenger, David Paul Wallach, 23, of Fort Worth.

Sunday afternoon, hospital and medical examiner officials notified Marshall and Helen Knox their son had been killed.

At the hospital an hour later, doctors asked Knox if he could identify the critically injured

man.

When he looked at the young man in the intensive care unit, Knox was staggered.

"That's my son," Knox told the doctors.

Mrs. Knox viewed the corpse at the request of the medical examiner and recognized her son's friend.

Mrs. Knox said she was angry about the ordeal.

"Even when I saw him (son) later, I had trouble recognizing him," Mrs. Knox said.

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## Texas Briefs

### 2 teens charged in shooting death

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Authorities in Houston are holding two Louisiana youths on capital murder charges in connection with the weekend shooting death of a Dallas airport manager, homicide officers said.

Police charged Robert Paulhus, 19, of Metairie, La., and Sherman Lyons, 18, of Abbeville, La., with the death of Red Bird Airport manager J.C. Bristo, 57. Both were jailed in Houston and are expected to be transferred to Dallas later in the week, police said.

Bristo's body was discovered Sunday in the bedroom of his apartment. He had been shot once in the head, police said.

Police said Paulhus and Lyons were arrested Sunday in Houston on traffic charges before Bristo's body was found. They were driving Bristo's car when arrested and police said robbery appeared to be a motive for the shooting.

### Barroom brawl suspect sought

**United Press International**  
HOUSTON — Police are seeking a suspect for questioning in a barroom brawl that sent a police sergeant to the hospital with a broken arm.

Sgt. Robert Taylor was suspended with pay Monday pending an internal affairs investigation into the Oct. 13 incident.

Officials said Taylor complained of not feeling well and left his patrol job early Oct. 13. But eyewitnesses to a bar fight later that night said Taylor used a racial slur in asking a man sitting next to him to find another seat. The man refused and a fight ensued.

Taylor was taken to a hospital where doctors operated on a broken arm and treated other injuries he sustained in the fight. Police said they are seeking the other man, who fled before police arrived.

### Primary may be big

**United Press International**  
DALLAS — Dede Casad, the newly announced Republican candidate for the Texas 3rd Congressional District, said the primary could be the largest in Texas history.

Casad, president of the Dede Casad Public Relations and Advertising Agency in Dallas, announced plans Monday to run for the seat being vacated by Rep. Jim Collins, R-Texas.

"This is the most ambitious endeavor of my career," Casad said. "This is a people's race. And as their candidate, I will be challenging professional politicians who are trying to maintain control in certain areas of special interest."

Casad, who classifies herself as a conservative, said she was approached by several people and asked to run for the House seat, leading to her decision to enter politics. She said she does not yet know who her opponents will be.

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