

State / National

Construction company quits

Layoffs set at nuke plant

United Press International
HOUSTON — Officials at the South Texas Nuclear Project plan this week to lay off 500 construction workers. The move follows a

newly set Dec. 1 windup of construction work by Brown & Root Inc. at the half-finished multi-billion dollar power plant. Officials of Houston Lighting &

Power Co. told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Tuesday of the Dec. 1 work slowdown, saying it would last about six months until a new contractor takes over the job, HL&P spokesman Don Beeth said.

Beeth said there would be additional layoffs next month at the \$4.8 billion nuclear project. He said safety-related work is stopping, but employees will continue maintenance work.

Brown & Root withdrew Wednesday as contractor for the 25-megawatt project because the company and HL&P could not agree on what role it would continue to play, Beeth said. HL&P fired the construction firm in Sep-

tember as design engineer and construction manager for the project but retained it as builder.

Bechtel Power Corp. of California, a company with experience in nuclear projects, was named design engineer and construction manager.

Charles Bechhoefer, chairman of a NRC licensing board, said the board feared a breakdown in quality control because Brown & Root workers might be preoccupied looking for new jobs.

"No, they are not going to be doing any work activities that concerned our board — no concrete pours, no welding," Bechhoefer said.

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Manthan is a story of change. It captures the turbulence created by an outside force in the orthodox society of a poor Indian village. The outside force is a young urban group headed by a veterinary doctor, with a mission to help start a milk cooperative in the village. The film spans a confrontation of social values, roles, and vested interests.

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International Film Guide (1979) named MANTHAN one of the Ten Best Films of the World; and named SHYAM BENEGAL one of the five Directors of the Year.

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Racism may be reason for Willie's slow sales

United Press International
RAPID CITY, S.D. — Ticket sales for a Willie Nelson benefit concert have opened, but the normally sold-out artist isn't drawing long lines to the box office. One promoter attributes this lack of interest to racism.

At least one person says the slow sales may be related to the fact that Nelson will appear partly on behalf of the Dakota American Indian Movement's Yellow Thunder Camp near Rapid City.

AIM spokesman Bill Means said he's distressed by the lack of response to the concert.

"We knew Rapid City was the racist capital of the world," Means said. "It's too bad that people will let racism and prejudice stand in the way of having a good time."

Several Rapid City radio stations said they have received calls indicating that the callers plan to boycott the concert.

Some believe the slow sales may be related to a controversy over where the concert's proceeds will go.

Spokesmen for the Yellow Thunder Camp said Nov. 1 that Nelson would donate money from the concert to build a school at the camp. But radio and television ads promoting the event indicate that the proceeds will benefit water development in the state.

Radio sales personnel at KKLS and KCTA in Rapid City said an ad was written, placed and authorized by Mark Tilson of the Black Hills Alliance. Although Tilson was not available for comment,

Means denies charges that it is intentionally misleading.

Means said he announced benefit for Yellow Thunder tickets went on sale Monday that the money would not only to Yellow Thunder Camp, but also to provide information on South Dakota's water resources, a pipeline and other matters.

Means would not disclose the percentage of the proceeds will go to the water development, but private information.

Rushmore Plaza personnel have posted an article on their table explaining that the benefit Yellow Thunder

Arkansas quake possibility worse than nuclear war

United Press International
MEMPHIS, Tenn. — Earth tremors causing little or no damage are common along the New Madrid fault, but experts say an earthquake similar to a series of shocks felt early in the last century would cause disaster "only eclipsed by an all-out nuclear war."

A report has spurred the Arkansas Office of Emergency Services to study 31 Arkansas counties as part of a seven-state assessment of the potential effects of a severe earthquake.

"The relief services needed will be beyond the capability of local governments as well as local relief agencies such as the Red Cross. Only the federal government will have the resources to provide immediate relief and even it will be taxed to the limit," a report submitted to the Federal Emergency Management Agency said.

The report was prepared in January by Otto W. Nuttli of the department of Earth and atmospheric sciences at St. Louis University.

This week FEMA staff members are putting the finishing touches on a "loss survey" of the Little Rock metropolitan area to show local officials how to conduct similar studies.

FEMA staffers were in Memphis two weeks ago compiling information for the study, Travis Ratcliff of Denton Texas said.

"We looked at all of your schools, your hospitals and the major community lifelines like communications and water facilities," Ratcliff told the Commercial Appeal Tuesday.

He said the data was turned over to the U.S. Geological Survey for a computer analysis of facilities and the soil types where they are located. He said a "loss report" was expected by Sept. 30, 1982 "so that we can then start working on an interregional federal response plan" to provide relief to the central Mississippi Valley in the event of a damaging earthquake.

Ed Stalleup, a state and local planner with Emergency Services

in Little Rock, said the New Madrid zone ranks second in the country to California as a seismic hazard area. The zone from Southern Indiana, Mississippi Delta,

"You have to know your threat is before you steps to mitigate it," Stalleup said.

Nuttli's report indicates a "percent probability" by then for an earthquake equal in magnitude to a series of tremors formed Reelfoot Lake and dramatic shifts in the northwest Tennessee and west Kentucky in 1811 and 1812. Those earthquakes were estimated at magnitude 7.5 on the Richter Scale.

Nuttli said quakes similar to those of 1811-1812 at sent time would cause a quake whose magnitude would be eclipsed by an all-out nuclear war.

The report said there is a 10 percent probability that a quake of magnitude 6.5 will occur on the New Madrid fault by the year 2000.

A quake of magnitude 6.5 felt by humans and slight can occur in quakes of magnitude 3.5. A quake of magnitude 3.5 cause severe damage.

The 1906 earthquake in San Francisco was measured on the Richter Scale.

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