

Lighting East Texas homes may cost more

United Press International
DALLAS — Cost overruns and construction delays at the controversial Comanche Peak nuclear power plant reflect a significant part of a \$188 million rate increase request planned by Texas Power & Light Co.

For an average residential customer, electric bills could jump by more than 20 percent. Officials announced Monday they would file a new request Friday with the Public Utility Commission and cities it serves for a \$188 million increase in the company's base rate.

The company's rate hike proposal would affect more than 750,000 customers in 51 counties of North, Central and East Texas and several suburban cities around Dallas.

Spokesman Danny Teague told UPI the overall rate increase request included \$774 million for construction work in progress, and 73.4 percent of that amount was for Comanche Peak.

"There's no denying that Comanche Peak is a part of this rate increase," Teague said. "We need it to meet our customers' demand for power. We're gaining 30,000 customers a year to our system, and we must meet those electrical needs."

Teague defended the plant, saying the cost per kilowatt-hour for nuclear-generated power is far less than for power generated by natural gas or oil.

If the increase were granted, it would mean an increase of 15.2 percent in the company's revenues and result in a monthly increase of \$12.17 for an average residential customer using 1,040 kilowatt hours each month, or a 20.1 percent increase, including fuel.

Residential customers — with a 20.1 percent increase in electricity — would be harder hit than most other customers of the utility.

The proposal would increase bills for municipal services by

28.5 percent, small commercial and industrial customers by 12.2 percent and larger commercial and industrial customers by 11.6 percent.

Teague said homeowners and apartment residents were bearing the brunt of the increase because the PUC had mandated customers in each class of service more closely pay the cost of service.

TP&L President Bob Campbell said the utility needed the additional money to ensure quality service and ensure the company's financial soundness.

"We never like having to ask for rate relief from our customers," Campbell said. "But rate increases are essential if we are to provide the quality of service that our customers expect."

"TP&L was granted only one-fourth of the last request for rate relief filed in March 1981, and it was simply insufficient to enable the company to pay its day-to-day expenses and to offer an adequate return to investors."

Budget cuts to close regional OSHA offices

United Press International
DALLAS — Reagan administration budget cuts are forcing the Occupational Safety and Health Administration to close offices in three Southwest states, but the agency chief said he hoped workers' safety would not be compromised.

"We hope, and it's our goal, that it will mean no reduction in protection for employees working at unsafe work sites," Regional Administrator Gilbert J. Sautler said.

On April 23, area offices will be closed in Fort Worth, Harlingen, Clear Lake City and Tyler, Tulsa, Okla., and New Orleans.

Also being closed are OSHA district offices in Beaumont and El Paso; and the San Antonio field station. The Corpus Christi district office will be upgraded to area office status.

Instead of having 14 offices in the Southwest region, OSHA will have nine.

Sautler said: "I will still have the same number of compliance personnel (job safety inspectors) — 145 — but there have been significant reductions in the number of clerical and supervisory personnel."

"We decided it was more efficient to consolidate (close) the offices to reduce administrative

costs. We would have liked to have more inspectors."

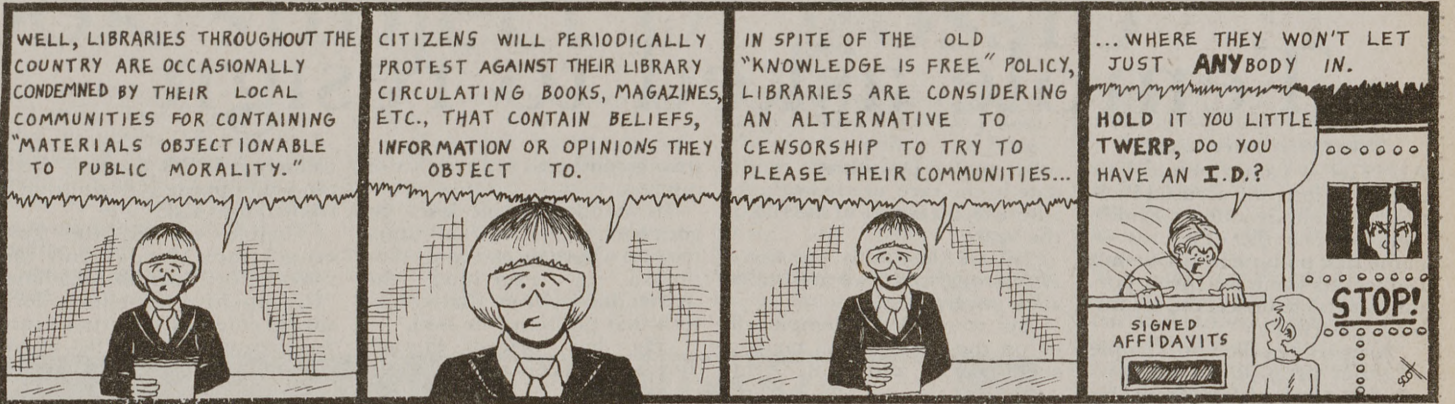
Nationally, because of President Reagan's budget cuts, OSHA's requested budget of \$224 million was cut to \$192 million.

"I realize we all have to live with some changes," Sautler said. "It will take a little longer to get from Dallas to a point near Shreveport than it would have from Tyler."

"If it's an imminent danger situation, we call the employer and ask that prompt corrective action be taken, and we'll be there as soon as we can. That will still be our mode of operation."

Warped

By Scott McCullar



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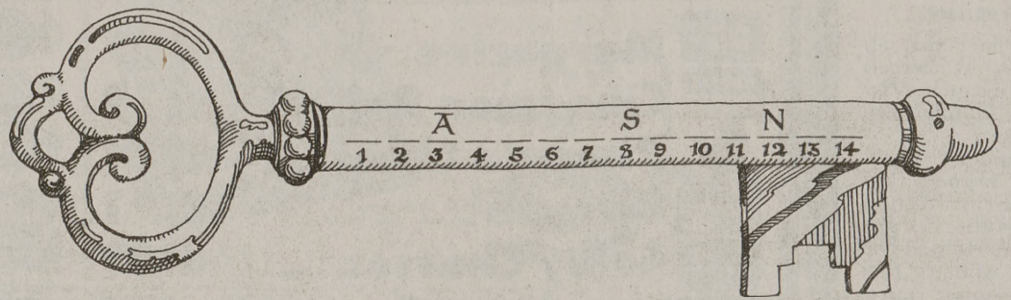
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THE QUEST OF THE SECRET CITY SWEEPSTAKES



here's a city in Europe—you could travel there free.
So unravel these riddles, and uncover its key.



TO PLAY THE GAME:

Answer each of the riddles that will appear here each week in February. Write your answer in the blanks below each riddle. The letters with numbers below them correspond to the numbered spaces in the master key. As you fill in the letters of the master key, you will be spelling the name and location of a secret city in Europe. Send us the solution, and you and a friend could win a trip there, free.

TO ENTER SWEEPSTAKES:

1. NO PURCHASE NECESSARY.
2. Grand Prize consists of two regular round-trip economy airfares to the secret city, 30-day Eurail passes, American Youth Hostel passes, two backpacks and \$1000 in cash.
3. Cut out master key for use as official entry blank or use 3" x 5" card. Print your answer along with your name and address. Mail to Secret City Sweepstakes, P.O. Box 6019, Norwalk, CT 06852.
4. The first 1,000 correct respondents will receive a poster as an entry prize.
5. All entries must be received by 3/15/82. Enter as often as you wish, but each entry must be mailed separately.
6. A random drawing of all correct entries will be held 3/22/82 by the Highland Group, an independent judging organization whose decision is final.
7. Sweepstakes void where prohibited, taxed or otherwise restricted.
8. All potential winners may be required to sign an affidavit of eligibility to verify compliance with the rules within 30 days of receipt of same. For a list of prize winners, send self-addressed, stamped envelope to Secret City Sweepstakes c/o Highland Group, 16 Knight St., Norwalk, CT 06851.



WHAT AM I?

Upon a staff I sit,
I tell the name and pitch,
Not one, not two, but three,
Instruct the symphony.

1 7 9
(Answer to Week #1 Riddle: SNAIL)

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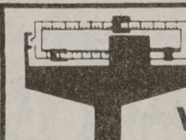
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