

# Nuclear plant plans halted

United Press International  
WALLIS—Many residents of this small town 45 miles west of Houston are bitter about Houston Lighting & Power Co.'s decision to cancel its planned \$2 billion Allens Creek nuclear power plant.

Some say the utility ought to compensate them for their preparations to accommodate the facility.

In anticipation of rapid growth predicted by HL&P in 1972, school districts consolidated and sold \$4 million in bonds to fund a new school for new residents, including an expected 2,400 construction workers.

Wallis created and incorporated fire and police departments and levied taxes to pay for them.

But on Aug. 26, HL&P announced it was canceling the

project because of rising costs and the difficulty of getting a federal construction license. Construction on the project never began.

"They're pulling out, and we're left footing the bill," said Mayor Frank Petter. "Luckily, we businessmen didn't build all the houses and apartments HL&P wanted us to when they started this project up."

"We didn't need to incorporate to begin with. We were too small. We only did it because of HL&P."

HL&P has asked the Texas Public Utilities Commission to let it recover the \$300 million plus it spent getting ready to build the plant.

"We're pretty bitter," Petter said. "HL&P is trying to charge off and recover their losses on Allens Creek but we're not in-

cluded in their losses. I think, somehow, Wallis should be compensated."

HL&P spokesman Graham Painter denied HL&P urged the town to take any particular steps to prepare for growth.

"We informed them of anticipated growth so they could take steps to cope with growth," Painter said. "The blame for the cancellation of this project is with the federal government."

The utility had said construction on the project would create many jobs and pump \$149 million annually into the area's economy.

HL&P Painter said HL&P was just as disappointed as Wallis community leaders because it wanted the plant to meet growing energy demands.

HL&P blames the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for repeated delays in licensing con-

struction of the plant. Allens Creek was the subject of what officials said was the longest license hearing in NRC history.

Opponents said they wanted to stop the plant because it was a threat to the environment. They said HL&P, which has had much trouble building the South Texas Nuclear Project, was not competent to build a nuclear plant.

HL&P denied both charges at the NRC hearings, but still had to fight its way through licensing processes which remained incomplete when cancellation was announced.

People are angry over high school taxes for construction of a new high school built for 750 students that currently serves

240. Officials said they thought the plant would pay for the school.

"We're farm people. We're not city people. We have farm incomes and farmers are going broke," Petter said. "A lot of businesses are going to close. Taxes are taking too much of the businesses' income."

HL&P announced the plant in 1972 as a two-reactor plant. They shelved it in 1975, then revived it in 1976 as a one-reactor project. Before the project finally was scrapped, the latest target date for completion was 1991.

Painter said HL&P has no plans to sell the site and might build a coal-fired plant there in the early 1990s.

## Entries due Oct. 7 for holiday parade

by Kelly Krauskopf  
Battalion Reporter  
The Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce will welcome the holiday season Nov. 21 by sponsoring the annual holiday parade. And it's not too early to start thinking about it — entry deadline is Oct. 7.

Rodger Lewis, chairman of the parade committee, said he expects this year's crowd attendance and parade entries to be double past parades partly due to the date of the event. Last year, the parade was held in late December when most Texas A&M students were leaving for the holidays, he said, and there were not as many entries as there could have been.

Lewis said entries may range from bands and speciality units to student entries and civic groups. In order to keep the parade reasonably sized, Lewis said, a limit of 100 units will be

accepted with a \$10 entry fee.

Each category has a limit on the number of units. There will be 60 floats, 20 bands, 10 marching units, five mounted units and five speciality units. The parade committee will screen the entries to find the most entertaining and interesting ones in each category so the audience gets the best possible parade to watch, Lewis said.

Prizes will be awarded to outstanding float entries. The grand prize is \$500, first prize is \$400 and second prize is \$200.

Lewis said building a float can cost as much as \$500. A basic framework of chicken-wire and paper over a car or truck may be used, or printed guides to float building can be purchased, he said.

"There are also companies in Brenham and Houston who will build the float for you for about \$500," Lewis said. The names of

these companies, along with printed guidelines may be picked up at the Chamber of Commerce Visitor Information Center.

To help with expenses, Lewis said, \$100 sponsorships are offered to individuals and businesses. Sponsors will be seated in the reviewing stands about one-quarter mile from the parade start.

Lewis said President Reagan has been invited to be honorary grand marshal and Gov. Bill Clements has been invited to be grand marshal, but Lewis said he has not received answers from either. Several professional athletes and well-known performers also have been invited but will not be publicized unless they agree to attend, he said.

Entry forms and information are available at the Bryan-College Station Chamber of Commerce office at 693-6552.

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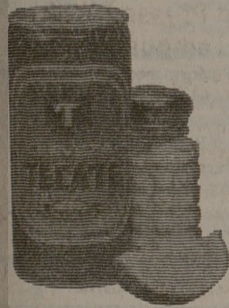
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