

State and Local

Gramm: Energy Department to delay nuclear dump completion for 5 years

WASHINGTON (AP) — Sen. Phil Gramm said Tuesday the Department of Energy will delay the targeted completion date for the nation's first high-level nuclear dump for five years to give itself and Congress a chance to re-evaluate the program.

Rep. Larry Combest, D-Lubbock, said the change represented only a reassessment by the department of its timetable for completion of the project and not a rethinking of the projected goal.

Gramm, R-Texas, said, "I have learned that the Department of Energy will issue an amended mission plan in response to concerns raised by me and others about the nuclear waste repository siting."

The action, anticipated today, would move the government's projected completion date of the waste repository from 1998 to 2003 and could mean a delay of the entire nuclear waste repository program for

up to five years, Gramm said.

The DOE could not be reached for comment Tuesday night.

A nine-square-mile area in the Texas Panhandle is one of three sites now being considered by the DOE for location of the nation's first high-

level nuclear waste dump. The other sites are in the states of Washington and Nevada.

"I don't see this as stopping the process," Combest said. "I think they began to reassess their time frame, so they delayed it. It's a partial victory in that any delay gives us the chance

"When that whole controversy erupted, DOE said there was less need for second site. But the law calls for second site. And I said that if those circumstances have changed then let's go back to revisit issue."

— Sen. Phil Gramm

it was dropping those plans and would only build one repository in the West.

Gramm said the DOE decided on the five-year completion delay in order to give itself and Congress a chance to re-study the plan in light of changes in the nuclear industry

that could make one of the two sites unnecessary.

Sen. Lloyd Bentsen, D-Texas, was instrumental in cutting more than \$200 million from the Energy Department's nuclear waste disposal program last year and obtained an opinion from the General Accounting Office saying the DOE decision to drop the Eastern site was illegal.

"When that whole controversy erupted, DOE said there was less need for second site," Gramm said. "But the law calls for second site. And I said that if those circumstances have changed then let's go back to revisit issue. The five-year delay will allow us to do that."

The Texas site, just west of Amarillo in Deaf Smith County, is on an enormous salt deposit that scientists believe would be a potentially safe geological formation to store high-level nuclear wastes.

Owner plans to sell 2 local radio stations for \$4.8 million

By Doug Driskell
Reporter

Local radio station owner Carolyn G. Vance announced Tuesday she is going to sell stations KTAM and KORA to San Antonio-based Clear Channel Communications Inc.

"It has been with great love that I have owned KTAM and KORA, yet I am delighted to be able to turn them over to a quality organization such as Clear Channel," she said.

Clear Channel Communications Inc., which owns radio stations in Kentucky, Louisiana, New Jersey, Oklahoma and Texas, and television station K28AK in Bryan-College Station, plans to spend \$4.8 million for the two stations, pending the approval of the Federal Communications Commission.

The properties are leading stations in the market and represent opportunities for continued growth, said L. Lowry Mays, president and chief executive officer of Clear Channel Communications, Inc.

Mays, who is a member of the

Texas A&M Board of Regents and graduated from A&M in 1957, said he always wanted an investment in the A&M community and is happy that Vance is selling the stations to Clear Channel Communications.

KORA was founded in 1947. Vance became owner in 1973. At that time, KORA were the call letters of both the AM and FM frequencies. She changed KORA-AM to KTAM in order to tie the station closer to the Texas A&M campus, station manager Ben Downs said.

KTAM is the broadcaster of Texas A&M football, basketball and baseball. It contributed over \$10,000 to the Brazos Valley Rehabilitation Center last year and raised \$11,000 plus 20,000 toys for needy children through the Radio M.A.S.H. Toy Drive over Christmas, Downs said.

A northern broadcasting corporation offered to buy the stations from Vance, but when she mentioned they served Texas A&M, the corporation asked what A&M was, Downs explained. This incident ce-

mented the idea to go to Clear Channel Communications.

Vance has had a relationship with Clear Channel Communications for

Austin group seeks to recall mayor, council

AUSTIN (AP) — A businessman launched a petition drive Tuesday seeking to recall the mayor and entire Austin City Council for what he called their failure to get things done.

"The mayor and city council, although personally nice people, just are not providing the leadership for Austin that we elected them to provide for these critical times," said Bryan Hardeman, chairman of Send a Message to City Hall.

Hardeman, an auto dealer, said he is optimistic about collecting the 26,000 signatures needed to force the recall election, which would force Mayor Frank Cooksey and the six council members to "run against their own record."

Hardeman said taxes, utility rates and fees have increased while services dwindled. He said promises to protect the environment have been unfulfilled and little economic progress has been

made during the current council's term.

"We have heard more about decorating new city offices . . . than we have heard about jobs," he said.

Dick Stanford, spokesman for the recall drive, said Hardeman's group believes an overhaul is needed, so it is pushing the recall rather than supporting opponents to incumbent council members, three of whom are up for re-election in April.

"The problem is not just one member on the council," he said. "We want to fire the entire council for not delivering."

If a recall election is held, each incumbent would be listed separately, and one could survive while another might not, Stanford said.

Cooksey failed to return two calls Tuesday from the Associated Press.

Council member Sally Shipman said she would encourage those seeking a recall to run for the council instead.

"When I ran in 1983, I felt we needed to do a better job of planning," she said. "I have my own opportunity for recall April 4th" when she stands for re-election.

Council member Mark Rose said he agrees leadership has been lacking and said he has been frustrated trying to work with the current council.

"There's no question there is a leadership problem," said Rose, who also served under former Mayor Ron Mullen.

But Rose, who is seeking re-election, said he's not sure if a recall effort is the answer.

In Advance

OPAS concert offers 'instant culture'

By Karl Pallmeyer
Music Critic

Get ready for the musical deal of the century.

To be truly cultured, one needs to attend a concert of a symphony orchestra performing the works of Ludwig van Beethoven, Peter Ilyich Tchaikovsky, Igor Stravinsky, Johann Sebastian Bach, Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart, Richard Wagner, Georges Bizet, Johannes Brahms, Frederic Chopin and Franz Schubert, to name but a few.

Spending all that time at the symphony probably could run into a lot of bucks and definitely a lot of boredom. You can save time, money and thumb-twiddling by going to see the Cambridge Buskers **Thursday night at 8 p.m. in Rudder Auditorium.**

They promise to play many works by the composers listed above in only two short hours, they're not asking much money for tickets and they claim to be funny.

The Cambridge Buskers are Michael Copley and David Abraham Gillespie (Dag) Ingram, two musicians who play accordion, recorders, flutes, ocarinas, kazoo, pan pipes, penny whistle and a dozen other wind instruments.

They met at Cambridge University and began playing, or busking, for money on the streets of London.

Their music was uncommon — few people had ever heard Beethoven's Ninth Symphony performed on penny whistle and accordion, or a medley combining Mozart's "Eine Kleine Nachtmusik" with Scott Joplin's "The Entertainer."

The duo's busking on streets throughout Europe earned them money from appreciative crowds, as well as arrests by the not-so-appreciative police.

In Germany, they attracted the interest of the music industry and were asked to come in off the streets to play inside concert halls.

They were offered a recording contract with Deutsche Grammophon, the largest and most prestigious classical music record label. Since 1977, they have released five albums and have played to sell-out crowds from stages and on streets around the world.

The Memorial Student Center Opera and Performing Arts Society will be sponsoring the Cambridge Buskers. Tickets are \$6.25 for students, \$7.25 for non-students and are available at the Rudder Box Office.

PRETENDERS



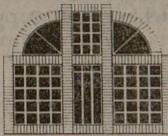
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Dr. Jarvis and Alma Miller, managing directors
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