

\$2.5 billion power complex planned in N. M.

ALBUQUERQUE (AP) — A \$2.5 billion coal-fired power generating complex is planned for construction by the 1990s in northwest New Mexico by three utilities providing electricity to New Mexico.

Public Service Co. of New Mexico, El Paso Electric Co. and Plains Electric Generation and Transmission Cooperative announced their proposal Monday.

"This plan follows a three-year study by the utilities of their future generation needs,

fuel options, sites and economics of the land and water development potential for constructing generating facilities in New Mexico," the utilities said in a news release.

Pending state and federal approvals, the first unit is expected to be brought into commercial service in the 1983-1985 time period, the utilities said. The others are tentatively scheduled for service in 1987, 1989, 1990 and 1991.

The utilities said New Mexico "will continue to experience

gains in population which are now running twice the national average. This influx of residents as well as the increased mining and energy related industrial development is the primary reason for the new facility.

The utilities said both coal-fired and nuclear possibilities were considered for the generators, "but the decision to use coal appeared to be the most prudent choice at this time. The nuclear option is being reserved for the future."

The 500 megawatt coal-fired generators, to be built about 25 miles south of Farmington, "are designed with the latest in environmental control systems and represent considerable improvement over the technology used at the time the older coal-fired Four Corners power plant was built," the utilities said.

"Some of the environmental control systems planned for the project include hot side electrostatic precipitators of the same general design as those now in operation at the San Juan generating station," the companies said. "These devices, by applying an electric charge to ash particles just as the hot combustion gas leaves the boiler, collect over 99.3 per

cent of this ash."

Sulfur dioxide removal systems are designed to meet or exceed New Mexico's regulations governing emissions and the equipment will also remove a portion of the ash which is not collected by the precipitators, the utilities said.

"Water used at the plant will be treated in a variety of ways, and no discharge will be necessary. Water will be recycled through the plant over and over until lost through natural evaporation," the companies said.

They also said the "most up-to-date methods of surface mining will be employed in providing fuel for the plant. This includes reclamation work proven successful at the San Juan mine."

Public Service Co. said it presently serves about half of New Mexico's residents through divisions in Albuquerque, Santa Fe, Las Vegas, Deming, Belen and Bernalillo. El Paso Electric serves customers in southern New Mexico, primarily in the Las Cruces area. Plains Electric serves rural customers primarily in the western two thirds of the state through 11 of the state's 17 electric cooperatives.

House panel OKs strip mining bill

By JOHN LENGEL
Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House Interior Committee tentatively approved on Monday a strip-mining control bill seen as the equal of proposals vetoed by former president Gerald Ford.

—Set standards for restoring the mined land.

—Require all mining companies to submit a comprehensive mining plan before receiving a permit.

—Allow states to enforce the federal standards through their

The Washington

Merry-Go-Round

By JACK ANDERSON
with Les Whitten

WASHINGTON—Tongsun Park, the Korean-about-town who passed out financial favors to Washington bigwigs, has no intention of returning to face bribery charges in the United States. The Justice Dept. considered his testimony crucial to making a case against congressmen on the take.

Another major witness in the Korean bribery scandal, Korean Embassy defector Kim Sang Keun, has been unable to give direct testimony about payoffs to congressmen.

These two developments, according to sources familiar with the investigation, probably will doom the dept.'s efforts to convict a single congressman of bribery.

We called attention to Park's operations as far back as April 1, 1974. By July 17, 1975, we were able to report for the first time that the Justice Dept. was investigating charges that the Koreans had tried to buy off congressmen.

Now we have had access to some of Park's papers, which were saved from the shredder. He has told associates categorically that he won't come back to the United States. The papers strongly indicate he has transplanted his base to London.

Payroll information, financial details and policy questions have been forwarded from his Washington headquarters to "Mr. T. S. Park, 44 Green Street, London, W1Y3FJ, United Kingdom." The papers also contain references to a staff member in London.

The Korean entrepreneur,

organized by Rep. Edward Beard, D-R.I., a former painter, boasts that its 11 members were erstwhile pipefitters, glass workers, bartenders, longshoremen and boxers.

Actually, only three members came to Congress direct from their blue-collar jobs. Rep. Paul Simon, D-Ill., claims credentials as a printer. Yet at age 19, he purchased his own newspaper and became publisher of a large chain of Illinois weeklies.

Rep. Dale Kildee, D-Mich., lists his credentials as an electrician. All he did, it turns out, was help install lights in a Michigan foundry for about a month in 1967.

Rep. John Dent, D-Pa., was a rubber worker in his early years. But he has spent the last 40 years as a legislator and executive in various coal, building and transportation companies.

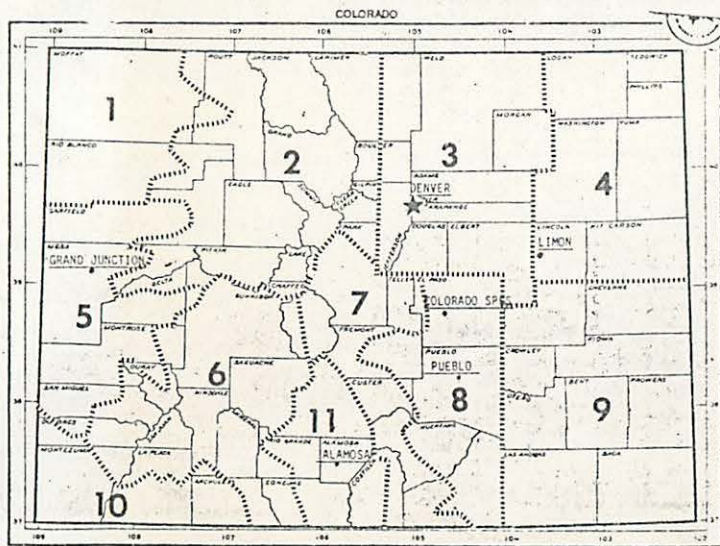
And Rep. Gus Yatron, D-Pa., a former heavyweight boxer, spent years as a successful businessman before coming to Washington.

Berry



"Genetic scientists nothing but..."

State Zone Weather Forecast



Zones 3, 4 — Cloudy and cool with periods of rain or drizzle likely through Wednesday. Rain mixed with snow at times mainly nights and mornings. Possible thunderstorms afternoons and evenings. Highs today and Wednesday 40s and lower 50s. Lows tonight 25 to 35. Winds variable 5 to 15 mph today and tonight. Precipitation probability 80 per cent today, 70 per cent tonight, 60 per cent Wednesday.

ity 70 per cent today and tonight, 60 per cent Wednesday.

Zones 6, 7 — Variable cloudiness and cool with rain or snow likely through Wednesday. Possible thunderstorms mainly afternoons and evenings. Highs today and Wednesday 40s and lower 50s. Lows tonight mostly 20s. Winds southwest to west 10 to 25 mph today and tonight. Precipitation probability 60 per cent today and tonight, 50 per cent Wednesday.

ALLEY OOP





at Columbine Junior High for the month of back, Marshall Bowen, Patti Plumer, and Stacie Looper, Barbara Wilson, and Bryan son of Mr. and Mrs. Ray Bowen. "He is a Junior Honor Society and the house of spokesman said. "He participates in has won several awards and is also the academic awards. He is well liked by all his students for his sense of humor and sense of spokesman said. Miss Plumer, the daughter of Plumer, "is one of the most outstanding of Columbine. She is active in sports, and has records in track. She is a cheerleader, vice Junior Honor Society, a member of mini- of representatives, and was team captain of the recent Knowledge Bowl. She is a state Teenage America pageant, and has been st Club and Lions Club, just to name a few of," the spokesman said. Finnegan is the son of Finnegan. "He is manager of the Colum- forms this task extremely well," the is the winner of several speech meets and Optimist Club. He is an active committee lis to complete a job he starts. An honor roll the house of representatives and vice- b, David feels he is doing his share to make sive, great, school." Miss Looper is a pine and is the daughter of Mrs. Jan Looper. come very involved in many activities, in- b, and gymnastics. She is an honor roll stu- dge Bowl participant. Her friendliness and many friends," the spokesman said. Miss r. and Mrs. Wayne Wilson, "is an honor roll the House of Representatives, and very ac- several first place ribbons in track last spr- basketball player. She sings in her church her church activities. She is very helpful to w students," the spokesman said. Hawks, hn Hawks, "enjoys all sports. He has been otball, basketball, track and rodeoing, win- He has been in 4-H for five years, vice- ers, and is now 4-H councilor. He is proud to pine and always does his best to accomplish t," the spokesman said. (Columbine J.H.S.

sits

Fast Ship
The oceanliner The United States, which set the Atlantic crossing record in 1952, was the fastest ever placed in service. The ship frequently cruised faster than 36 knots. Designed for conversion to a troopship, the 817-foot vessel could steam at 40 knots, or 48 land miles an hour. Removed from service in 1970, the ship is berthed at Norfolk.

Between 1932 and 1935 Paraguay and Bolivia fought a war over a desolate plain called the Chaco. Paraguay won the war and the major part of the Chaco.

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Huge gasification plant plan

By **BILL DENSMORE**
Associated Press Writer
CHICAGO (AP) — Two of the nation's largest utilities, citing a projected doubling in the price of natural gas by 1981, have agreed to build the first half of a \$1.2 billion coal gasification plant in a small North Dakota town.

Spokesmen for subsidiaries of Peoples Gas Co. in Chicago and Michigan Consolidated Gas Co. in Detroit said late Tuesday the plant is one of a handful of commercially feasible projects on the drawing boards in the United States to extract methane gas from coal.

The project would produce 137.5 million cubic feet per day of methane gas suitable for home use, a Peoples' Gas spokesman said—enough gas to meet about one-seventh of Chicago's gas needs in mild weather.

Gas extracted from the coal would be used mainly in Illinois, Indiana, Iowa, Michigan

and Wisconsin, the utilities said.

The preliminary pact between the two firms calls for first-phase construction totaling \$600 million. Each firm would chip in \$75 million in capital and seek federal loan guarantees for the other \$450 million.

"By the early 1980s we expect that the price of gas is going to double," and it may triple by the mid-1980s, said Robert W. Lindgren, a vice president of energy resources at the Chicago-based Natural Gas Pipeline Co.

The current wholesale price of natural gas from operating southwestern U.S. fields averages about \$1.44 per 1,000 cubic feet, Lindgren said.

But supplies from existing sources are dwindling, and the two utilities said they expect to market gas extracted from the North Dakota soft coal at \$4 to \$5 per 1,000 cubic feet in the early 1980s.

"The traditional sources will

be unable to meet the demand," Lindgren said, "and if we don't bring in less conventional sources, then the amount of gas we're going to have available to sell is going to decrease."

The technology to take methane gas from coal is not particularly complex and has been around for some time. But it has not been a serious option for utilities as long as natural gas could be pumped from underground fields at a fraction the cost.

Lindgren's company and the American Natural Resources Co., of Detroit, say they will build the huge plant for extracting the coal in Beulah, N.D., a town of 1,344 persons in the west-central part of the state 75 miles west of Bismark.

It would be in the middle of one of the nation's largest deposits of lignite, or soft coal, that can be strip-mined easily.

To get the gas, the plant will consist of several airtight vessels 50 feet high and 14 feet in diameter. Inside, the coal will be placed under high pressure, and water at high temperatures pumped in.

The addition of the water and pressure—and transfer to separate containers where additional chemical changes occur—yields tar, plus methane, sulfur, ammonia and other gases, project spokesmen said. He said flyash—a solid residue—will be placed in the open pit where the coal was mined to be buried during reclamation of the scarred land.

PSC withdraws rate hike request

DENVER (AP) — Public Service Co. of Colorado has withdrawn its request for a \$25 million increase in electric rates, but said it would seek increases in both gas and electric rates in the near future.

The combined gas-electric increases would be more than \$25 million, a company spokesman said Tuesday, but the exact amount has not been determined.

Public Service filed its request for the \$25 million electric rate increase with the state Public Utilities Commission on Feb. 17. The increase, 8.8 per cent, would have added \$1.50 a month to the bill of about \$16 now paid by the average household user, the company said.

The PUC last week suspended the rate increase request and said it would schedule public hearings on it. Such hearings would probably have produced substantial consumer opposition and could have delayed implementation of the rate increase until October.

Public Service's president, R. F. Walker, said Tuesday the company's Feb. 17 request "clearly established the need for immediate rate relief based on criteria already established by the commission."

He said the company "is


clearly disappointed that the PUC didn't recognize the company's need for immediate rate relief."

Public Service will file new requests for gas as well as electric rate increases as soon as complete data necessary to support the rate request are available, Walker said.

Public Service serves about three-quarters of the state and is Colorado's largest public utility.

A leopon is a cross between a leopard and a lion. The world's first leopons were born in Tokyo's Hanshin Park Zoo.

The country of Malta is made up of three islands, Malta, Gozo and Comino, and two islets. The total area of this Mediterranean nation is 122 square miles.



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