

Shearon Harris' spring '87 opening to fuel electric bills

By STEPHANIE BURROW
Staff Writer

When the Shearon Harris nuclear plant juices up for commercial operation next spring, Chapel Hill residents will not be affected.

The plant is owned by Carolina Power & Light and would serve the areas that CP&L serves. Chapel Hill and Durham, however, are serviced exclusively by Duke Power Company.

According to Mack Harris of CP&L, the plant will provide service to 860,000 residential, industrial and commercial customers and will

produce only a portion of the electricity that customers will use.

The rest of the electricity will be generated by present methods, he said.

CP&L serves cities in North Carolina east of Raleigh, in southwest North Carolina around Asheville, and in northwest South Carolina.

"Our customers will see no differences in service because it's all electricity," Harris said. "It doesn't make any difference how it is generated."

"There will be a rate increase, however," Harris said. "The building

and use of the plant will have an impact of a 20 to 25 percent increase. That won't all happen at one time, though."

Harris said that in the past when new plants were built they were larger and more efficient — utilities used to be a decreasing-cost industry.

But now bringing new plants into service costs more and utilities has become an increasing-cost industry.

"Do not look at it (the building of the plant) in isolation — that's wrong," Harris said. "It was built to allow for growth in the area. With additional customers and businesses

moving into the area, we must build facilities to meet the growth."

"The decision to build a nuclear power source was made on the basis of an analysis which showed it to be the most cost-efficient way to meet the needs of the growing area," Harris said.

Plans for the \$3.6 billion plant began in the early '70s. Actual construction began in 1978, and the plant is just nearing completion.

According to Harris, the plant will actually begin generating power this fall as part of a testing process. It was scheduled to be licensed and

loaded with nuclear fuel in July.

"First you must obtain a license to begin testing," he said. "During testing you produce electricity at various levels for various periods of time."

"On the basis of your testing results, a decision is made as to whether or not to put the plant into commercial operation," Harris said.

Harris said that a general evacuation plan had been approved by four surrounding counties, although there had been some discrepancy over the summer when Chatham County withdrew its approval.

Chatham County officials have since voted to renew their approval. The plan was reviewed in May 1985 and was deemed to be satisfactory, Harris said.

"Orange County is not in any way involved with the plan," Harris said. "The radius for the emergency plan is the area within 10 miles of the plant and is considered to be greater than adequate."

"Outside of that radius, exposure would not exceed EPA levels of radiation exposure in the event of a nuclear accident," he said.

Follow-up study to trace smokers health

By SUSAN JENSEN
Staff Writer

The American Cancer Society's Cancer Prevention Study II (CPS II) will begin its second follow-up in early September, and volunteers are contacting local residents who participated in the original program to gather current information on their health.

In 1982, CPS II recruited 283 participants to fill out questionnaires concerning health, family history,

job and home environments, eating, drinking and smoking habits and other aspects of lifestyle.

The purpose of the study is to follow the habits of people from a variety of social and ethnical backgrounds over a long period of time to determine if there is any correlation between the answers on the questionnaires and the development of cancer, according to Betty Francisco, chairman of the Orange County Unit's CPS II.

Participants were given identification numbers and their files were sent to Washington, D.C. in sealed envelopes.

The files are now being studied to give scientists an idea of which factors may encourage the development of cancer during the subject's lifetime.

In 1984, the participants were contacted for the first time since the questionnaires and asked about

current health status. The follow-up this month will be the second one.

Doctors also supplied CPS with death certificates for those who had died since the beginning of the study. This follow-up will register address changes and report any new illnesses or mortalities among the subjects.

Following two more updates, one of which is planned for September, 1988, the information gathered will be compared with cancer studies in other countries.

Seven volunteers have been keeping track of the local participants.

Of all the factors studied, food has been a major question in the study and CPS II has come up with the same guidelines as the AMA for reducing fat and sugar intake to fight against cancer, said Dorothy Basnight, one of the volunteer workers.

CPS II is best known for its determination that cigarette smoking is a major cause of respiratory

illness, Basnight said.

"This study is a help (in nailing down the causes of cancer), but we have a long way to go," she said.

The study group has already collected important data on the smoking habits of physicians, nurses and dentists, along with information on the effects of artificial sweeteners, she said.

"I think that the program has the potential to do a lot of good for cancer research," Francisco said.

Besides the study, the Orange County unit of the Cancer Society will sponsor a quit-smoking program, "Freshstart," Sept. 8, 10, 15 and 17.

The group, lead by Salli Benedict, will meet from 7:30-9:00 p.m. in the conference room of Duke Power Company on Homestead Road in Chapel Hill.

For more information or to register, call 942-1953.

Campus Calendar	Items of Interest
<p>The DTH Campus Calendar will appear daily. Announcements to be run must be placed in the box outside the Daily Tar Heel office, Room 104 of the Student Union, by noon one day before — weekend announcements by noon Wednesday. Only announcements from University-recognized campus organizations will be printed.</p>	<p>Attention Pre-Health Undergrads: Workshops are now offered to improve your interviewing skills. Sign up on bulletin board outside Pre-Health Advising Office on second floor of Steele.</p> <p>The Executive Branch of the Student Government announces the opening of two positions as Supreme Court Emergency Justice. Applications are available in Suite C, room 217, of the Union. Freshmen are not eligible for this position.</p> <p>UNC-CH Student Extracurricular Organization Applications for Official University Recognition 1986-87 are due September 15 in the basement of Steele Building.</p> <p>The Duke Craft Center is offering classes in pottery, photography, weaving, metal work/jewelry, blacksmithing, and woodworking. Registration is 12:00-4:00 p.m., Monday-Friday, in the Bryan Center (Duke's West Campus).</p>
<p>Thursday</p> <p>6:00 p.m. The Presbyterian Student Center is hosting an undergraduate student dinner at 110 Henderson Street.</p> <p>7:00 p.m. IVCF Granville/Off-campus chapter will meet in Granville East's Lower lounge. All welcome.</p>	



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