

Radiation levels high at Palo

Only 1 plant higher; IE blames exposure on repair work

By Dale Kuetter
Gazette staff writer

Employees and subcontractor workers at the Duane Arnold Energy Center near Palo received a collective exposure of 861 rems of radiation in 1990, the second-highest dosage among the nation's 113 nuclear power plants.

An official of Iowa Electric Light and Power Co., which operates the facility, said the exposure was high because of an extraordinary amount of work accomplished during a 74-day outage for refueling and repairs.

A typical outage, said IE spokeswoman Colleen Reilly, involves 12,500 to 15,000 man-hours in the drywell area of the reactor. "Last year's outage required 33,000 man-hours in the drywell."

Reilly said the company "used more lead shielding than ever before," during the repairs, "and applied chemical decontamination to two of the most radioactive systems. Those two steps alone saved over 500 rems of exposure."

Only the Fitzpatrick nuclear power plant in New York had a higher collective radia-

tion exposure in 1990, 884 rems.

A report by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) shows that the Palo plant had a three-year average collective dose that ranked eighth-highest in the nation. That includes two years in which the plant was down for refueling and repairs.

Reilly noted that the nuclear industry has made great strides in recent years in reducing radiation exposure. She said the 10-year industry average for boiling-water reactors, such as the one at Palo, is 794 rems of exposure per year. "The Palo plant average for that time was 604." Exposure at pressurized-water reactors is less.

The NRC last summer gave the facility one of its lowest ratings ever. That report mentioned the 861-rem exposure. Even though repair work was being done in the containment area where there is higher radiation, the NRC said that in some cases a better job of controlling exposure was possible.

"Just because they are No. 2 on the list doesn't indicate that they have a bad radiation protection program," said NRC regional spokesman Jan Strasma. He said 711 of the

rem exposure came during 74 days that the plant was down for refueling and repairs.

"They were doing a lot of (repair) work where exposure is highest, such as replacing recirculation pumps and valves inside the reactor containment area. In some cases a better job could have been done in planning repairs."

He said there could have been better rehearsal of work so as to minimize time spent in contaminated areas.

None of the employees or other workers at Duane Arnold received more than 3 rems during 1990, Strasma said. The NRC limits exposure to 3 rems in a quarter. Sixteen workers received 2 to 3 rems during the year.

In all, 1,460 people received some radiation exposure last year at the plant. That compares with 1,136 who had some dosage in 1988, the last outage for refueling and maintenance.

Reilly estimates radiation exposure for 1991, a non-outage year at the Palo plant, will be 205 rems.

Bush plans Iowa trip to support Grassley

DES MOINES (AP) — President Bush will travel to Iowa after the first of the year to raise money for Republican Sen. Charles Grassley's re-election campaign, Grassley said Thursday.

In a telephone interview, Grassley said Bush operatives asked him about the president's role in his campaign. They offered to raise money for Grassley in Washington or Iowa, he said.

"I asked them to do one in Iowa," Grassley said. "He will not do that until next year, but President Bush will come to Iowa for me."

Grassley has not formally made his intentions known but is almost a sure bet to seek a third six-year term in the Senate next year. He starts the campaign as a heavy favorite.

Democrats have not found a candidate, though state Sen. Jean Lloyd-Jones of Iowa City has said she's considering the race.

Bush's assistance would be a financial boon for Grassley, but that's an area of the race where Grassley needs little help. He is certain to raise far more money than any Democrat who gets in the race.

How much a Bush visit would help Grassley's popularity is less certain.

Springdale murder victim exhumed

Footprints needed to compare with those at site

From Gazette staff and wire reports

The body of a murdered Springdale man was exhumed Wednesday to see if his footprints match those found at the crime scene.

Cedar County Attorney Lee Beine said Tom Mather's footprints were not taken during the autopsy.

He said footprints were found near Mather "that weren't that obvious" during the initial part of the investigation. Beine said he believes the footprints at the scene will match Mather's.

"WE SUSPECT IT was his, but we need to exclude that," Beine said. "It really isn't, in our minds, that significant."

It is not known when the results of matching the footprints will be available.

State Medical Examiner Thomas Bennett said footprints aren't usually taken during autopsies.

He said he has taken perhaps two footprints out of 3,000 autopsies he has performed.

Mather's wife, Dawn, told authorities that she and Tom, 32, were watching television the night of Sept. 30 when a stranger entered their home and shot her

Tom Mather



husband.

She said she escaped and ran to a neighbor's house to report the shooting.

Cedar County Sheriff Keith Whitlatch said his department continues to develop new leads in its investigation.

"We just keep tracking them down. It's very time-consuming," Whitlatch said.

"What leads we have produced are the result of reinterviewing the parties involved, to see if anything new has come up," he said.

A COMPOSITE sketch of a suspect was released by the Iowa Division of Criminal Investigation but has not produced "anything fruitful," Whitlatch said.

Authorities were also unable to track down a white or light-colored car seen in the area shortly before the shooting, he said.

Iowa ranks last in per capita aid to state arts agencies

Iowa Newspaper Association

DES MOINES — Financially, Iowa ranks near the bottom of state arts agencies.

Iowa's ranking has dropped from 41st to 51st among 50 state and six territorial arts agencies, according to a report from the National Assembly of State Arts Agencies (NASAA).

THE PER CAPITA ranking reflects fiscal 1992 state appropriations to state arts agencies.

The figures show appropriations have decreased over 6½ percent in the Iowa Arts Council's budget since fiscal year 1991.

Natalie Hala, executive director of the Iowa Arts Council, said the deappropriation is strictly an economic issue.

"As an agency we are willing

to shoulder our responsibility in assisting the state in economic recovery. If the state is interested in a full recovery, including quality of life and education, the arts need to be a part of that infrastructure in turning the state around.

"I'M CONFIDENT future reports will indicate a recommitment to the arts in the state of Iowa," Hala said.

The Iowa Arts Council budget is less than 1/1000 of a percent of state general fund expenditures for fiscal year 1992, according to NASAA.

The Iowa Arts Council's budget dropped from \$1.2 million in fiscal 1991 (about 57 cents per person) to \$1.1 million in fiscal 1992 (about 42 cents per person).

Rely on us for East Iowa news



WE WANT YOUR FURNITURE!
Let Us Sell Your Furniture!

- You receive 100% of the price you set
- Eliminate the hassles
- Free pick up service

BUY IT HERE!

- New factory close-outs, samples, one-of-a-kinds
- Quality used furniture at bargain prices
- Antique and Art deco furniture

Hours: Mon. & Thurs. 10-8, Tues, Fri. & Sat. 10-5, Sun. 1-5, CLOSED WED.

Jeff Jones
FURNITURE CONSIGNMENT
AUTHORIZED FACTORY CLEARANCE CENTER

829 2nd AVE. SE 362-4324

Price Drop!

Enjoy Terrific Savings On Quality Dubuque Whole Pork Loin



\$1.99

5 to 7 Lb. Average

Lb.

While Supplies Last!

econo foods

OPEN 24 HOURS A DAY 7 DAYS A WEEK! "The Big Name For Value"

Just off Collins & Center Point Road and Westdale Mall in Cedar Rapids
Broadway & Hwy. 6 Bypass in Iowa City

Prices good through Nov. 17, 1991
SUN MON TUE WED THU FRI SAT
17 15 16