

Edison OK's uniform nuclear plants

By TIM RICHARD
Detroit Edison Co., which supplies electricity to most of southeast Michigan, is applauding the Carter Administration's energy proposal for standardization of nuclear generating plants.

"We're really all for it, from a power company's point of view," said Walter J. McCarthy Jr., executive vice-president for divisions.

"It would be different from the builders' and architects' points of view," he added. "They lose some autonomy."

THE PROBLEM in designing nuclear plants is this: "In licensing, the power company goes to a licensing department, which takes about 60 man-years to study it before approval."

"The industry says, 'Let's have standard designs.'"

"To do that will take a lot of work."

State plans public session on freeways

People with gripes about freeways and resulting problems will have a chance to tell their state legislators at a public hearing scheduled for 10 a.m. Monday, June 6, in the Liberal Arts Building at Schoolcraft College, 18600 Haggerty, Livonia.

The hearing is being held by the House Roads and Bridges Committee, of which State Rep. John Bennett (D-Redford) is chairman and Rep. Robert Law (R-Livonia) is a member.

Law said that residents will be given a chance to discuss the noise pollution problems incurred since last winter's opening of the I-275 freeway through western Wayne County.

He said the Livonia City Council has formally expressed its concern about the noise problem being experienced by residents who live in subdivisions adjacent to the freeway.

Another problem to be discussed will be lack of construction progress along the Jeffries Freeway (I-96) which goes through Redford and Livonia.

Law said the I-96 along Schoolcraft has been in the construction stage for eight years and "I feel it is about time we got some answers from the (Michigan) department of highways and transportation as to when they plan to complete this project."

Law said he hopes for a large turnout at the June 6 hearing.

We'll have to go to the builders, the architectural engineering firms, and get them to agree. All this is going to take a lot of pushing and shoving."

Detroit Edison is currently at work on the Fermi-2 nuclear power plant northeast of Monroe. Scheduled for completion in October of 1980, Fermi-2 generates 1.1 million kilowatts of electricity—enough to supply a million people—from a single unit.

Edison owns 80 per cent of Fermi-2, and the other 20 per cent is held by two electric cooperatives in northern lower Michigan.

ALSO UNDER construction is Edison's Greenwood-1 plant, about 15 miles northwest of Port Huron and 10 miles from Lake Huron.

It will generate 800,000 kilowatts—enough to serve 600,000 persons.

The \$330 million plant will burn low sulfur coal when it goes into operation in spring of 1979.

ANY STANDARDIZATION of designs, therefore, will come too late, no matter how quickly approved by Congress, to affect Fermi-2, McCarthy said.

McCarthy said Edison is now 82 per cent dependent on coal and views only coal and nuclear fuel as viable possibilities in the foreseeable future.

"We're a coal burning company."

Urban sprawl workshop title

The Coordinating Council on Human Relations (OCHRR), a coalition of 100 civic, education, ethnic, governmental, labor, religious, and social agencies and organizations will hold its 34th Annual Meeting and Community Conference on land abuse. It is titled "The Enemy: Metropolitan Sprawl," and will be held from 10 a.m. to 2 p.m. June 1 at the Wayne County Medical Society, 1010 Antietam, Detroit.

Workshops at 10 a.m., open to the public, will explore the effects of sprawl on education, housing, jobs, mass transit, social services and race relations.

Featured speaker at the noon luncheon will be State Rep. William Ryan (D-Detroit) speaking on the impact of metropolitan sprawl.

"The time to face the land abuse challenge is now," said Richard H. Loebenthal, coordinating council chairman. "Unless sprawl is promptly checked by city residents, conservationists, farmers, and suburbanites acting together, the quality of life throughout the entire region may be irreparably damaged."

For luncheon reservations at \$4.50 each, persons may contact Fred Linsell, 4th floor, 150 Michigan, Detroit 48226, phone 224-4964.

he summed it up.

Edison had to convert two burners in its St. Clair installation from burning "refinery residual oil" to coal because of air pollution problems with the oil. "The residual oil was a byproduct of a refinery operation. The only thing you can do with residual oil is burn it; it can't be used for home heating or in your car."

That was an expensive proposition for Edison—an investment of \$50 to \$75 million and two years of work. He likened the conversion to "converting

your car to coal" in terms of cost and complexity.

THE EDISON executive spoke recently to a luncheon of suburban editors and broadcasters, with Edison picking up the tab for cocktails and prime rib in a downtown Holiday Inn. Quizzed about employment patterns, McCarthy said he has no plans to increase greatly its staff of nuclear engineers. "We don't train any college-level engineers. We hire only a couple a year, just for replacement, of the 16 or 17 in the company."

County reaps jobs funding

Oakland County will soon receive \$34.7 million in federal money to provide public service jobs for the unemployed.

Oakland County Executive Daniel T. Murphy said the county will receive approximately enough to create 1,262 new jobs while sustaining the existing 2,018 public service jobs through September 30.

The funds are part of the Comprehensive Employment Training Act, which was passed by Congress in 1973 to alleviate temporary unemployment.

Presently the unemployment rate in the county is 7.6 per cent, or 34,625 unemployed out of a total work force of 453,000. If all other factors remain equal, the creation of 1,262 jobs will reduce the unemployment rate to 7.35 per cent.

In order to be eligible for a CETA Public Service Title II job, an appli-

cant must be a resident of Oakland County and unemployed at the time of application for at least 30 days, or underemployed and economically disadvantaged.

In order to be eligible for a CETA public service Title VI job, an applicant must be a resident of Oakland County, and meet an economic family income criteria (welfare recipients automatically qualify) and meet one of the following:

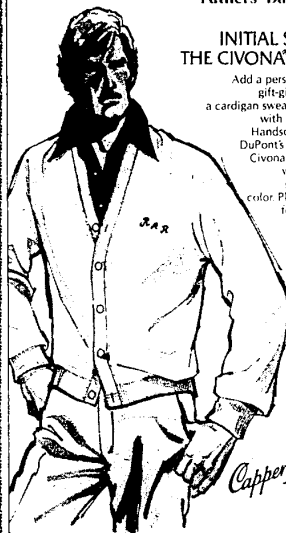
- Unemployed for 15 weeks or more;
- Have exhausted unemployment insurance benefits; or
- Be eligible for unemployment benefits.

With the addition of the \$34.7 million, this brings the county's total CETA program allocations to more than \$109 million from the program's inception in late 1974.

Fathers' Day June 19th

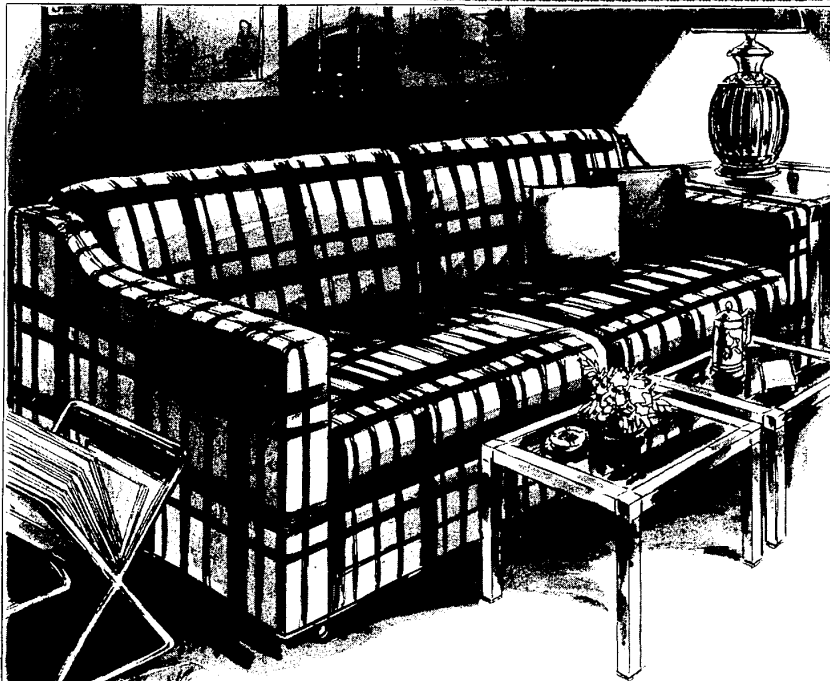
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