

NEWS



Hubert H. Humphrey

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FOR RELEASE - SUNDAY, NOVEMBER 7, 1971

HUMPHREY PROPOSES NATIONAL POWER GRID TO PREVENT URBAN BROWN-OUTS AND BLACK-OUTS

AUSTIN, MINNESOTA, November 6--Senator Hubert H. Humphrey today proposed the creation of a national power grid to distribute surplus electrical power to cities threatened by brown-outs and black-outs caused by power shortages.

Senator Humphrey said that existing regional grids must be expanded to form a national system of energy transmission capable of averting the growing electrical energy crisis in urban America.

Speaking at the dedication of a 37,000 kilowatt fossil fuel generating plant, Humphrey said that experts considered the creation of such a grid a feasible plan that would take three to five years to build and cost \$2 billion.

"Hundreds of millions of kilowatts of power are unavailable at times of need in many large cities because this nation has not planned for a national delivery system for electrical power," he said.

"We have built interstate highways, we have a national broadcast system, we have a sophisticated telecommunications system, why not a national power system."

The Senator said that "power shortages exist amid a power surplus because the Federal government has been preoccupied with stopgap measures in the field of energy transmission and has not adopted policies that would make the national power grid a reality."

"Our major power systems must be interconnected. When a summer afternoon heat wave hits New York City, adequate power is sometimes not available for the demands of millions of air

(more)

conditioned apartments, homes and office buildings. Yet, on the West Coast there may be abundant unused power. But we have no way of getting it there.

"A national power grid would give us the capability of using surplus power when and where it is needed.

"But the Federal government in cooperation with the states and local communities must formulate national energy policies designed to meet future energy needs at a minimum of cost to electrical consumers and with reduced rates of pollution.

"We will need 25 million more jobs by 1980. Our population and our GNP will grow enormously, placing great demands on our energy supplies. Americans already account for 32 per cent of the world's energy production. And we double our energy consumption every 27 years.

"If more power is to be produced whether by conventional or nuclear means we must ask:

"--Can we afford to build the power plants we need?

"--Where will we build them?

"--How can we eliminate the generation of electrical power as a source of air and water pollution?"

The Senator also called upon the Nixon Administration to provide states and local communities with funds to install or construct anti-pollution devices for electric generating facilities.

"Anti-pollution devices were luxuries 20 years ago. Today they are necessities."

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Austin, Minnesota
Nov 6, 1971

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MEMORANDUM

November 4, 1971

TO: Senator

Bobby
Sen. Hansen

FROM: Dan

Rep. Helen McMillan
Rep. Harvey Sathre

RE: SOME FACTS ON THE NORTHEASTERN POWER PLANT

Dedication

--Cost of \$8 million, \$3 million in revenue bonds and \$5 million from capital improvement funds.

--Constructed by Austin Utilities which is a citizen-owned municipal system consisting of an electric department, gas department, water department and central heating department.

--The Northeastern Power Plant was planned as part of a system for Austin in 1963.

--The Northeastern Power ^{Station} ~~Plant~~ generates 37,000 kilowatts.

--It has a \$200,000 electrostatic precipitator to purify the air discharged from its stacks. There is also a \$150,000 water cooling system to prevent thermal pollution.

Pollution Control

Wayne Reding

Ch. Austin Utilities Board
Mr. Roger Swykowski

Mr. Father Corcoran

Mr. Roger Niemi
Mr. Harold Larson

Dick
Bauder
member
of
Bd.

DEDICATION OF THE NORTHEASTERN POWER PLANT
AUSTIN, MINNESOTA

DIMENSIONS OF THE ENERGY CRISIS IN AMERICA

We live in an energized society:

L- Mankind has consumed more energy in the last 30 years than in ^{all} human history before 1940. And in the next 30 years we will use far more than that.

L- Six percent of the world's population lives in the U.S. Yet Americans consume 32 percent of the world's energy production. More gas, oil and coal and nuclear power are used in this country than in the Soviet Union, Britain, West Germany and Japan combined.

(X) -- Every 27 years the U.S. doubles its total amount of energy consumption.

-- By 1975 we will be using one trillion four hundred billion kilowatt hours a year.

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The problems haven't reached Austin, Minnesota yet--but they will.

-- In America's largest cities ^{in most populous states} demand for electricity is outpacing the supply--in New York, in California, in other populous and fast-growing areas.

-- Although the supply of electricity has increased, the safe level of reserves of electricity are decreasing. They are now about 19 percent.

Revenues
Less than
70%

The real dilemmas which we cannot escape,

-- If we are to meet the demand of 25 million more jobs by 1980, if our GNP is to grow, if 25 million Americans are to be lifted out of poverty, if we are going to substantially reduce our present unemployment, our energy needs will continue to grow and we will need more power for more factories, office buildings and general consumer use.

But -- If more power is to be produced either through conventional or nuclear means we must ask:

* Can we afford to build the power plants
we will need?

* Where will we build them if they are
needed in cities to serve our still-
growing and overcrowded cities?

* How can we eliminate the generation
of electrical power as one of the chief
sources of pollution?

TOWARD A NATIONAL ENERGY POLICY

-- There is no real Federal policy to insure
that powerful private electric utilities are
acting in the best interest of the public.

-- All government and especially Federal
government must begin to formulate energy
policies designed to meet future energy
needs at a minimum of costs and at reduced
rates of pollution.

L Anti-pollution devices--such as the \$200,000
electrostatic precipitator that you have here
in Austin--are necessities L Twenty years ago
they were a luxury.

Pollution
control

-- There are no federal funds available to
aid public power companies to defray the
cost of anti-pollution devices for new
generating facilities. *The Government*
~~station~~ should move to make such funds
 available.

L-- Energy must be put to work to help people.
 The Federal government must formulate a
national energy policy that will provide
communities with an efficient and cheap
delivery system of electrical power.

L-- Electricity changed the face of rural America.

L-- The real needs now are in supplying electrical
power to urban areas *and to the developing*
areas of rural America

SHORTAGE AMONG SURPLUS

L-- We need an effective national grid system
 that will distribute and transmit electrical
power to the areas in need. *Regional grids*
 are already in existence and have prevented
brown outs from becoming black outs.

↳ Why not a national grid? (Hundreds of thousands of kilowatts of power are unavailable in times of need to many urban areas because we do not have an effective system of national energy transmission.

↳ We have built interstate highways, we have a national broadcast system, we have national telecommunications, why not a national power system?

↳ -- The Federal role has been one of stopgap measures rather than policies that would make this idea a reality.

↳ -- Our major power systems must be interconnected. (When a summer afternoon heat-wave hits New York City, and adequate power is not available to aid those millions of air conditioned households and offices in Manhattan.

↳ While on the West Coast there is abundant power not being used. But we have no way of getting it there now.

A national grid system would give us the capability of using the surplus power when and where it is needed.

-- A national grid could also reduce pollution, If there was a dangerous inversion in an area, let's say Los Angeles, we could shut down most of the generating plants that were a source of this pollution and ship power in from another area.

Pollution

-- Experts say that a national grid could be constructed in 3 years at a cost of about \$2 billion.

-- It can be done and must be done. And all those with a stake in the supply of power to people--public and private companies-- must recognize that we need to consider the national grid as an alternative strategy to the growing crisis.

The electrical day

-- All Americans must give thought to how their

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life styles affect the national supply
and distribution of electrical energy
and the related pollution problems
caused by the generation of energy.

The day:

L We get up to a clock radio.

L ~~We~~ ^{Some of us} brush our teeth with electric
toothbrushes.

L ~~We~~ ^{Some of us} air condition our homes and
offices.

L We go to office / Apts by electric elevators

L We cook and prepare food with
electrical appliances.

L We watch television. We clean our
houses and wash our clothes with
electrical appliances.

L We operate our airports, Trains

L We read at night under electric lights.

We sleep under electric blankets. Some
of us heat our houses with electrical heat.

And so on...

L-- We must begin to think of how an individual's _____ habits of consumption of energy affect the _____ nation as a whole. I am not suggesting we _____ change our life-styles. But we must realize _____ how dependent all of us are on the supply of _____ electrical energy. _____

L And we must _____ take _____ step to insure that this _____ resource is available to meet our growing _____ needs. _____



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