

sion, which was formed as a result of the state's new land use and planning legislation (*Science*, 3 September 1971). A subcommittee on power plant siting has come up with a recommendation, based on data in the Velco survey, that a site outside the county and near Burlington be reconsidered for the 400-Mw plant. The group has met with the state public service board to make its case. There are indications that the commission is not so much concerned about the location of just a single plant in the county, but with the prospect that Addison could be the site of all new power plant construction in the state in the next decade—a possible total of 3100 Mw—and wind up as what one alarmed prophet called “the Pittsburgh of New England.”

Revealingly, the commission has come under fire in recent weeks from the selectmen of the towns of Salisbury and Middlebury for intruding. In part, the reaction stems from the Vermont tradition of the smallest governmental unit controlling its own destiny, and from the hostility of elected toward appointed officials. But the Salisbury selectmen, particularly, reflect the feelings of many of their constituents who, at least initially, were receptive to the idea of the new power plant because of the tax income it would bring. Rising property taxes are one of the reasons Vermont farmers are feeling particularly hard pressed. A lot of them don't see how they will be able to continue to operate their farms or to pass them on to their children. So accepting the power plant and the changes it would make in exchange for the property taxes it would pay and jobs it might create doesn't seem like a bad bargain.

There are opponents to the plant in Salisbury—a town of about 650 people. But these tend to be residents who make their livings outside the town, retired people, or summer people. They tend to take the same view as the Abbey Pond activists—a group dominated by college faculty members and business and professional people—and to feel that those in favor of the plant are innocents who don't realize how drastically a new plant would change the area.

To the opponents of the plant, Salisbury Swamp, a marshy area which would be partly taken for the plant's big cooling lake, is an irreplaceable refuge of the red deer and snowshoe rabbit. To the farmer who owns swamp land, the coming of the power plant

might mean a chance to sell marginal acreage at a premium price. Differing views and interests—reflected in competing polls, with conflicting results—have caused a split in the community and a kind of bitterness that is unexpected and upsetting to many residents.

The power plant has become, at once, a symbol of development and of environmental degradation. In Vermont, as elsewhere, it means different things to different people. A power company can no longer pick the location for a new generating plant by, so to speak, sticking a pin in the map and sending out the surveyors. The potency of the environmentalists is evidenced in the fact that, although the Yankee plant is 95 percent complete, opening day has been indefinitely delayed. As for the proposed 400-Mw fossil-fueled plant, opposition has mobilized even before a site has been picked or a permit applied for.

The day when the utility company wielded absolute power is clearly done; but at the moment the evolving system of checks and balances is working imperfectly in reconciling increased demands for power on the one hand, and the insistence on protection of the environment and human health and safety on the other.

In Vermont the price of the transition, dramatized by the Yankee Nuclear plant imbroglio, may be power shortages and a financial squeeze on Vermont power companies which, ironically, could have the effect of moving decisions on power further from the people most directly affected.

Power policy ultimately can't be made at town meetings or even in the courts. The interdependence of large units is one of the facts of life which the big blackout of 1965 proved once and for all, and the implications for Vermont of efforts to meet the power problem at a regional and federal level will be discussed in another article.

—JOHN WALSH

RECENT DEATHS

Harry W. Anderson, 86; professor emeritus of plant pathology, University of Illinois; 11 August.

Willard E. Atkins, 82; professor emeritus of economics, University of North Carolina; 31 July.

Frank A. Balyeat, 85; professor emeritus of education, University of Oklahoma; 20 July.

Leonard J. Brass, 71; botanist and curator emeritus, the Archbold Collections, American Museum of Natural History; 29 August.

Thomas H. Briggs, 94; professor emeritus of education, Teachers College, Columbia University; 12 August.

William W. Cort, 84; professor emeritus of parasitology, School of Hygiene and Public Health, Johns Hopkins University; 21 August.

Wallace J. Eckert, 69; retired professor of celestial mechanics, Columbia University; 24 August.

A. S. Furcron, 72; state geologist emeritus of Georgia and founder, Georgia Academy of Science; 11 August.

Herbert H. Glick, 41; professor of engineering, University of Denver; 4 August.

George B. Happ, 77; professor emeritus of biology, Principia College; 15 August.

Loomis Havemeyer, 85; former associate dean, School of Engineering, Yale University; 14 August.

Mykola H. Haydak, 73; professor emeritus of entomology, University of Minnesota; 12 August.

Hans H. Hecht, 58; professor of medicine and physiology, School of Medicine, University of Chicago; 12 August.

Tryphena Humphrey, 69; professor of anatomy, Medical Center, University of Alabama at Birmingham; 11 August.

Melville Jacobs, 69; professor of anthropology, University of Washington; 31 July.

John Johnston, Jr., 59; plant manager, instruments products division, Dupont Company, Monrovia, California; 15 August.

Peter A. Leermakers, 34; professor of chemistry, Wesleyan University; 16 August.

Seymour L. Lustman, 51; professor of psychiatry and master, Davenport College, Yale University; 5 August.

Joseph H. F. Maisin, 77; director emeritus, Cancer Institute, University of Louvain, Belgium; 7 June.

Frank P. Pitts, 76; professor emeritus of chemistry, Medical College of Virginia; 3 August.

Milton J. Thompson, 66; professor of aerospace engineering and engineering mechanics, University of Texas; 23 July.

Oskar P. Wintersteiner, 72; former director of biological chemistry, Squibb Institute of Medical Research, New Jersey; 15 August.