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Details, **B 2**.

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## It's party time Down Under



Soaked in champagne, Australian Prime Minister Bob Hawke celebrates Australia II's victory during an America's Cup party at the Royal Perth Yacht Club.

## Australians go bonkers

### National celebration hails America's Cup victory

PERTH, Australia (AP) — Jubilant Australians, many of them bleary-eyed from an all-night vigil, today celebrated Australia II's capture of the America's Cup, and Prime Minister Bob Hawke said any employer who didn't forgive absent workers "is a bum."

"It's just indescribable," said Hawke of the victory as he was drenched with champagne by members of the Royal Perth Yacht Club, the sponsor of Australia II's challenge. Hawke decided not to declare a national holiday but made clear he expected a day of merry-making.

"We're going to be a bunch of zombies anyway I suppose, there's been 10 million sitting up like I have throughout the night," he said. "If an employer sacks the workers for not turning up for work today, he is a bum."

Many Australians stayed up all night waiting for the outcome of the seventh and final race of the yachting competition, in which Australia II beat American defender Liberty to win the world's oldest sporting trophy.

The race began at 2 a.m. in eastern Australia, and news of the victory came as commuters were leaving for work this morning. In Sydney, harbor ferries tooted fog horns, people on buses cheered and sang, and motorists honked their horns.

"It's ours," bragged the Sydney Daily Mirror, which published a 12-page souvenir section.

"What a beauty," said the front-page headline in the Sydney Sun. Inside, over an account of the winning seventh race, was the headline "How we sank the Yanks."

Flags flew throughout Australia to mark the triumph and stores put up signs congratulating the crew. At Sydney's town hall, a huge sail flew bearing the motif of a boxing kangaroo, the symbol of Australia II.

Hawke, asked how the United States would react, said, "I may have to ring the president and tell him war is not on."

■ Race details in Sports, E 1.

## Finally, some good news from WPPSS

### Nuclear Project 2 passes a milestone

by Bob Lane  
Times staff reporter

RICHLAND — Something has finally gone right for the disaster-prone Washington Public Power Supply System.

After 11 years and more trouble than most people can recall, WPPSS today celebrated completion of Nuclear Project No. 2. The project, originally to be completed in 1977 at a cost of \$404 million, now is expected to cost \$3.2 billion.

Although a few loose ends of work remain, the 1,100-megawatt power plant was transferred from construction management to the WPPSS team responsible for startup testing and commercial operation.

"I feel good," said Jerry Martin, plant manager since 1972 and now fully responsible for loading nuclear fuel in November and pushing the project to power production next spring.

"I can't wait," added Martin, a veteran of many startup operations in his 23 years in the nuclear industry.

About 2,300 hard-hat workers and 200 WPPSS officials, contractors and labor leaders took part in ceremonies today at the plant's visitors center.

Don Mazur, supply-system managing director, said that successful testing of many plant systems indicate that Plant 2 will be a good performer.

"Between now and fuel load, our efforts will focus on correcting any minor deficiencies and fine-tuning the system," he added. "It's taken 11 years to build this electrical power source. The region's investment is almost ready to start paying off."

The supply system must win an operating license from the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission before it will be allowed to load uranium fuel, now stored in a large pool of water at the plant, into the

General Electric Co. Mark V boiling-water reactor. System officials will go to Washington, D.C., Thursday to attempt to clear up half a dozen minor construction violations noted in a recent NRC report. Those violations apparently are the principal obstacles to licensing and fueling.

However, WPPSS also will have to persuade the federal agency that it has a staff capable of safe operation of the plant. Several dozen employees have resigned from WPPSS' headquarters staff. But the power plant has not lost a key startup or operating worker, the supply system said.

Over the years, management problems and faulty construction work have been blamed for the series of troubles and postponements in the completion date. And cost overruns grew steadily.

In late 1979, the NRC stopped all safety-related work and later fined WPPSS \$59,500 for construction violations. Work on the reactor and other principal systems was stalled for nearly a year until WPPSS proved to NRC that it could correct the construction problems and prove that other work was done properly.

A long work stoppage by craft unions in 1980 stalled all other construction about six months.

The plant was modified extensively during the long construction period because of industry experiences with the same reactor in other power plants. Changes also were effected because of the 1979 accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Pennsylvania.

The Hanford plant gained a reputation as a bad project — an undeserved reputation, supply-system engineers say.

"This is a quality plant," insists Gerry Afflerbach, assistant plant manager and director of startup operations.

## City Light wants to raise rates an average of 36.3%

by Dee Norton and David Schaefer  
Times staff reporters

Seattle City Light has asked the City Council to raise its customer rates a stunning 36.3 percent next May 1.

The utility's request, delivered to the council yesterday, cites a need for \$65 million more in revenue to pay for rate increases from the Bonneville Power Administration, and to compensate for higher interest rates on debt, lower sales revenues and for extending shorter-term energy conservation programs.

The initial council reaction was negative. Councilman Michael Hildt, chairman of the council's Energy Committee, said a major effort would be made to reduce the rate increase.

A 37 percent average rate increase adopted in August 1982 resulted in a 54.4 percent increase for residential users. Rates for commercial customers that year went up 18.1 percent. Industrial rates rose 42 percent.

This year's 36.3 percent is an average figure which will also vary for residential, commercial and industrial customers, said John Saven, City Light deputy superintendent for finance and administration. The actual increase for each category of ratepayer hasn't been calculated, he said.

Actual distribution of the proposed increase, second largest in City Light history, will be decided by the City Council after the utility's proposal is reviewed by Mayor Charles Royer.

Saven said the mayor and his staff will recommend to the council how to distribute the impact of

the rate increase.

The new increase is scheduled for final council action by December and would be effective through the end of 1985, Saven said.

Royer attributed most of the increase to BPA rate increases, but Saven said City Light expenses are rising in many areas.

"We are looking for a net increase in revenue of about \$61 million to cover the expenses we must cover," said Saven. The other \$4 million is to compensate for a drop in revenues, he said.

An additional \$7 million may also be needed, he said, to pay for BPA's availability charge. City Light generates about 70 percent of its own power, buying the rest from BPA and the availability charge results from power contracted for, but not purchased.

"If a utility does not take its full allocation, it must pay BPA for half of what it did not take. And with the energy surplus in the Northwest, it meant the city could produce its own power cheaper than buying from BPA," said Saven.

The city may take legal action against BPA over the charge, he said.

City Light expects that BPA will raise its wholesale rates 33 percent in November and another 21 percent in July 1985.

BPA also is involved in another facet of the City Light increase — the \$8 million needed to continue energy-conservation programs. City Light has balked at signing up for a BPA long-term conservation program, which means it needs the \$8 million to extend the short-term programs now in effect, Saven said.

## Unverified list of AIDS sufferers reported circulating among police

by Warren King  
Times medical writer

Some Seattle police officers have been circulating an unauthorized and unverified list of people with the disease AIDS, apparently as a warning to officers to avoid contact with those people.

Sources familiar with the "AIDS alert" list said it contained about 10 names, but they didn't know its origin or precisely what it meant in terms of how to deal with AIDS patients.

One policeman who claimed he found the list in his patrol car said he knew the Police Department hadn't authorized it, and he didn't know if it was valid.

But the patrolman added: "If I knew for certain someone had AIDS, I would be extremely care-

ful not to have contact with him or pick up anything he had touched."

No one has accused police of failing to assist victims of AIDS (acquired immune deficiency syndrome). But among some members of the gay community, the prime victims of the disease, the list "personifies all the fear and mystique we've seen across the country about AIDS," said George Bakan, president of the Seattle AIDS Action Committee, a political-action organization and support group for patients.

He called the list "an affront." No one knows for certain how AIDS is transmitted, but many scientists believe it is by blood or semen and most often through sexual contact. There is no evidence in more than 2,000 cases of the disease that it can be contract-

ed simply by touching infected persons or their body fluids.

About 75 percent of the AIDS cases have been in homosexual or bisexual men. Most of the rest have been in intravenous drug users, Haitian immigrants and hemophiliacs.

"I think the list is inappropriate," said Dr. Steve Helgerson, director of the Seattle-King County Health Department's AIDS surveillance program.

Officers were told at shift changes late last week to get rid of the unauthorized list if they had one. And Deputy Chief William Kramer, director of the department's operations division, said he issued a directive yesterday saying that "if the list exists," it is not to be circulated.

"One thing we're trying to

prevent is that type of hysteria by officers," said Kramer.

Dick Rovig, president of the Seattle Police Officers' Guild, said he didn't know anything about the list. But he added: AIDS "is a scary thing because there is so little information about it. I can understand why police officers would be concerned about it."

A recent article in the guild's newspaper, "The Guardian," said that AIDS may be transmitted by non-sexual contact with mucous-membrane surfaces or by "any body secretion such as blood, sweat, urine, feces or saliva."

Some police officers are worried they could catch the disease by giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation or through blood from an injured person.

Helgerson said it's possible but

"extremely improbable" that AIDS could be transmitted by something other than blood or semen.

He pointed out that thousands of health workers have taken care of AIDS patients for several years, "including giving mouth-to-mouth resuscitation and getting needle sticks and scalpel wounds." None has contracted the disease, he said. Nationwide, there have been four cases in health workers, but none worked in a hospital with AIDS patients.

Helgerson also noted there have been nine reported AIDS cases and fewer than a dozen "AIDS-like" cases in King County, but only three patients are still alive.

"The possibility of a police officer being called to assist an

AIDS patient is really remote," he said.

Helgerson said Seattle Police Chief Patrick Fitzsimons asked the Health Department to review The Guardian article, which was based on information from California police newspapers.

As a result, health officials have made an educational videotape on AIDS which will soon be shown to police and firemen.

Health officials are concerned that some physicians and patients aren't reporting AIDS-like illnesses because of recent news stories containing the name of a Seattle AIDS patient who died. Compared with the spread of the disease in other cities, fewer AIDS cases than expected have been reported in Seattle in recent months.

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## A 'product'

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