

and gas-fired boilers to the actual installation and testing of full-scale equipment designed on the basis of pilot plant studies to control these emissions. Edison has employed recognized authorities and consulting organizations in the air pollution control field to supplement the efforts of its own engineering staff and has worked closely with boiler and control equipment manufacturers and with the local air pollution control agencies. No means, however, have as yet been devised which will economically remove from stack gases the substantial quantities of sulfur oxides which are produced whenever California fuel oils are burned.

Recently, with the construction and operation of the two large 450-megawatt generating units at its Alamitos Generating Station and the two large 450-megawatt generating units at its Redondo Generating Station, Edison has been subjected to increasingly indignant public protests and complaints claiming spotting damage from rust and acid allegedly emitted from the Company's plants when burning fuel oil. The Control Officer of the Air Pollution Control District of the County of Los Angeles has announced that he will take every means to restrict the construction of any additional oil or combination oil and gas-fired boilers in Los Angeles County. Also, the Public Information Officer of the District has announced that unusual litigation will be commenced against power plant operators directed toward eliminating objectionable atmospheric emissions from high sulfur fuel oil combustion.

Public mass meetings have been held in the communities in which Edison's generating stations are located, and a large delegation from these communities appeared at recent hearings held by the Hearing Board of the Los Angeles Air Pollution Control District upon Edison's application for a continuance of the necessary variances to operate its plants in Los Angeles County. It seems apparent, from the public pressures being exerted upon the Air Pollution Control District, that the use of the conventional California fuel oils will be even more drastically restricted in the future.

California residual oil is being forced out of use because local air pollution control authorities, as well as the United States Public Health Service of the Department of Health, Education and Welfare, have taken the position that burning high sulfur fuels causes deleterious effects upon the environment. Laws of the State of California prescribe restrictions upon the opacity of power plant stack gases which cannot be met when burning fuel oil produced from California sources. Local regulations adopted to control air pollution outlaw the burning of fuels having a sulfur content in excess of 0.5 percent, except when gas is not available.

On July 17, 1967, by Proclamation No. 3794, President Johnson modified the Oil Import Program as established by Proclamation No. 3279 to provide for the importation of low sulfur crude oil and low sulfur fuel oil as needed to meet air pollution control objectives. Then, on October 3, 1967, Secretary Udall issued oil import regulations implementing Proclamation No. 3794, to permit the importation into District V of crude oil equal in volume to the quantities of low sulfur residual fuel oil sold under contract to meet the requirements of local air pollution control regulations. These regulations have the effect of freeing low sulfur residual fuel oil needed for air pollution requirements from import quota restrictions, but continuing the applicability of such restrictions upon all other products produced from the imported crude oil.

Edison is in the course of converting its facilities to use low sulfur residual fuel oil in place of California residual fuel oil. Such low sulfur fuel oil is processed from crude oil produced in Indonesia. During the past winter's oil burning season, Edison used 1,010,000 barrels of low sulfur oil produced from Indonesian crude oil with such excellent results that both the Company and the Air Pollution Control Authorities are satisfied that the use of such low sulfur oil will meet the needs of air pollution control. Complaints from the public in the vicinity of Edison's Redondo Generating Station dropped from over 300 during the 1966/67 winter to near the vanishing point during the 1967/68 winter when only gas and low sulfur oil were used at Redondo. The Los Angeles Air Pollution Control Authorities have now issued to Edison permits to operate its generating units which previously could be operated only under variances, but such permits are conditioned that fuel oil having a sulfur content in excess of 0.5 percent will not be burned.