

There is also the Yankee Rowe plant, which was the follow-on plant from the Shippingport and it has been operating for the last 10 or 11 years and running well.

Senator FANNIN. My point was, though, in their original design, it is my understanding that none of them could produce power economically in the original design?

Mr. RAMEY. The Shippingport plant could not, which was a prototype. The Dresden 1 and the Yankee plant both had to have some subsidy to be economic and they have been improved in ways of improved fuel, and so forth. But some of the greatest economic improvements in these plants have come from the extrapolation in size on subsequent plants, Senator Fannin.

Senator FANNIN. That is exactly what I mean. Unless we build a first plant for desalination, we probably will not have these tremendous breakthroughs we are talking about. Would you agree?

Mr. RAMEY. That is right. You see, the Dresden plant and the Yankee Rowe plant, were plants of around 200,000 electrical kilowatts. It was not until the second round plants which were built in the 400,000 and 600,000 kilowatt size that they began to be competitive with other fuel sources and now, as I mentioned earlier, plants are being built that are twice that size and six times the size of the original Yankee and Dresden plants, and they are commercially available.

Senator FANNIN. That is why I think it is so essential that we build these prototype plants of large magnitude, of the size that you are talking about and size like they had at Bolsa. Of course, that was a unit.

Mr. RAMEY. That is exactly the case.

Senator FANNIN. What are we doing as far as the actual construction of a plant with Mexico? We have had that Gulf of California plant under consideration. Is that still going forward?

Mr. RAMEY. Well, we are hoping to continue with these low level studies that Secretary Smith mentioned. Secretary Smith, Mr. Herman Pollock of the State Department, and I went down to Mexico City at the invitation of the foreign minister and met with him and the new chairman of their Atomic Energy Commission to discuss ways in which we could continue this study of large nuclear desalting plant that would utilize water from the Gulf of California. We would hope that in the next few months we could work out an arrangement to continue these studies. This would include looking at the three sites recommended in the preliminary study. There certainly has to be more engineering work carried out, the cost have to be updated, siting problems have to be resolved, and ecology and environmental matters have to be looked at in much greater depth. It might be that we would want to look at interim projects smaller than the very large plant that was initially studied.

Senator FANNIN. Thank you, Mr. Ramey, very much.

Mr. RAMEY. Thank you, sir.

Senator ANDERSON. Mr. Teerink?

STATEMENT OF JOHN R. TEERINK, DEPUTY DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF WATER RESOURCES, STATE OF CALIFORNIA

Mr. TEERINK. Mr. Chairman, members of the committee, my name is John Terrink. I am director of the large capacity sea water