

George Brown  
Public Relations  
General Electric Co.  
Hanford Engineer Works  
Richland, Washington

8/6/47  
For Immediate Release

Walla Walla, Wash., Aug 9 -- The initial disclosure of expansion details of Richland, Wash., headquarters of the General Electric Company operated Hanford Engineer Works, were made here today by G.E.'s Works Manager D.H. Lauder at a luncheon meeting of the official board of the Washington State Junior Chamber of Commerce.

Lauder told the large gathering, which included representatives of 51 communities throughout the State, together with many additional representatives of Washington civic, industrial, and commercial groups, that Richland's population will go up from its present total of approximately 15,000 to around 25,000. Such increase will result almost entirely from the expansion of Hanford Engineer Works, announced recently by the United States Atomic Energy Commission.

"Growth of the town's population will follow closely upon the expected increase in the number of people employed by General Electric Company in carrying out the contract it has with the Atomic Energy Commission for operation of Hanford Engineer Works," Lauder said. He added that he expected employment would go up from the present total of over 5300 to a figure exceeding 7000 permanently employed personnel, required to operate the various units authorized in approved plans for expanding the Southeastern Washington atomic energy activity.

The speaker quoted from a six-months' forecast of plant personnel requirements when he stated that he expects all who are employed will become permanent members of the plant's operating personnel and that the 1700 added to Hanford's payroll as expansion proceeds will include chemical engineers, chemists, doctors, dentists, physicists, metallurgists, zoologists, water engineers, spectrochemists, metallographers, stenographers, clerks, typists, and members of all of the building crafts.



Expansion plans for the Village of Richland, as outlined by Lauder, include the initial construction of 500 new housing units, such construction to be begun immediately by a co-adventure combination of Guy Atkinson Company, and the J.A. Jones Company, low bidder for the contract.

Housing units, included in the initial group of 500, will be of concrete block, stucco-type construction, and will be single units of two-, three-, and four bedroom designs. Also included in the initial group are a number of multiple, single-story, apartment-type dwellings, each family in which will have a small yard.

Also to be begun shortly are 450 pre-cut type houses. Said Lauder, "These definitely will be permanent housing units. We are not prepared to say exactly what the total requirements will be for housing, but in an industrial plant located as Hanford is, there is no alternative but to provide workers with adequate and conveniently located housing. The surrounding area just does not offer any possible relief on housing."

At present there are more than 450 people employed on the project for whose families there are no homes available in Richland. Nor have they been successful in locating living accommodations in nearby communities, Lauder said.

Richland's commercial facility buildings are also included in expansion plans for the Village, as approved by the A.E.C., and to be executed by General Electric as contractor.

Discussing early planning, done when it was thought that Hanford would be shut down at the end of World War II, Lauder said, "The commercial facilities in Richland were kept to a minimum that would supply residents only the essentials. It is now necessary to expand the commercial facilities so that the economy of the Village can be brought up to that which one would normally expect in a community the size of Richland."

Lauder said that to achieve a better balanced economy plans are to construct buildings that will house department stores, small shops, bowling alleys, commercial garages, and many other businesses. A number of architect-engineer firms, and



a consulting engineer firm are already at work on designs for the various new commercial buildings.

All houses and commercial buildings in the Village, as well as Hanford Engineer Works, itself, are owned by the Government, and operated by the Atomic Energy Commission, through General Electric Company as contractor, Lauder stated. "The operating contractor is responsible not only for the plant and plant operating personnel, but also for the entire Village. Responsibilities in connection with the Village include the rental and maintenance of all houses and commercial buildings, the supplying of police and fire protection services, street and highway maintenance, the operation of water and power distribution systems, and the medical and dental facilities, including the hospital operation," he said, adding "In addition, the designing and furnishing of school buildings and facilities to the school board and state school system is the contractor's responsibility."

Richland, faced with a large increase in school enrollment, already is experiencing a shortage of educational facilities, according to Lauder. He said that G.E. has a group of architects engaged in designing a new Junior High school, an addition to the present Richland high school, an additional grade school, and expansion of the four existing grade schools.

Enlargement of the hospital and clinic facilities are also scheduled as part of Richland's expansion program, he said.

To accommodate the construction forces that will be required to carry out the expansion of Hanford Engineer Works and Richland, a camp for such personnel will be established several miles from the Village. It is expected that this camp will accommodate 10,000 or more construction workers, together with their families, which it is expected will bring camp population to well over 16,000 persons. The camp will include barracks, a huge trailer village, and sufficient commercial facilities to supplement those already operating in Richland.



Public Relations (WAW)  
General Electric Co.  
Hanford Engineer Works  
Richland, Wash.

For Release to Morning Papers 8/21

Richland, Wash., Aug. <sup>20</sup>~~21~~--DeWitt C. Griffin and Associates, a consulting engineering firm, has been awarded a contract by General Electric Company to design new facilities for the intake, storage, treatment, and distribution of water and for sewage disposal needed for expansion of Richland, and for North Richland, location of the construction camp which it is expected will house 16,000 to 20,000 workers and members of their families, it was revealed today by D.H. Lauder, manager of Hanford Engineer Works for General Electric.

Bids were called following receipt by General Electric, prime contractor to the United States Atomic Energy Commission for the operation of the Village of Richland, and of the Hanford Engineer Works, of approval to proceed with the design of a new water intake structure, a water filtration plant, additional water storage reservoirs, increased pumping capacity, and new water mains, and also for increase of Richland's sewage treatment plant and for new sewer mains. DeWitt C. Griffin and Associates, of Seattle and Spokane, Wash., submitted the low fee for the design contract, it was stated.

The contract also includes designing of a water line to the construction camp, as well as sewer and water mains and a sewage treatment plant for North Richland, Mr. Lauder said.

Since the source of Water for Richland's new water pumping and filtration system will be the Columbia River, it is expected that the water supplied to Richland homes will be appreciably softer than that now being supplied, Mr. Lauder said. Richland's present domestic water supply comes from wells located within the Village area of the 635 square mile Government reservation on which both Hanford Engineer Works, and the Village of Richland are located.

DeWitt C. Griffin and Associates played a vital part in the original construction of Richland, which began approximately four years ago. As a sub-contractor to G.A. Pehrson, Spokane architect, Mr. Griffin arrived with his project engineer,

G.H. Edwards, at the site of Richland on March 16, 1943, and remained to design the water, sewage and electrical systems, roads and streets, and all heating, plumbing, and air conditioning of all buildings of the Village of Richland.

Mr. Edwards is here again as project engineer with DeWitt C. Griffin and Associates. The firm presently has a staff of 19 men, and expects to employ a total of up to 25 persons in completing the contract it has been awarded as part of the recently announced Richland expansion program.



Public Relations  
General Electric Co.  
Hanford Engineer Works  
Richland, Washington

*Afternoon*  
For Release in ~~Morning~~ Papers

Richland, Wash., Aug. <sup>21</sup>~~22~~ -- Canteen Food Service Co., Inc., has been selected to operate the cafeterias at North Richland, location of the construction camp that will house the 10,000 or more workers expected to compose contractor forces employed in the expansion of both Hanford Engineer Works and the Village of Richland, Wash., it was announced today by General Electric's local Works Manager D.H. Lauder.

General Electric is the prime contractor to the United States Atomic Energy Commission for the operation of the Southeastern Washington atomic energy activity and of the Village of Richland, where Hanford Engineer Works employees live.

C.E. Blackburne, vice president in charge of operations for Canteen Food Service Co., Inc., and Todd A. Ebbers, treasurer of that company, were in Richland for the public opening of bids. Bids were called from a number of qualified cafeteria concession operators in large industrial plants, and Canteen Food Service Co., Inc was selected on the basis used for judging all bids submitted, G-E officials stated.

Each concern from which bids were called was previously investigated to determine its fitness to operate such a facility in the huge construction camp which, in addition to contractor personnel, will also house members of their families, and is expected to have a total population of 16,000 to 20,000. Factors considered in selection of the facility operator included the success achieved in similar operations elsewhere, financial responsibility, and the detailed proposal of the manner in which the facility would be operated, as supplied by each firm submitting a bid, it was disclosed today in announcing selection of the successful bidder.



NUCLEONICS DEPARTMENT  
NEWS BUREAU

**GENERAL  ELECTRIC**  
HANFORD WORKS    RICHLAND, WASH.

104/5-11-50/L

Twenty-seven miles north of Richland, on the west bank of the Columbia river, there is a huge network of abandoned blacktop roads that divide the desert land into block after block of sagebrush. This was once the site of Hanford, fabulous construction camp.

In the first part of 1943 Hanford was a quiet village of 125 people who tended fruit trees and small farms. In 1944, it was America's largest civilian construction camp with 20,000 workers boarding project busses at one time. Some 45,000 construction men and women imbibing more beer in eight hours than Seattle, which had a population eight times as great, could put away in any given 24 hours.

It was a place where bets were placed on the roll of the dice, or on which of two flies might move first. Here labored and mingled the good and the bad, college graduates and those who couldn't write their names, the ambitious, patriotic, stupid and the witty.

They bought \$25,000,000 in bonds and made a very direct contribution toward ending the war by building a secret, colossal, plutonium manufacturing project at the cost of \$350,000,000.

#### DECISION

Late in 1942, U. S. army engineers of the Manhattan District were looking for a place to set up plutonium production facilities. It was necessary to find an area with a sparse population, located close to large quantities of cold, pure water and a plentiful supply of electrical power.  
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It was decided that 631 square miles of Benton County, Washington, had all the requirements. Hanford was chosen as the site for construction headquarters while the production plant and Richland were being built.

At first the operation was named the White Bluffs Military Project. Later it was changed to Hanford Engineer Works and the present name was adopted in 1948.

### CONSTRUCTION

Col. F. T. Matthias, young man barely into his thirties and other army engineers took over direction of Hanford With E. I. du Pont de Nemours and Company as prime contractor--In 1946, the army and du Pont relinquished their jobs to the Atomic Energy Commission and General Electric Company respectively--

Soon hutments and barracks begin to arise. The more that were built the greater the acceleration of work. For example, in 1944 after the town had a population of 51,000, an auditorium was built. It took just 12 days from ground breaking to completion of the 180 by 206 foot building. On the twelfth night, 4,000 people danced on it's hardwood floors.

Construction went on at a tremendous rate. In less than two years the plant was built. More than 8,500 major pieces of construction equipment were used on the job. Placed end on end, they would have extended for more than 35 miles. Lumber sufficient to build a six foot fence between San Francisco and New York, went into the installation. Concrete, steel and other materials were measured in the thousands of tons. It is said that enough material was shipped in by rail to fill a train of boxcars 350 miles long.

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#### INHABITANTS

Single unit dwellings were not built in Hanford. Husbands and wives lived in separate dormitories. A high fence was erected around the women's abodes and all men had to be out by a specified time.

However, as might be expected, single women liked the town. Even the least lovely never wanted for a plentitude of dates or favors since the ratio of men to women was always over five to one.

There were those gourmands who could put away from one to two dozen prok chops, three or four chickens or a dozen eggs at one setting and top it off with bread, dessert and coffee. But then it cost 67 cents whether one dawdled or ate a really substantial meal. Sixteen to twenty tons of porkchops were consumed in one meal by those who ate in the 13 Hanford mess halls.

Beer by the barrel and pitcher was plentiful, that is if you got to the tavern early or could find someone who was willing to sell his seat for from two to five dollars.

In the less than two years of it's existence 137,000 people had worked on the project. They were an unusual assemblage, even for the times, but they did a tremendous job. One that they have a right to be proud of.

#### TERMINATION

In December of 1944, workers were beginning to be laid off. A few of the 13,500 trailer dwellers left their little gardens and lawns to the dry winds and sun and set out for other parts.

At first it wasn't so noticeable, but gradually the tempo of terminations increased. By December, workers were streaming back to Florida, Texas and Wisconsin.

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However, not everyone left. Some transferred to plant operations and others decided to stay in this part of the country, to do other jobs, and permanently increase the Pacific Northwest population.

By March, 1945, the permanent employees were living in Richland and Hanford was closed down. For a time it was a ghost town. Then in the spring of 1946 the Mohawk Wrecking Company of Detroit began dismantling the \$17,000,000 city on a bid of \$103,003.30.

And today, where once stretched a vast array of barracks, trailer houses, community and administration buildings teeming with humanity, lie miles of desolate blacktop roads. They run to the north, the east, the south and the west but go nowhere in particular, for Hanford is gone.



NUCLEONICS DEPARTMENT  
NEWS BUREAU

**GENERAL  ELECTRIC**  
HANFORD WORKS    RICHLAND, WASH.

RELEASE 5/28/50

RICHLAND, WASH., May 28--Completion in early June of nearly 7 miles of rail line at a cost of approximately \$2 million will give Richland and Hanford Works a southern freight connection to the Union Pacific and Northern Pacific lines.

R. T. Cooke, Superintendent of General Electric Company's Transportation Division, said today that the total length of the new line tying the two rail companies into the Hanford Works railroad system is 10.2 miles from the turnout near Kennewick to the interchange yard at North Richland. He said that 3.3 miles of track west of the ranch type houses in Richland was completed under another project in 1948.

Besides the main line, approximately 3 miles of yard tracks were built, including a 350 car classification yard, a scale track, and a wye for turning locomotives near North Richland.

The new line includes three bridges. The 700-foot multiple steel girder span over the Yakima River is almost complete, and the 64-foot and 27-foot single steel girder spans over Highway 410 and the irrigation canal above the highway are complete.

The Yakima River crossing is high enough to clear future flood stages after completion of McNary Dam.

"Because of the nature of the material encountered under the river bottom," Cooke said, "four bridge piers are supported on steel "n" piling, driven to as much as 40 feet into the river bed."

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The future high water level necessitated construction of approximately one mile of embankment, 20 to 30 feet high across the flat land between the Yakima River and the Richland "Y".

All work on the new connection is being done under a subcontract by J. A. Terteling and Sons, Inc. of Boise, and is being supervised by G-E and AEC engineers.

Cooke stated that completion of the new rail link will insure uninterrupted service to the Hanford Works railroad system and will result in considerable reductions in freight costs.

**HANFORD ATOMIC PRODUCTS OPERATION  
NEWS BUREAU**

**GENERAL  ELECTRIC**

PHONE: 4-2258 RICHLAND, WASH.

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

Richland, Washington, October 15 -- A plan that would bring the first application of atomic energy for the generation of electric power into operation within five years was announced here today by Ralph J. Cordiner, president of the General Electric Company.

The announcement was made at a press conference during a visit by the General Electric Board of Directors to the huge Hanford Works, which is operated by the General Electric Company for the Atomic Energy Commission for plutonium production.

General Electric's proposal, if adopted by the Atomic Energy Commission, would make the plant here, which produced the first plutonium for the atomic bomb, also the historic site of the first large-scale adaptation of atomic energy to electric power production. Mr. Cordiner's announcement came as employees of General Electric throughout the country were celebrating the 75th anniversary of an important date in the beginning of the electrical industry itself. On October 15, 1878, Thomas A. Edison formed one of the predecessor companies of General Electric to invent an incandescent lamp and bring electricity into use in homes, industry, and commerce.

In making the announcement, Mr. Cordiner said:

"We are now prepared to recommend to the Atomic Energy Commission that General Electric proceed at once with development and design followed by construction and operation within five years, of a dual purpose reactor at Hanford. This plant will produce both large quantities of plutonium and of electric power.

"Success in our development work will mean that we can change the immense Hanford operation from a drain on the power-short systems of the Northwest to a substantial

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contributor of power.

"At the same time we will be taking another of the many steps we have taken since 1946, resulting in continually reduced costs of plutonium - the major product of the Hanford Works.

"We feel certain that there will be a third benefit. We will be doing our part to speed up the already rapid approach of the day when atomic fuel will power economic single purpose electric plants. We will learn much about the problems of high temperature operation in a large scale plant. Furthermore, we will learn to operate on an economical basis a truly large atomic fueled power station supplying a large block of dependable power. We will obtain answers in these endeavors which we are sure will be of greatest value to the electric utility industry."

Company officials pointed out that General Electric has pioneered in atomic energy development since the earliest days. General Electric Research Laboratory physicists were one of the two groups who in 1940 succeeded in identifying uranium 235 as the source of fission in natural uranium. During World War II many General Electric scientists and engineers were assigned to work on various phases of the Manhattan Project which produced the first atomic bomb.

In 1946, General Electric agreed to take over operation of the Hanford Works, which had been operated during the war by the du Pont Company. As part of the 1946 contract with the Government, General Electric also established the Knolls Atomic Power Laboratory in Schenectady and the new laboratory buildings on land adjoining General Electric's own Research Laboratory were completed early in 1950.

KAPL provides technical assistance to Hanford and also has under construction at nearby West Milton, N. Y., a land-based prototype for a nuclear-powered submarine, working in conjunction with the AEC and the Navy. Under a similar arrangement, working with the AEC and the Air Force, General Electric undertook further development of a nuclear-powered airplane engine at the Evendale, Ohio, plant in February 1951.

General Electric's willingness to propose a dual-purpose reactor as economically

feasible at this time is a direct result of the tremendous technological progress which has been made on these projects, Mr. Cordiner said.

Other Company officials pointed out that there have been varying estimates of how soon atomic energy could be economically applied to the generation of electric power.

"We still have a great deal to learn before we can make any specific forecast of how soon an atomic reactor for the single purpose of generating electric power will become economically feasible," Mr. Cordiner said. "But the progress made here at Hanford on the technological problems has given us the greatest confidence that this will be done in the long-range future."

All in all, General Electric now has about 11,500 people engaged in the research and development of atomic energy and in the operation of atomic energy facilities. This is nearly one-sixth of 74,000 employees recently estimated by the AEC for all of its operations contractors, excluding government employees and construction employees. In addition, some hundreds of subcontractors are contributing extensively to atomic projects for which General Electric has responsibility. A large amount of technical assistance is also provided by the scientists, engineers, and technicians of the General Electric Research Laboratory and General Engineering Laboratory.

"We cannot, of course, give you any figures which would reveal costs or rates of production," Mr. Cordiner said. "But from the numbers of people involved and from the size of the plant investment, it is obvious that the atomic program is a major factor in the nation's huge defense expenditure. Because it is so important to our whole economy to keep defense costs as low as possible without sacrificing our security, it is especially satisfying to report that we have been able to reduce the costs of plutonium by startling proportions. While specific figures cannot be revealed, the savings are literally enormous and equally encouraging are the forecasts of our scientists and engineers that this rate of improvement will continue in the future. It is good to know that our performance on these projects involving so many taxpayers' dollars is excellent in comparison to that in other regular General Electric operations.



"From the experience gained in projects such as these will come the gains in technology necessary to make atomic energy feasible and economical for peacetime applications. The problems to be solved are of great magnitude, but so is the amount of technology being applied to solve them. It is interesting to compare the situation today with the early days of the electrical industry when there were relatively only a handful of engineers and trained technicians. In 1900 U. S. industry as a whole employed an average of one engineer for every 250 employees. By 1952 U. S. industry was employing one engineer or technical graduate for every 60 employees. In the General Electric Company today the comparable statistic is one engineer or technical person for every 20 employees. And on our atomic projects the figure is one technical graduate for every 6 employees.

"With this kind of effort, we are confident that atomic energy will earn a significant place in our competitive peacetime economy. We have already learned this much: the nation need no longer fear the exhaustion of its natural energy supplies, even though our economic growth and improved standard of living continue to be measured in such terms as a doubling of the electric energy used every decade. And if we put the future of atomic energy far enough ahead, we can predict that eventually atomic energy will be powering not only military planes and ships, but also commercial aircraft and ships; it will be making a significant contribution to the electric utility industry; radioactive materials will be widely used in medicine, biology, and agriculture; the heat of atomic fission may be used to produce fresh water from the ocean.

"Seventy-five years ago, when Edison was about to launch the new electrical age, most people knew little about electricity except in the destructive and terrifying form of lightning. Today we are in a comparable position in relation to atomic energy. Men who know atomic energy best are confident that this tremendous force also can be harnessed and controlled to work for man's benefit."