

Date: June 21, 1979

Occupation: Cumberland County Commissioners Staff

INTERVIEWER: Can you remember when you first heard about the whole Three Mile Island incident?

NARRATOR: Yes, I can. It was Friday I think that was March 28. Commissioner Myers was very excited. He came into the office and the next thing I knew, we were given a...he had gotten word of the situation at Three Mile Island and we were given a press release to call up the various media and inform the public that until further notice they should remain indoors and that...well we were given a series of press releases as things transpired—that was my first knowledge of the situation at Three Mile Island.

INT: How did you feel about it at that point? Were you concerned or...?

NAR: Oh, I was very concerned. I'll tell you why—my former husband worked at Three Mile Island. And I lived within 3 miles of Three Mile Island for a period of almost 5 years. And in the course of him working down there, and I'm sure not a lot of people were aware of it, but he was working in the reactor building and they were—the temperature had gone up to I think something like 140 degrees and they were working, of course, on the outside of cement wall which surrounds I guess the fuel cylinder or whatever. And he had to go through a decontamination and some of the workers I understand, one or two I think he stated, were given further medical treatment. So I realized...

INT: So you were very aware of Three Mile Island before this event?

NAR: Yes, and of course when I heard it, why I didn't react outwardly, but of course I was very concerned because I knew what was down there.

INT: Do you know how far we are from Three Mile Island?

NAR: Now? Well, I know that I'm within the 20 mile radius.

INT: Did you know that before the event?

NAR: No, I didn't know the proximity of my residence to the Three Mile Island site.

INT: So from the beginning then you saw this as a serious situation and worried?

NAR: Yes, I did.

INT: Did you seek out further information at that point?

NAR: I didn't seek out further information; I was exposed to the very heart of the situation here.

INT: Because of your job, you were right in the middle of it from the beginning?

NAR: Right. And I was aware of things that I'm sure the citizens of Cumberland County were not aware of.

INT: Did you talk about it here with coworkers?

NAR: There were remarks made, but there wasn't time for a lot of conversing. Things were happening too fast.

INT: You were all just too busy?

NAR: Right.

INT: Did it change your work routines?

NAR: Oh, it certainly did.

INT: Would you talk about that?

NAR: Well, everything else was very unimportant at the time. This was priority number one. And...I'm trying to think if it was Saturday. Yes, I did work Saturday. I was the only secretary between the Office of Emergency Preparedness and the Commissioner's Office, so immediately I was required...on Saturday in fact the solicitor called me and said, "Could you come in right away?" And I dropped everything at home. My mother was with me, staying with me. So I dropped everything and I came in in the morning and I sat in on all the meetings and I was required to take notes and this was all day Saturday in addition to taking minutes at the different meetings...and I'm talking about the initial meetings with the hospital, the police, the military, and I was very involved in that in addition to taking notes for press releases and getting them done and giving them to the other girls in the office to get on the (unintelligible). My time was too involved in secretarial aspect of it. Then Saturday I went to a wedding, and while I was at the wedding, the solicitor got a phone call and the Commissioner—Commissioner Myers—and he seemed to be very concerned. They didn't say anything, but he told me to be ready to come to work Sunday. So that Sunday I came in early. I worked 16 and a half hours that day, and again it was meetings back to back. And there wasn't quite enough of me to go around, so there was something that to me was...I can't stress the importance of it...and that was the tape recorder. Because I couldn't keep up with the meetings. So they would tape the meetings and I would work on transcribing the notes from those meetings. And of course they couldn't remember everything that was said, and they needed guidelines for future meetings and for planning. So what they did was to evaluate the notes that I transcribed. It was an education to me. I just had no idea of the

involvement within the county—how many agencies and how many people were involved in this evacuation plan that they were putting together.

INT: And that's what they were evolving and that was their primary concern at that point?

NAR: Yes, right. Because they had just completed I understand the whole emergency operations center—the whole network—I think it was like 3 weeks prior to Three Mile Island. So we were in a position with the help of the Solicitor's military background, because he was putting everything together with all the other various agencies, and so that...

INT: He became the coordinator then?

NAR: Yes, he was. And of course the more I worked with it, and the more I became involved, the more I understood it, so that when it actually came down to an evacuation plan in draft form, I had a broad understanding of how it fell together. And it made me appreciate everybody that was concerned—the officials, the government's involvement in it. And the people here in the courthouse, you know, what they were contributing to it.

INT: You felt they did a very good job?

NAR: Oh, I think they worked together extremely well. I really do.

INT: Do you feel that was so at the state and national levels?

NAR: I don't think I can evaluate that too well because the only thing that I was aware of on the state or national level was the feeling that the county wasn't being informed promptly enough or with honesty.

INT: Others had (unintelligible)?

NAR: Yeah. And I worked with the state emergency management agency. I'm trying to think of the man's name...I can't think of it right now...and the federal representative that was here. And I did work for them. And of course they were...

INT: They had a lot of bosses?

NAR: Yeah. They were overseeing everything that the county was doing and of course they were coordinating too. So what they contributed and what they did to me, seemed to me to be very important. And of course they evaluated too. So other than that, I don't know one way or the other how they...

INT: Were you aware of the media through all of this or were you so involved in just your daily workload?

NAR: You mean what the media was printing?

INT: What they were printing, what they were doing on television, what was said on the radio?

NAR: I saw the...what was released from the county to the media. I didn't have time to read the newspaper. The only thing that of course I was aware of were the discrepancies in time, you know in reporting to the county. I guess on the state level is what I was most aware of, or the reporting from Three Mile Island.

INT: You saw discrepancies there?

NAR: Well, Commissioner Myers had written some letters to the president of Met Ed and to various government officials. And what I'm saying is that I became aware that the reporting from Three Mile Island and the seriousness of the situation—the possible meltdown—the Commissioner had made a call and he was not given the information honestly about the seriousness of it. In other words, it wasn't until he was aware of it through the media. And he followed this up of course with correspondence and phone calls and every other means that was at his disposal. So that Cumberland County could be ahead of the game rather than doing things too late. And at that time, time was very crucial in putting an evacuation plan together, and it also determined the...I've lost my thought...

INT: You were talking about timing being crucial and that this discrepancy was created...?

NAR: Right. You know, a few hours a day or so...I could have been too late. The situation could have been out of hand before the evacuation plan was usable. Before they actually had an evacuation plan. And this is why the time element was so important to them. And of course as I worked more and more on it, I could see, because after they had their meetings here, it had to be coordinated—they gave their responsibility to the local government officials—the county informed the local government officials and they in turn implemented what was given to them at the county level. And that's where I think the time element became so crucial. And they were planning their meetings—or they weren't planning them—but they were having them back to back. And of course everything had to be followed up. They say for instance, they had a meeting with the sewage people—the plant operators and things—as everything went from a county level to local level, they had to be aware of where they stood on a county level before they could move ahead on a lower level.

INT: You mentioned Metropolitan Edison in all of this—do you have...have you formed a judgment about their behavior?

NAR: I don't think that Met Ed...I don't think they were honest in what was happening down there. Now I've read a lot since then—I don't know if they were aware of what was happening down there at the very moment it was happening—the serious

consequences of what was taking... happening there. I really think that as far as Met Ed is concerned, I really don't feel as though the citizens—I am a Met Ed customer—I don't feel as though the people, the customers, should have to absorb the costs of what went wrong down there. I don't know if it was the people who built the plant, I don't if it's the company itself in operating the plant, but I don't think that...either the company that owned the plant or the nuclear regulatory commission, I don't think that they were paying attention to some of the things that were happening down there prior to this Three Mile Island.

INT: Can I follow that up, and in a very specific way...do you feel that the people over there who were in charge of that, the decision-making there, do you feel that they were in control of the situation?

NAR: Once it happened? I think they were doing the best they could do with their knowledge and with their training. I think it's remarkable that a meltdown was prevented. And I'm sure that what they did—the decisions that they had to make, not knowing whether or not they would be successful, I think they handled it very well.

INT: Do you think that they are in control now?

NAR: Met Ed?

INT: The people who are over-seeing the plant?

NAR: I think so now. I think they have to be. I don't want to see the plant in operation until they know more about the plant itself down there—the technical end of it, better training for the technicians and the people who operate the plant. Of course the...because I don't live as close to it as I did at one time, doesn't mean that I'm not as concerned—I am. Because I think when they talked about the 5 miles radius, 10 mile radius, or 20 mile radius—if they would have had a meltdown, if things would have gotten out of hand, it would have been far wider spread than just this radius. So I am concerned because I am in the 20 mile radius. And I don't want to see the plant in operation—not until they have better control, they have better training, and that the regulator agencies are watching the operation closer.

INT: If the worst had happened over there, what do you think it would have been like?

NAR: Oh, I think it would have been...it would have been devastating.

INT: Did you have any mental pictures of it?

NAR: I didn't dwell on it too much. I wasn't unrealistic, I didn't try to be apathetic and think, well it's just going to disappear, it's just something that's here and it'll be gone tomorrow. I think the far-reaching and the long-range effects of it...I can't even comprehend and I don't think many other people could. And I certainly wouldn't want to

experience them and I wouldn't want my family or anybody else to have to go through it. But I didn't dwell on it.

INT: Did you have any ideas of what that might be?

NAR: Oh, I'm sure it would have been certain death for many, many, many people. And looking further ahead with our children and future generations, I think they would have suffered more. Because of the radiation and the birth defects and cancer and illness. I think it would have been horrible.

INT: Did you think of the effects of that on other life around—life other than human life?

NAR: Yes, I thought of it as...I guess in the back of my mind, I kind of looked at it in the same respect as if there would have been a bomb dropped. You know the radiation and the devastating effects to all forms of life.

INT: Did you have any pictures of that at the time?

NAR: Not at the time. I think really I gave it more thought after I was not so involved in it.

INT: You were busy...

NAR: but I still thought about my friends...I have a lot of friends down there and relatives of my family, and everybody.

INT: And they live down closer to it?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Did you talk about the situation or did you even have time to in your family?

NAR: I did because my mother is 75 and she lives, why I think she was like 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> on the evacuation list. They prioritized the evacuation geographically—the closest to Three Mile Island...

INT: And she...?

NAR: And she was like the 5<sup>th</sup> or 6<sup>th</sup> to be evacuated. And I brought her up with me. She was reluctant to come up with me. I wasn't aware at that time that I was in the 20 mile radius and that I too would be evacuated. And I wanted to bring her down with me. And of course it served a dual purpose because she babysat for me while I was in here. But nonetheless I was concerned that if...even a precautionary evacuation would have been implemented, where I live, they were scheduled to be sent or evacuated to

Chambersburg. And I feared the separation that I would have been involved here and they would have been forced to evacuate to Chambersburg.

INT: And you would have been separated?

NAR: Right.

INT: You thought about that?

NAR: Yes. I definitely did not want to be separated from my family.

INT: If it had to happen, you wanted all to be together?

NAR: I wanted to be evacuated with them; I wanted to know that they were all right and that I was there with them.

INT: So you felt some responsibility to your family to place them as well as you could, given your duties here?

NAR: Oh definitely.

INT: Did you ever feel any conflict between what you felt your responsibilities here were and them?

NAR: My family comes first. Whether it's my children or my mother or my sister. So that because I was better informed than most people in Cumberland County, and being involved in it, had I seen that it was going to happen, I would have picked up and left immediately.

INT: Did you make some plans in your mind for that?

NAR: Not other than to be prepared at home. You know, with what was necessary to evacuate.

INT: Did you pack?

NAR: Oh yes. I had everything ready. And I had it together at my home so that if I left here on short notice I could have gone home and packed up and taken them with me.

INT: Did you have your gas tank full?

NAR: Yes. I thought of those things. Yeah, I did.

INT: Are you willing to tell me what you wanted to take along?

NAR: Well, personal hygiene items. A minimum amount of clothing, of course. I have a small automobile, and with 3 sons and my mother, I have a Honda—why we would have only taken the necessities along. Any medication and reading material. I had like crossword puzzle books and things like that. I had a few small games for the children to play. But I was aware of what the host areas were doing as far as coordinating the evacuation centers—not only the life sustaining necessities, but also they were working with forms of recreation.

INT: So you were aware of what was going to be provided if you had to leave?

NAR: Yeah.

INT: And you would have gone to one of those centers—that would have been your plan?

NAR: Yes, I would have.

INT: Is there anything else you wanted to take with you?

NAR: No, no. Because I realized too that you couldn't take too much with you. There was nothing at the house that I valued that I would have been upset about if I couldn't have taken it with me. It was my family that ...and our well-being that I was most concerned with.

INT: You said that your mother didn't want to leave where she was. Was there some stress about that?

NAR: Well, she's...I don't think that she realized the seriousness of it. She's kind of an independent elderly lady. And she didn't want to have to move in with me. She was with me for the best part of a week. And you know, just leave her home. I guess her home is so dear to her that she, too, feared that if anything happened she wouldn't get back to her home. So that it would have turned her life upside-down. And when I told her that if she remained there that perhaps I wouldn't have had the time to come down and to see that she would have been with us—that she would have been evacuated by herself to an evacuation center because she doesn't drive—and I think that opened her eyes and she realized that if she wanted to be with her family, she would have to come up with me.

INT: Did you see any stress in the children?

NAR: No.

INT: So they remained pretty even throughout this?

NAR: They were informed at school to some degree. They realized too that it was very serious...



INT: Especially with you being away and involved and so forth...

NAR: Right, but they didn't say anything about me leaving. I told them that if things got worse that I'd come home and I would be with them. And I think they accepted this and they trusted my judgment. They just adjusted very well to being out of school and not knowing whether or not they were going to have to be moved to another area. They didn't overreact to it.

INT: I'm going to circle back from...you talked about two levels of government. How about the federal government, do you think they performed well in this situation?

NAR: If I remember right, Commissioner Myers called Washington and I'm sorry...I can't site his contact with Washington. I know he got response, and I am vague as to whether it was before Dr. Denton came to Three Mile Island or if it was subsequent to that. But he was instrumental as far as having the...or making them aware of what was necessary here. And I really, I can't get into it any deeper. I'm sure he has the details on that. But as far as the federal government is concerned, I just...I'm sure they did what they felt was necessary, and I'm sure they were abreast of what was happening. So that if any more would have been required, I'm sure that whatever they were required to do, they would have done it. I just...I don't know.

INT: I'm sort of filling in here. You talked about your plans in terms of leaving and how it had changed your ordinary routine and so forth. Did you have any feeling for people who actually left the area?

NAR: The only feelings I had is if they did so, I'm sure it was the best thing for them to do. Whether they were motivated by the fear of a meltdown—that it would have been as devastating as would have been possible...or if it was the concern for their family, having to be separated from them and being at work and wanting to remain as a family unit. I had no feelings that they should have remained, I'm sure that what they did was best for them. I was concerned about...I have former in-laws and a lot of my friends are down there and I thought about them. I wasn't in contact with them. I would have wanted to know if things got worse of course, what did happen to them (unintelligible), yeah.

INT: Did you ever picture in your mind the effects of radiation—now I'm asking specifically for mental pictures?

NAR: Well, I guess in the back of my mind is the fear of what effects it has on our children as far as when they have families, any birth defects, any cancer. Yes, I thought a great deal about that.

INT: Did you have any images?

NAR: I didn't have any definite image; it was kind of a general feeling.

INT: Did you think of your own death at all?

NAR: No, I really didn't.

INT: So you were pretty sure you would survive?

NAR: Yes, I didn't put it in the perspective of a meltdown. I don't know why. If it would have come to that point, I think the fear would have been much more intense. And I probably would have pictured or had a specific image in my mind. But I didn't get into that. And I didn't fear that until—or unless it would actually have occurred. I'm sure that if it would have occurred, I may not have been as calm about it.

INT: Did you think about God during the incident at all?

NAR: Oh, definitely.

INT: How did you see Him as connected with this?

NAR: Well, I was brought up—I believe that we are all created by God. And because we're His children, He looks after us. And cares for us. And I know that when man is at his human extremity, when there's no place to turn—whether it's illness or poverty—that most people turn to God and they pray. They pray for guidance, they pray for protection, they pray for healing. And I felt that God was in control. That I didn't care how great the form of energy was that was to be out of control. I felt as though He would guide and govern the people who were directly connected with this incident to make the right decisions. And I've always had that kind of faith. I think that's—I know, in fact—that's what sustained me and kept me from becoming so fearful that I couldn't function either at home or at work.

INT: Did you pray?

NAR: Oh I prayed, yes. I prayed that He would give the people the knowledge to do what was right. And not only that, but more specifically for my family, that I too would be guided to do what was right.

INT: Did you see this as any kind of message from God?

NAR: I feel as though...well, first of all, I really believe that we're all blessed with the same degree of intelligence. Any limitations I feel that we place on ourselves; we can overcome them when we realize that we all are blessed with intelligence to cope with any situation, whether it's home or something like this. And as far as message, if there's any message, I think it is to—take a step backwards and to maybe not progress so fast. To look ahead and to try to see the possible ramifications of developing a form of energy such as nuclear energy that could get out of hand. And along with that, it may, I hope, open the eyes of people to perhaps spend more money to look into and develop other sources of energy. Whether it's solar energy or to look for another form that's yet

undiscovered. I understand, well PP&L doesn't have nuclear power plants and I think they concentrate more on going into the home and teaching people how to conserve energy and what to do in their home to utilize it conservatively. And if there's any message, I think it's that.

INT: Did you go to a religious service during the situation?

NAR: I didn't because I was working. I worked that Sunday. Like I said it was 16 and half hours that day. But still in my thought I don't feel as though you have to go to church to pray. I think when you reach out for guidance and protection, and that that is praying. And I know that my church as well as many other churches, if in fact not all of them, were praying for a solution to the problem down there.

INT: Did you think of any biblical stories or guidance or anything?

NAR: I don't think specifically any story. I feel that we're never placed in a situation regardless of how severe it is, where we aren't given the strength or the intelligence or the guidance to handle it. Of course there's a lot of Bible stories that bring that out.

INT: But you didn't connect them...?

NAR: No, I didn't.

INT: Do you think your behavior, the way you took care of your responsibilities and so forth in all of this, were informed by a moral code of some kind, an idea of the best way for people to behave in this situation?

NAR: I don't know if I can define moral.

INT: Or even if you prefer ethical?

NAR: I think in this situation that...I think what the whole thing did was to...it forced people to place their trust in the leaders of the—not only the regulatory agencies and the government—but it forced them to place trust in what they were doing. And the most important thing was for everybody to follow the guidelines that were established for them. Not to go about frantically to do things on their own. Because the success of the whole thing—the whole evacuation plan—everything was determined by everybody following these guidelines, and doing what was best. Because it was the only way that it would have functioned. The way that it was planned was for people to listen, not to call, not to inform or misinform other people. This is where I think the media was instrumental. Was for people to listen to their radios and watch their televisions and follow to the T what they were being told to do. And that I think necessitated people in trusting all of the people that were involved in establishing the guidelines.

INT: Did you have some fears that that might not happen?

NAR: Only yes—if it would have come to the point of a meltdown. I think that panic and fear may have taken over...that there may have been people jumping in their cars and going to perhaps relatives, or taking other routes than had been established. I think if it would have come to that point of implementation, I think there may have been some difficulty of control at that level.

INT: Did you have any pictures of this when you were thinking about it?

NAR: No, I didn't have any pictures; just the thought occurred to me that everybody couldn't...that people couldn't be...they just couldn't take it upon themselves. They had to do what was best.

INT: At the time, did the sequence of events bring to mind any past experiences in your life?

NAR: Well I...separation to me, I guess if anything I fear separation from my loved ones, which is nothing unusual or abnormal, I don't think. I had lost my father, and my brother was killed. And I haven't been divorced too long, and just had a very strong desire to be close.

INT: And this invoked those former experiences of separation and they worried you?

NAR: Right, they did.

INT: Did you think of any historical events?

NAR: No, I really didn't have time to think that far.

INT: Do you think this was more or less frightening than say a flood or hurricane?

NAR: Oh yes, I definitely think that it was...

INT: More or less?

NAR: More. Because floods—they're forecasting something, they know what's going to happen, they know how they're going to handle it, and sometimes they can...they know ahead of time that they can evacuate people and get them out. They know what they are facing. Here it was uncertainty. It was something that they had not...I know there's been...I think...now I don't remember if there has ever been a meltdown or not...I think this was, if I remember, this was the most serious accident at a nuclear power site. And because of the unknown element—because they didn't know for sure just which way it was going to go—that in itself made it more frightening. Because I think the uncertainty in any form, the unknown—we always fear the unknown. And that element I think made it more frightening.

INT: Did you think of any books you had read...?

NAR: I'm not a reader.

INT: TV shows you had seen; movies you had seen?

NAR: I didn't see the *China Syndrome*, but I heard a few things about the parallel of that particular movie to what had happened here and that ironic thing that it preceded this nuclear accident. I think perhaps if I had seen it, I may have reacted differently, if I had seen the movie. The only way that I think I related to perhaps...not specifically to any book or program or anything, is looking back...when I was a child as far as science was concerned and a man on the moon...this was really science fiction in comic form at that time and think what I perhaps gave thought to was, at that time, who would have believed that when I was middle-aged that this was a thing of the past already and here we are...I had always feared a nuclear attack—a bomb being dropped—and here it was not a military confrontation with another country or anything, it was something that we put there. And yet it could have been as challenging and as devastating as if there would have been a nuclear attack.

INT: Did you ever connect with that image—that mushroom cloud image?

NAR: Yes, yes. That did come to my mind. Because it being the symbol of a nuclear holocaust, you know what I mean. Something that's...The accident at Three Mile Island, although we weren't informed of any malfunctions down there or things that may have preceded this that weren't exactly right, whether it was the result of the...TAPE ENDED

INT: You were talking about the image but then you were also saying that you had not been, people had not been informed of any more minor malfunctions to this plant.

NAR: Well, whatever...I'm saying is, whatever preceded this, I still think in most people's minds it had an element of surprise, the same as if there had been a nuclear attack. All of a sudden here was this possible catastrophe looking at us in the face and it had to have a reaction in my mind and in other people's mind...that's how I related it to the mushroom. I mean, all of a sudden, here it is. You didn't expect it. And I think the whole thing will make people more aware of the possible...the bad side of nuclear energy. I mean people will not just look at it anymore and say, "Oh well, it's a nuclear plant." Because I think it opened too many people's eyes to just be apathetic about it, I think people are going to remain aware of it.

INT: Do you think this has changed them in a lasting way?

NAR: I think it had, I really think it has.

INT: Has it changed you in a lasting way?

NAR: What can one person do? I really don't think people have that much say so on whether a nuclear plant goes up in your backyard or not, whether you want it or not, it's

there. But being aware of the possibilities will make people I think react differently to it. They may reallocate, they may not come into the area. But I think it will have a lasting effect on decision making in people's minds as far as locating close to a nuclear power plant.

INT: You think they will be much more aware of where they are now?

NAR: Yes.

INT: Did you have any daydreams that you remember?

NAR: No.

INT: Did you have any sleeping dreams that you remember?

NAR: No, I didn't have any sleeping dreams or daydreams.

INT: Was your sleep disturbed at all?

NAR: Anxiety I think, perhaps, because I knew I was on stand-by. And I didn't know what was going...the demands were tremendous on me...and I didn't know when I went to bed if I would be sleeping the night through and if I would have the resources—the physical and mental resources—to cope with and to meet the demands that were being placed on me. But I'm surprised that actually I didn't feel the fatigue until afterwards. A couple of weeks afterwards and then I was zapped. I just felt as though I had to get away and relax and rest and not just with Three Mile Island, but just with my functions as a secretary.

INT: Did you do that? Did you get some time off?

NAR: Yes, I got sick unfortunately. And I don't think much of myself...I can function very well under stress and I can meet the demands that are placed upon me. And I kind of ignore my own capabilities as far as my physical and mental resources. I will push myself probably to the point of collapsing before I realize that I've had it. I'm at the end of my rope. And so I think for that reason I got myself worn out physically and mentally, and as result I ended up being pretty sick for a while.

INT: Did you observe changes in the people around you during the incident?

NAR: In a positive way. I did. Because, I think basically we work together very well in the Commissioner's Office, and things just fell into place and everybody was involved with a different aspect and there was a lot of extremely good cooperation among the coworkers. And at no time did anybody get to the point where they yelled at anybody. Everybody was very congenial, very cooperative. And I think this was a great asset in the over-all function of the Commissioner's Office in working with the "OC".

INT: Did you hear any jokes about Three Mile Island or radiation?

NAR: Well, the t-shirts got rather humorous. And not other than that, no. I don't think there was too much humor. I think everybody was taking pretty serious any thoughts they had about it. There wasn't a lot of joking.

INT: Now you've said some things that are related to this, and I want to go at it directly. Have you developed an opinion about nuclear energy and what we ought to do?

NAR: Because any bad effects as a result of nuclear energy not being controlled or managed properly. It's...like I said before...it's something you can't see, you can't smell it, you can't taste it, but it's there. And for that reason I would rather see it phased out and other forms of energy developed. I don't want to see it remain a source of energy. I think if this would occur at any other nuclear plant—if there ever would be a meltdown, then the price that would have to be paid, as well as the price that would have been paid here if it would have happened, is just not worth that type of progress. I don't think that you should threaten or sacrifice human life for scientific progress, even though the threat of exhausting the forms of energy that are available now, even with that threat, I still don't think that nuclear energy should be developed. I think that the money and the time should be put into other areas.

INT: Developing alternate forms.

NAR: Yeah.

INT: Is there anything else you'd like to say about all this?

NAR: Well I certainly wouldn't want to see it happen again. I think it opened the eyes of a lot of people about themselves. I think it placed greater value on governments working together whether it's local governments, county, state, and federal. I think it opened the eyes of many people as far as training and education people properly to deal with this kind of a situation. I think that, like I said before, I don't think people will forget it. I think they will remain aware of it, and I think it will effect their decision making now and in the future.

INT: You're saying that it taught you a lot about yourself...what do you mean?

NAR: If it would come down to the point that it would remain a threat, I realize now that regardless of how difficult it would be that I would take my family and I would move someplace where there wasn't such a threat. It made me realize that I can cope with an extreme situation both at home and at work and it was gratifying to myself to know that I could meet the demands that were placed on me. And I appreciate a lot of people more because of it. And their role not only in government on a county level where I am involved, but even beyond that right up to the federal level of government.

INT: You've developed a new respect for that whole business?

NAR: Yes, I have.

INT: Is there anything else you'd like to tell me?

NAR: No, I can't think of anything.

INT: Go ahead...

NAR: Something that I hadn't mentioned was that when I was approached by friends and family, wanting to know if an evacuation was in fact imminent. Were they being told how it was actually happening or were they...?

INT: Feeling that you had more accurate information?

NAR: Right, feeling that because I was here and I was exposed to the facts and I was a part of...I was involved in working on the evacuation plans is what I'm trying to say. And they would ask me questions, I would have phone calls in fact, wanting to know if this was so and if what they read was so. And I would be honest with them and I would tell them and I always stressed that a precautionary evacuation may be possible. And I also stressed with my family and my friends not to take it too lightly. When you are told to prepare certain items for possible evacuation—do it. That this...this did happen and continued to happen until the whole thing was under control.

INT: You were then, by a small group of people, being watched in a sense, for what you would decide and so forth and so on?

NAR: Right, right, I was. And of course had I been informed that an evacuation was going to be carried out, I would have let my friends and family know.

INT: So they could move ahead of time?

NAR: Right. So that they would have been better prepared.