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Three Mile Island Resources

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JANUARY 1985

HELP WANTED

It is a big job getting this newsletter out each month. We have been doing it almost 6 years and have very dedicated people helping each month. We could use a few more. Please call Don Hossler at 944-2250, Jim Hurst 944-2359 or Joyce Corradi 939-0345 or write us to volunteer some of your time (P.O. Box 268, Middletown, PA 17057). Volunteers are needed for the following jobs:

Pick-up person - distribute and pick up newsletters from folders - 1 hour a month (need vehicle).
Folders - label, fold, staple and place in zip code order newsletters - 1 hour each time you do it.

Master Zip Coder - Person to receive all newsletters and take each group already placed in zip code order and get them in one group for mailing - 2 hours a month.

Special thanks to Janet Golden who for the last 4 years has been the pick-up person, master zip coder, and occasional folder. She now is working full-time and has volunteered to be a folder. Thanks Janet for your help. Please call or write to volunteer; tell us how often you would be available--once a year is fine.

NOW MORE THAN EVER

We'd suggest you write one letter and then go to a copy machine (Capitol Campus Library, Middletown Post Office, Middletown Public Library to name a few in this area) and purchase several copies. Your letter should be written to - Governor Richard Thornburgh, Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120 with copies to Lt. Governor William Scranton, Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120, and Congressman George Gekas, 2101 N. Front Street, Harrisburg, PA 17110. What to say? Well you probably know. The past 5½ years have revealed several chilling examples of why TMI #1 and #2 should be closed permanently. The most important priority is to get Unit 2 completely defueled and cleaned up, let's not pass that monument in the middle of the Susquehanna River to our children for disposal, let's help GPU understand that we want them to get it done in our generation.

PANE MEETING

February 10, March 10 -- Frey Village Guest House, N. Union St., Middletown, PA
7 - 9 p.m. -- February 10 & March 10.

LARRY KING

This TMI engineer who was fired after alleging safety shortcuts and later filed suit against GPU has dropped the suit. King was fired in March 1983 and had been operations manager at Unit 2. He dropped the suit for an undisclosed amount of money from GPU.

BEV DAVIS

Alerted us to a November 7, 1984 transcript of an NRC Commissioners meeting on TMI, that she spotted in the Public Document Room at the State Library in Harrisburg. We'll be looking at it and reporting later. She mentioned one of the items is related to 10 or more tons of missing fuel, somewhere in the reactor system or in someone's office.

C-SPAN

Those of you who have Prism or HBO Cable TV know what this is. It's the public affairs channel on cable TV. They do an excellent job and have covered TMI and other nuclear hearings. They did a live show in October 1984 in Harrisburg and interviewed local people and politicians. They also video-taped a tour of TMI. The evening the video-tape was scheduled to be replayed for a national audience, technical problems prevented the airing. We finally saw the program weeks later and it featured John Micka formerly of Channel 27 and now a GPU mouthpiece. The C-Span reporter who accompanied Micka seemed wither very bored or nervous. Some of the choice pieces of propaganda Micka got out to a national audience were (1) TMI, when operating, generates enough electricity to help 10 cities of 50,000 people each (mostly, we believe,

in New Jersey and New York). (2) GPU spends \$500,000.00 a day on other fuels to replace the electricity lost by TMI not operating--On both points he did not clearly state whether it was TMI #1 or #2 or both. (3) Reactor operators spend 5 years in training before they can operate. (4) After the accident GPU decided to shut down TMI #1 until problems associated with Unit #2 were investigated. There were others but the tape moved along quickly.

TMI #1 HEARINGS

The NRC denied a request by TMIA to have former NRC Commissioners Bradford & Gilinsky appear at the hearings. The hearings began on November 14. The hearings will deal with how much information plant officials had during the accident and whether the information was withheld or there was just a lack of competence. Joanne Doroshow, TMIA and Lynne Bernabei of Gov't. Accountability Project are the attorneys. The hearings so far have shown that the NRC limited the probe's scope of the accident and drew conclusions favorable to TMI officials. David Gamble, an NRC investigator at TMI in 1980, said in the report, on the accident, before interviews were conducted. Basically Gamble believes the NRC report on the accident published in 1981 is not competent because investigators were foreclosed from pursuing all investigative leads. Evidently the 1981 report shows conflicts in testimony that thereport claimed are not the result of lying, but Gamble says there is not adequate information in the report to support this. Meanwhile on December 19, 1984 in Bethesda, MD, Bill Jordan of UCS, in a continuation of the hearings, revealed that experts hired by GPU to review GPU's training program evidently did not do a thorough job. The experts completed the report in June 1984 and were headed by a Vice President of Florida Power and Light Co. UCS said the report which praised GPU was based mainly on GPU briefings to the experts.

TMI #1

GPU says it costs 80 to 120 million a year to keep TMI #1 "ready to operate." The steam generators are in dry layup by replacing secondary side coolant with inert gas. The NRC said the repairs done to steam tubes in 1982 and 1983 were completed satisfactorily and they are reasonably sure there is no increased chance of an accident, if #1 would ever start. 29,838 were expanded explosively out of the 31,062 tubes in the steam generators. Meanwhile, on November 6, 1984, the NRC also said GPU has proved to be "the most difficult" utility to work with, in some cases. Evidently verifications of whether equipment can withstand accidents are missing or inadequate. Robert Pollard of The Union of Concerned Scientists has followed this issue and challenged the safety of some of the NRC/GPU decisions, in the interests of public safety. On November 29, 1984, it was widely reported that steam tubes at TMI #1 may need further repairs. Tests revealed 465 tubes may require further examination. If TMI #1 were ever to start and it would operate at less than 50% of capacity for up to 6 months, further testing has been ordered by the NRC of the steam tubes (eddy-current).

NRC COMMISSIONER ASSELSTINE AND TMI #1

Sent a December 19, 1984 letter to NRC staff with questions related to TMI #1 steam tubes. His questions -

1. To what extent has this type of defect (in terms of location, nature, and apparent speed of the deterioration) been found in other once through steam generators of B & W designed plants?
2. Has staff confidently ruled out the possibility of the prior sulfur contamination of the TMI-1 reactor coolant system as a cause of the defects? If not, what is the staff plan and schedule for resolving this? If staff has ruled out sulfur as a cause of the defects, what is the basis?
3. Why were these defects not found in earlier eddy current tests of the tubes?

We thought you should know!

TMI #2

In early December the plenum was hydraulically jacked to a height of 2½ inches & fuel assemblies and debris were removed. The goal for later in December was a height of 9 inches above its normal seating surface. However structural interferences between the 4 jacks and plenum limited the lift to 7¼ inches & that is where it will remain until May 1985 when the polar crane will be used to lift and transfer the plenum to storage in the deep end of the refueling canal. The plenum will remain supported on "jack mechanical followers" until May 1985. Several kinds of supportive work to be done between now and May. GPU says fuel removal could begin in July 1985 and may take as long as 2-3 yrs. In October 1984 GPU was saying 700 people are involved in TMI #2 cleanup operations. F.R. Standerfer the new Unit #2 director (replaced Kanga) in an October 15, 1984 Lancaster Intell interview said cleanup worker radiation doses are limited and safe. Ed Kintner executive V. P. of GPU nuclear is one of his "heroes" and that is why he came to TMI from DOE. Standerfer says 200

are Bechtel and 500 GPU. On October 29, 1984 the NRC revised its 1981 estimate of radiation doses to cleanup workers and said 2 - 6 workers could die prematurely from cancer and 1 - 3 additional genetic defects among workers' offspring. By the end of 1984 GPU had spent about 500 million for the estimated 1 billion dollar cleanup. Bill Kuhns said by 1986 GPU will be hard pressed to keep the cleanup going at full speed if Unit 1 isn't started. A robot named rover is taking pictures and measuring radiation in the basement of Unit 2. Radiation levels in the basement range from 25 to 260 rems per hour. For calendar 1985, the electric utility industry will contribute 25 million to Unit 2 cleanup work (14 million from PA utilities and 11 million from U.S. utilities.) Dick Thornburg wanted 190 million from the utilities but they will only contribute 66 million over the life of the Unit 2 work.

AN ASIDE

Bernie Snyder of NRC said his staff investigated the polar crane incident and found ". . . cotter pins not in place, electrical wiring that's seriously corroded." "They're little things but it's the little things that cause trouble." (Nov. 16, 1984 - Lancaster Intell). Joel Roth of the TMI 2 Advisory Panel warned the NRC to stop treating these as separate symptoms but rather a systemic infection in the utility.

THE ACCIDENT 3/28/79 - TMI #2

The core reached 4800 degrees or just 280 degrees short of a meltdown. The core presently measures about 100 degrees. You may recall more than 250,000 persons left the area, most for 9 - 11 days, some even longer in 1979. In October, the TMI 2 Advisory Panel decided to probe into the Aamodt's assertion that cancer deaths in the area of TMI are 6 - 8 times the state average. The Aamodt's, long time advocates of health studies around TMI, said a survey of 300 people showed 20 cancer deaths and 20 people with tumors. On November 10, 1984 the NRC and EPA said they were not able to confirm the presence of greater than background levels of radiation at sites found by the Aamodt's. The radiation surveys were taken on August 30, 1984. On December 14, 1984 Mick Rood reported in The Patriot that the NRC voted not to investigate the assertions of higher than normal cancer rates in the area. Two commissioners, Bernthal and Asselstine felt the NRC should pay for an independent study but were not voted by the remaining 3 commissioners.

ETHICS, INTEGRITY

The TMI 2 Advisory Panel was informed on October 11, 1984 that the NRC was not informed of a modification made to the polar crane that later rendered the crane's brakes inoperable. In 1983 the NRC requested GPU/Bechtel to provide a list of modifications done to the crane. You may recall in Sept. 1983 the NRC criticized both for unsafe shortcuts coming from the Parks allegations. On November 8, 1984 the NRC staff said GPU "willfully" circumvented federal requirements in refurbishing the polar crane. It appears the reason was expediency and not confusion between GPU and Bechtel according to Tom Cochran of NRDC. The procedural violations were made by Bechtel. Getting back to the polar crane hand release that failed last summer -- it was installed without required engineering and regulatory review. The brake's failure delayed TMI 2 cleanup work. GPU was not able to get the proper mechanism from the supplier so they made their own, with modifications GPU thought would improve the device, but one of those "improvements" may have contributed to the brake's failure. At that same meeting Anne Trunk of Middletown criticized Advisory Panel Chairman Morris for alleged harassment. She has attended only about 50% of the meetings. Morris said he believes members who cannot regularly attend should consider resigning. PANE members attend each meeting and realize that if just one meeting is missed a wealth of information is lost for the sake of continuity and besides who really takes the time to read the transcripts? (Several PANE people do) Speaking about blind biases in favor of nuclear power, a new panel member Joe Dinunno has had his resume placed in the record by fellow panel member Tom Cochran. We'll review it. While we're on this, the Dept. of Energy is paying a pro-nuclear psychiatrist \$85,000 to study people (170) and find out if "fears" can be overcome. The psychiatrist, Robert Dupont, has been known to us for years. He believes any anti-criticism is baseless, irrational and based on "what-ifs". So we know what the result is: more Annie commercials. In 1982 he got \$16,000 from DOE to analyze media activity that contributes to "our fears" ---- watch out Andy Funk of the Press & Journal.

WILL TMI BE IN THE MIDDLE OF THE RIVER FOREVER?

Where do we put the used fuel and other parts of nuclear power plants when the plants are too old to operate? We're talking about hundreds of tons of contaminated steel and fluids that must be disposed of according to Jay Matthews of the Washington Post. Fifteen plants will be ready for permanent shutdown by 2000 A.D. and by the year 2010, 70 more. Decommissioning is the term for

permanent shutdown and right now a 63 megawatt reactor (Humboldt Unit 3, N. of San Francisco) faces decommissioning after only 13 years of service (pro-nuclear people talk about 30 years life expectancies for reactors). In Shippingport, PA a similar sized reactor did reach 20 years of service and now also faces decommissioning. TMI #2 is an 880 megawatt reactor that operated from March 1978 to March 1979 and will never restart, in our opinion. TMI #1 operated from September 1974 to January 1979. At this time, there is no site available to take all decommissioned reactors. The Shippingport reactor will be sailed down the Mississippi and through the Panama Canal to a federal depository in Washington State. The Humboldt plant, because it is investor owned, has no place to go. Utility officials say they want to keep it in safe storage for 30 years. Some people say the utility wants to delay decommissioning because of its high costs and difficulty, thereby showing ratepayers that nuclear power is no bargain. The utility says it would cost 55 million dollars to complete the job. Will GPU decide to leave TMI #1 and #2 in the middle of the Susquehanna for our children to contend with in terms of dismantlement/decommissioning? Useful life (the theoretical 30 years) is up for TMI #1 in 2004. We believe TMI #2 will never ever have a useful life.

PHILADELPHIA INQUIRER, DECEMBER 16, 1984

Interesting article by Rich Heidorn, Jr. on pg. 3G about nuclear reactor evacuations. On April 2, 1979, day 5 of the TMI accident, the Community General Osteopathic Hospital just outside Harrisburg and a few miles from TMI had 6 doctors on staff. On normal days more than 70 would be present. Almost 200,000 people had left the area even though Governor Thornburgh's evacuation advisory for pregnant women and preschool children applied to only 3500 families within 5 miles of TMI. Kai Erickson, a sociologist at Yale University who has helped PANE, makes the point that other people besides physician, nurses, and police officers are needed in an evacuation. People to drive school busses, communications workers, people to drive ambulances, monitor radiation, register evacuees etc. A geographer from Old Dominion University, Donald J. Zeigler, says emergency planners have largely ignored the TMI experience. Russell Dynes of University of Delaware says nuclear reactor emergencies are like any other emergency. It appears 2 of 13 school districts within 10 miles of the Limerick nuclear plant near Philadelphia might have problems providing supervision for students in the event of an emergency. Do you know where Middletown area students are to go for an emergency like TMI? Planners near Limerick have admitted that they're not sure bus drivers have been informed of their responsibilities in an emergency. A survey done near the New York State reactor Shoreham found 69% of bus drivers and 25% of teachers would not report for emergency duty. The Limerick reactor has 187,000 people living within 10 miles. PennDot estimates it would take 2 hours to begin an evacuation and 2 to 6 more for the residents to leave the 10 mile zone. There are 670,000 people living 10 - 20 miles from Limerick and 6.8 million within a 50 mile radius. According to Zeigler 53% of the population within 15 miles of TMI left during the accident and fled a median of 100 miles.

IN THE COURTS

James Floyd a former supervisor of operations at TMI #2 was found guilty of 2 counts of cheating while trying to requalify as a nuclear reactor operator in 1979. He had someone else answer questions. Prosecutors wondered why Floyd did not ask for an extension to study for the exams. The prosecutor depicted Floyd as a man who had little regard for TMI's training process, yet was concerned about his ability to pass the required tests. The prosecutor said, "Mr. Floyd says his intent was to get caught . . . he intended to get caught." "He also says, I thought it would look good if I cheated then if I handed in nothing at all . . ." "Does that have the ring of truth?" asked the prosecutor. Gregory Hitz, a reactor operator, was asked to answer the questions by Floyd. Hitz was considered "the brains of the island, he tested real good." Hitz testified he "unknowingly" provided Floyd with take-home test answers. Floyd hasn't worked at TMI since April 1983 and is currently employed with Electronic Associates Inc. of West Long Branch, NJ and is temporarily assigned as a consultant to a nuclear plant in Arkansas. Also a Lewisberry, York County family has sued GPU for more than 300,000 dollars due to children suffering physical and emotional problems as a result of exposure to radiation, parents have suffered emotional distress and some of the children have suffered loss of hair, internal bleeding, rib tumors, cysts on ovaries and blood diseases. The father and children regularly took walks along the river and on March 28 and 29 were unaware of the radiation threat.

We thought you should know!

We thought you should know! -5-

PRICE-ANDERSON

This Act which was passed in 1957 will come up for Congressional review in 1985. It limits the total to be paid to victims of any one nuclear plant accident at 585 million. The Federal Insurance Administration says if TMI would have melted down property damage would have reached 17 billion dollars. The average household would lose \$67,000 and with Price-Anderson in effect would recover only \$2,247.00 Utilities should be fully financially responsible

SOLAR PONDS

A shallow body of salt water with the bottom layer more salty than the top. The bottom layers (15 - 20 ft. deep) causes heat to accumulate at the bottom. Temperatures can reach 200° enough to move a Rankin-Cycle Turbine which in turn drives a generator. By 1987 a 48 megawatt capacity pond will be completed near Los Angeles (Old Danby Lake) and supply power to 30,000 users. (Oct. 1984 - Shutdown Sheet - Ohio)

EMERGENCY PLANS

Nucleonics Week Oct. 22, 1984 reported Ronald Reagan as President of the U.S. "does not favor the imposition of federal government authority over the objections of state and local governments in matters regarding the adequacy of an emergency evacuation plan for a nuclear power plant."

RESOURCES FOR THE FUTURE, SUMMER 1984

Nice article by former Commissioner John Ahearne made available to PANE by Jack Susskind; for a copy send PANE \$1.00 for postage and copying.

THE UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS, 1346 CONNECTICUT AVENUE, N.W., SUITE 1101, WASHINGTON, DC 20036

For a copy of a very well done "Critical Review of the printed ads of the U.S. Committee for Energy Awareness" that appear in print and on TV write to UCS.

DISTRESSING

The October 30, 1984 Lancaster Intelligencer Journal has an excellent article on President Reagan's visit to Millersville University and the pro and anti TMI response. This was where Gene Stulp was physically removed for asking the President questions about TMI. No one did anything to prevent the Reaganites from taking Gene out. Can you imagine what would have happened if democrats would have tried to remove Reagan types from Mondale-Ferraro gatherings?

RADON

A special detector can be purchased to see if your home is a potential health hazard due to this radioactive gas. An article appeared in the Dec. 12, 1984 Harrisburg Patriot News, pg. A24. The detector inquiries can be made to Terradex Corp., 460 Wiget Lane, Walnut Creek, CA 94598.

METHANE

A landfill in Lebanon County near Ebenezer may, by the end of 1985, be pumping the gas into a generating plant where internal combustion engines will turn it into 2,000 kilowatts, which when operated at 24 hours could produce enough electricity to supply 2500 households a day.

CONSERVATION

Massachusetts Electric reimburses 15% of the cost of recommended home improvements up to \$300.00. The TVA has been offering low interest loans for up to \$3,000 since 1977 for energy improvements.

A REVIEW

We came across a March 22, 1984 Lancaster Intelligencer Journal interview with Bob Pollard of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Not much has changed almost one year later.

TMI TRIVIA

An April 24, 1984 memo to NRC commissioners from the staff says 26 of the 38 TMI #1 reactor operators were interviewed to determine their readiness for operation. We're puzzled why all 38 were not interviewed. The report says operational skills of some appeared to have declined. 13 topics were listed by NRC as indicating a lack of experience. Each person evaluated was done so for two hours in one of 6 areas like reactor theory etc. A generic weakness did exist as to familiarity with routine operational manipulations!!! One Senior operator displayed a weakness in transient analysis for loss of main feedwater (TMI #2 accident)! Data Design Laboratories (DDL) has been selected by GPU and approved by the NRC to perform in-depth audit of training and testing at TMI. DDL did audit GPU in 1982. NRC noted in its approval that no individual owns or controls a significant quantity of GPU stock.

IE No. 84-14 (March 2, 1984) notes U.S. Postal revisions to rules on mailing radioactive material. It is very interesting. You can write the NRC in Washington, DC 20555 or send us \$2.50 to cover copying and postage. We dug through our pile and found a December 19, 1983 letter to the NRC commissioners from D. G. Eisenhut of the NRC staff regarding leakage and pathways between TMI #1 and #2 and failure of GPU to adhere to procedures. These problems occurred during hot functional testing in August 1983, one of the few times operators could "go through the motions." The letter details several screw ups. A June 11, 1984 letter to GPU from the NRC said GPU could transfer a TMI #2 condensate storage tank (250,000 gallons) to TMI #1 in case an event occurs related to a steam generator tube rupture in the "undamaged TMI #1". A June 5, 1984 NRC letter to GPU cites them for a \$40,000 fine for procedural screw-ups as the "new GPU" in late summer - fall 1983 (some discussed earlier). A mysterious June 12, 1984 - NRC to GPU letter says an amendment has been issued and it removes the previous limits on receipt, possession, and use of by-product, source, or special nuclear material. NRC said they evaluated the licensee's radiation protection program and the amendment would not result in any significant environmental impact! Oh, ... okay.

UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS

This organization had two recent filings with the NRC related to TMI. The July 31, 1984 states GPU continues to ignore and/or evade NRC requirements that says certain equipment must be installed to withstand certain kinds of problems/accidents. A 1982 report on TMI #1 done by Franklin Research Center documented several deficiencies which were still not taken care of in 1984. As a result UCS has asked that the Office of Investigations within the NRC investigate whether GPU has made material false statements. An August 24, 1984 filing states GPU has asked NRC to operate TMI #1 in violation of certain conditions set by the NRC. It appears the main reason is to make it easier to "mitigate" a steam generator tube rupture. UCS feels these conditions (very technical) are unsafe and inconsistent with the lessons learned from TMI #2.

OYSTER CREEK NUCLEAR PLANT

Channel 10 of Philadelphia reported On Jan. 3, 1985 that Jersey Central Power and Light JCP&L, a GPU company, has to transport 224 spent nuclear fuel assemblies from West Valley, N.Y. to Oyster Creek plant in Lacey Township N.J. JCP&L originally sent its fuel to NY for reprocessing but the NY plant was shutdown for safety and economic reasons JCP&L will make 32 shipments between now and May 1985 at a cost of 8 million dollars according to channel 10. The fuel will travel through Scranton enroute to NJ. Channel 10 said the Oyster Creek plant already has 980 spent fuel rods stored and is expanding its capacity so it will soon hold a total of 2600. The big ? remains where will the rods be stored in the future----safely ??? or is that a problem for our children to solve??



Rockford Register Star 7-3-83

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PANE

A citizens' public interest organization
of the Middletown area

THREE MILE ISLAND
**Clean it.
Close it.**

MARCH 1985

PANE MEETINGS - April 14, May 12 and June 9. Frey Village Guest House Conference Room, N. Union Street, Middletown, PA - 7 - 9 P.M.

MARK YOUR CALENDARS

PANE will be making and selling funnel cakes on August 14, 15, 16, & 17 from 6 - 11 p.m. at a festival in Lower Swatara Township. More details in later newsletters, but now is the time to mark your calendars and volunteer to help us feed America and raise money to keep TMI shut. We expect it will not be operating in August. So come on out and give us a hand--mark your calendar today--we will need your help on any of the above dates in August.

THE VOTE

We all know the NRC will vote to restart TMI #1. Our hope is that Governor Thornburgh, citizens and groups like TMI Alert, The Aamodt's, The Union of Concerned Scientists and you can use the courts and other means to keep it shut. We also cannot rule out GPU itself helping to keep the reactor shut with its 19th century coal age management approach to operating a nuclear system. So when's the vote? Well Lando Zech says he's unwilling to vote until the training issue is resolved. James Asselstine says hearings need to look at overall integrity of GPU management and whether Unit 1 leak rates were falsified. It seems Palladino is pushing for a restart vote. Last year NRC's budget was cut 20 million dollars and some say it was because people in Congress were not happy with the pace of the NRC decision making (Rep. Tom Bevill of Alabama). About 150 area residents attended a January 16, 1985 meeting in D.C. where the Commission basically did not make a decision. However at that meeting an NRC lawyer said at least one additional hearing on whether safety records at Unit 2 were falsified prior to March 28, 1979 should be conducted. On February 8, 1985 Chairman Palladino told Bevill's subcommittee that the 5 Commissioners should be replaced by one administrator like the EPA. Well anyway the NRC met again on February 13, 1985 and voted 3 - 2 that the record is complete on the issues of safety and management competence and integrity. They also voted to have a new hearing on the TMI #2 leak rate falsifications but felt it should be separate from the restart issue. The majority felt issues of TMI #1 & #2 leak rate falsifications and the fact that the NRC staff changed its technical recommendation on restart from favorable to unfavorable to favorable should be disregarded in a vote on the future of TMI #1. The NRC however did not vote on whether to delay its restart decision until 2 issues are resolved 1) adequacy of operator training and 2) whether Herman "You can move if you want to" Dieckamp lied to the NRC and Congress. Hearings have been completed on the two issues by Judge Ivan "who me, biased!:" Smith. Palladino said he wants operator training to take precedence and asked that one to be ruled on first (probably April). Many people believe hearings need to be held on leak rate falsifications at Unit #1 & #2, harassment of engineers at TMI who blew the whistle, whether the work at Unit 2 is being conducted safely and whether the NRC staff was correct in July 1984 when they said GPU could operate TMI #1 safely. According to Mick Rood of The Patriot, Palladino and Zech want the hearings narrowly focused. Asselstine feels the hearings on leak rates should be on who participated, who knew of it and the extent management is responsible. On February 27, 1985 an order finalizing events at the February 13, 1985 meeting was released. Basically the order said 3 of the 5 commissioners are just about ready to vote. Meanwhile Bernthal and Asselstine say the hearing process needs to be more thorough -- specifically on harassment of engineers, why the NRC staff changed its mind and the Unit #1 & #2 leak rates. Our bet is a vote will be taken in June. Did you write your letter to the Governor? He ought to receive another one. Hang in there and support those that have helped make this area a safer place to live.

THE 3/28/79 CONTINUING ACCIDENT

A Department of Energy funded consultant, EG&G, said on February 21, 1985 that temperatures reached 5100 degrees Fahrenheit in Unit 2 on 3/28/79. That is higher than the previously thought 4800 degrees and 20 degrees higher than the melting point for uranium fuel, however at this time EG&G nor GPU can say how

much of the 100 tons of fuel melted. The NRC said the hottest parts of nuclear reactors usually don't go over 1700° in normal operation and that significant fuel damage can be expected at sustained temperatures above 2200°. Pictures appear to show debris about the size of baseballs. GPU did speculate that there could be as much as 20 tons of fuel rubble piled several feet deep at the bottom of the Unit 2 reactor vessel. Removal and disposal of the fuel will be a very complex and possibly dangerous part of the Unit 2 decon work. F. Standerfer is quoted in The Patriot as saying that defueling will take about one year. GPU expects to start in July 1985.

GPU EARNINGS

In December 1983 a share of GPU stock earned \$1.53. One year later the share is worth \$2.36. GPU netted 148.2 million dollars in earnings; on revenues 2.73 billion dollars. (Doing quite well) Except on January 24, 1985 Met-Ed, one of the 3 GPU companies, filed for 47.3 million more dollars in revenue with the PUC. The PUC will not act until after July. The full increase would mean a 500 Kw a month customer would pay \$51.73. The Evening News reported on January 18, 1985 that if TMI #1 would be allowed to restart that homeowners would save \$2.15 a month (4%). The filing also includes shifting 7 million a year from debt payments on Unit 2 to the cleanup of Unit 2. An interesting aside is that PP&L filed with the PUC on February 26, 1985 for a rate hike that will not be acted on until after April 25, 1985. PP&L's 500 Kw a month customer would pay \$42.98 if the full request is granted and \$47.56 in 1986.

Hold the phone, it was announced on March 1, 1985 that because Met-Ed plans to spend less in buying outside power, all of that I was telling you would lead to an additional 2.6% reduction or \$1.24. However Met-Ed will still be asking for a 4.5% increase in that 500 kilowatt customers bill each month. This dribbling of news by met-ed simply shows again a form of poor management and planning. If you're keeping score it now appears the January rate request made by Met-Ed to the P.U.C. will ask the 500 kw per month customer to pay 49.49 without TMI and 47.34 with TMI. That means if TMI #1 could operate reliably that customer would save about \$25.00 a year. Do you think that saving is worth risking the health and safety of this area?

UNIT 2 DECON WORK AND OTHER STUFF

GPU said on January 11, 1985 that they can account for all but 38 million needed to complete the estimated 1 billion dollar job over 10 years. GPU says they have set aside a 120 million dollar Unit 1 budget for calendar 1985 and in that is 15 million that could be used for Unit 2 if restart was allowed at Unit 1. A lot of the assurances for funding are based on U.S. electric utilities meeting their commitments (150 million) and the Federal Government (83 million) through the years. Meanwhile 4 workers breathed airborne radioactive particles on December 27 while working at Unit 1. They were ^{not} allowed to work with respirators and the NRC is investigating. GPU's own investigator Ed Stier has determined (2/11/85) that some employee behavior at Unit 2 prior to the 1979 accident was improper. As a result while his investigation continues, those employees are subject to "intensified supervisory performance."

Meanwhile - The NRC's Office of Investigations (OI) determined in Feb. 1984 that procedural violations occurred in refurbishing the polar crane of Unit 2. In October 1984 OI said the violations were willful and that federal regulations had been deliberately circumvented. Then in September 1984 the NRC learned of a hand brake release on the crane that was not given proper review; that investigation is expected to be completed in May or June. The NRC has decided to delay any enforcement of the October 1984 staff until the May - June decision. On February 14, 1984 the head of OI said 4 investigations of TMI are still underway, they are 1) polar crane, 2) hand brake, 3) coolant leak falsifications, 4) an alleged security breach of Unit 2 some years ago and 5) the safety certification of Unit 1's emergency feedwater system. He also said OI is investigating the conduct of individual control room operators and individuals who may have falsified leak rates.

NRC MAY HAVE LIED

A District of Columbia grand jury is examining whether the NRC employees engaged in criminal conduct during agency investigations at TMI and the Zimmer Plant in Ohio. The Federal Justice Department believes it was misled in an August 1983 meeting by the NRC. The concern is whether the NRC knew in 1981 that they could go ahead with investigations of falsification of leak rates despite the Justice Department investigation which eventually led to the Floyd conviction.

JUDGE SMITH

Ivan Smith has been with the Three Mile Island case since 1979 as one of the 3 judges who hears testimony and then makes recommendations to the NRC Commissioners. He asked a Federal Judge in December 1984 to be lenient in sentencing a former TMI employee (Jim Floyd). As a result Governor Thornburgh called for him to step aside on January 9, 1985 and Representative Bruce Smith also did the same on January 7, 1985. The State filed motions with the NRC for Smith's removal on January 11, 1985 because 1) at least 3 times on the record Smith voiced his personal dislike of an agreement between the State and GPU during hearings, 2) on other occasions Smith practically put words in witnesses mouths, brought in subject matter outside the scope of the hearing and engaged in emotional outbursts against lawyers. UCS & TMIA also filed motions. Smith will have to make a decision soon on recently completed hearings about training and operator's ability. He will also take part in decisions on other hearings he held on whether Unit 2 plant officials adequately passed on information to the NRC and State during the continuing accident. On January 30, 1985 the NRC staff recommended he disqualify himself. Smith responded on February 20, 1985 in a 54 page response to the NRC defending his actions as to why he should not step down. UCS, the State and TMIA have filed briefs responding to Smith. Finally, the 5 NRC Commissioners will review the whole thing and make a decision probably by the time you are reading this newsletter.

HATS OFF

To Susan FitzGerald and Jim Detjen of the Philadelphia Inquirer for their continuously excellent work. Susan is a native of Lancaster. For good information see page 7G, February 17, 1985; page 1A, February 10, 1985; page 1A, February 12, 1985. Really excellent information on TMI.

TMI SETTLEMENT OF INJURY CLAIMS

Dauphin County Court Judge William Lipsitt approved on February 7, 1985 \$3.0 million in settlements to 47 persons or estates of which one fourth (\$1,095,000) will go to a family of a Down's Syndrome child born 9 months after the accident. 855,000 will also go to a child born since March 28, 1979 with cerebral palsy. About 225 other claims have been settled out of court. The settlements donot constitute an admission of liability by GPU. Law firms for plaintiffs included Hepford, Schwartz, Menaker and Morgan; Levin and Fishbein; Richard Jameson; Friedman and Friedman and Trasi, Tighe, Tierney and Johnson (Pittsburgh). Newspaper records indicate one Middletown family received compensation from filing suit.

ARE YOU OUTRAGED? YOU CAN SUE!

On February 13, 1984 Federal Judge Sylvia Rambo ruled that you can sue for punitive damages sought by you for personal injuries as a result of the TMI continuing accident. Punitive damages are intended to punish defendants for outrageous conduct. You would have to prove at trial that the defendants acted with wanton and reckless disregard for public safety.

1 MILLION DOLLAR SUIT

The family of a 7 year old Eppers girl are suing the owners of TMI due to radiation released during the accident. The 7 year old was diagnosed with leukemia in February 1983. The attorneys are Dusan Bratic of Dillsburg and Louis Tarasi of Pittsburgh. By law, personal injury claims generally must be filed within 2 years from the time of the injury or the time the victim would reasonably have detected the injury.

TMI HEALTH EFFECTS

The TMI Public Health Fund on January 15, 1985 stated a proposal will soon be made to conduct a thorough epidemiological study of the area. The Health Fund has several million dollars and is being moved in this direction because of the efforts of many local residents and the Aamodts who have uncovered 3 small areas in York County where cancer deaths are 7 times higher than normal for the period 1980-84. The NRC voted 3 - 2 in December 1984 not to look further into the Aamodt work. A report the Aamodts completed was sent by the NRC to CDC in Atlanta for review, however, the Aamodts allege the NRC omitted pages and altered language. The NRC later admitted pages were accidentally omitted. The areas of the study were 3 miles S.W., 4 to 6 miles N.W. and 7 miles W.N.W. of TMI and covered 433 people in 100 households. Also found were 11 abnormalities in births among 19 pregnancies after the accident. On Jan. 28, 1985 the Aamodts asked the State Attorney General to help get information

out of the State Health Department on studies done after the March 28, 1979 continuing accident. The Attorney General on January 31, 1985 told the Aamodts they must take the case to court because he has no jurisdiction. The Aamodts want raw data collected on pregnancy outcomes and a rise in hypothyroidism in Lancaster County after the March 1979 continuing accident.

AROUND THE GPU SYSTEM

The March 13, 1985 Philadelphia Inquirer said a U.S. District judge was to hear a case on January 14, 1985 on whether GPU Nuclear can transport spent nuclear fuel rods along the New Jersey Turnpike. The New Jersey Turnpike Authority refuses to allow GPU because of weight restrictions. Earlier the Authority said GPU had no plan to move the truck off the road quickly if it became disabled. GPU must move 224 fuel rods from West Valley, New York to Oyster Creek by order of a Federal Judge in Buffalo. A coal fired plant in the Penelec region had problems on February 12, 1985 when 59 workers were admitted to the hospitals near Homer City, PA when they inhaled chlorine gas. Liquid waste unexpectedly backed up out of floor drains and fumes followed.

IN THE COURTS

The U.S. Supreme Court, without comment, killed a 4 billion dollar lawsuit by GPU at pinning the blame for the March 28, 1979 continuing accident at TMI on the NRC. All this occurred on January 19, 1985. The court also declined to hear a GPU rate-payer case. The Supreme Court action now will take away many of our thoughts that GPU was trying to blackmail the NRC with its 4 billion dollar lawsuit. Meanwhile a December 31 Federal Appeals Court ruling (2 - 1) in Washington, DC on the Diablo Canyon, CA reactor may have TMI implications. The Federal Judges ruled on an August 1984 decision by the NRC to allow commercial operation for the first of two units at Diablo Canyon. The majority said 15 years of proceedings involved scores of decisions and produced thousands of pages of records and consumed countless professional years of research and study. PANE people may well remember the name of Judge Malcolm Wilkey who concluded in the Diablo case that the reactor can now produce power for the citizens of California. The dissenter Judge Patricia Wald said the NRC should have checked out the earthquake information in hearings.

TMI TRIVIA

Two Penn State Capitol Campus professors who have surveyed the community of Middletown say 51% are opposed to restart of Unit 1 and 46% are for it. By majorities of more than 2 - 1 residents worry about a future accident at TMI. We should remind everyone that our cheap electricity and the fact that many hometown people work for TMI plays a large role in how the community responds to TMI questions. A real sincere "thanks" to Lower Swatara Commissioners who have publicly come out for Ivan Smith's removal and the need for Governor Thornburgh to step into the TMI #1 decision. Defueling of TMI #2 is supposed to begin in July and that is when GPU says it could be ready to start up TMI #1. Meanwhile, Doug Bedell of GPU says the emergency feedwater system of TMI #1 will be certified to withstand extreme conditions of an accident by March..... Golly gee, all the talk over the last 3 years of restart we thought GPU would have done that! The Union of Concerned Scientists helped the NRC celebrate its 10th Anniversary in January by offering a 228 page critique according to Mick Rood (February 21, 1985, Patriot).

HARRISBURG NEWSPAPERS

Effective and efficient? We looked hard at the morning and evening March 1, 1985 editions for something on the opening session of the educational series at Capitol Campus which featured K. Z. Morgan. We did not find anything. And then on January 16, 1985 a marvelous GPU public relations article penned by P. Kelley of The Patriot. The article said TMI employees are set for Unit 1 restart. The article said GPU can heat up Unit 1 within 2 weeks of a decision, that 300 cracked tubes would be plugged by mid-February and that start-up procedures would take 3 months. GPU says they have 900 employees at Unit 1. (We question that, they are probably adding Parsippany, NJ, Reading and Oyster Creek people). GPU says they have done 100 million dollars in modifications to Unit 1.

the FORUM

Harrisburg - 5 -
Patriot
Editorials

NRC hearings

EDITOR:

SURELY, one must marvel at the audacious ingenuity shown by the NRC/GPU team in their latest effort to extricate themselves from the mess they made of hearings into Three-Mile Island for which they are jointly responsible. Unable to twist the judicial process far enough in their own favor, they are driven to the ultimate solution: Stop the hearings.

In spite of the promise by Chairman Palladino that no vote on restart of Unit 1 would be scheduled until all matters of public safety and management competence/integrity are resolved, they voted instead on Feb. 13 to end this foolish idea that the public should participate and help bring out the truth and thus assist them to better perform their function. It might be a good theory but a great inconvenience. The trouble was the public intervenors kept raising embarrassing questions and revealing unsavory facts, thus disrupting their carefully planned whitewash and coverup of William Kuhns and Herman Dieckamp who were top "management" but it seems, involved only in counting the money.

Commissioner Lando Zech, the most recent appointee who came on board with orders to shorten this pesky business of public hearings, carried out his task with dispatch. His logic was simple: "Six years is long enough to get all the facts in any

A much easier solution: Stop the hearings! And that's what the three brave NRC commissioners voted to do. Fortunately, the minority of two real public servants spoke out and will be heard from further. They deserve support. Also, the governor has protested the action.

As for GPU and Judge Smith, Gordon Tomb, GPU's spokesman, stated that they had submitted a 43-page brief supporting Smith's handling of the case. Obviously, NRC/GPU give much weight to the number of years consumed in legislative

maneuvers and the number of pages in their briefs. Both would have been reduced in quantity if they had shown regard for quality (integrity) and tried only to uncover the truth. It would have been so simple! And so much less expensive!

—Charles E. Leising,
Boiling Springs



AGATHA CRUMM

THE "NO NUKES" PEOPLE ARE GIVING US A HARD TIME. M.S. CRUMM

investigation." True, and we agree. But this wasn't "any" investigation. This one was focused on concealment of the truth and saving the industry — all in the best interests of national defense and Star Wars nuclear shielding — so it has taken longer.

The intervenors were so limited in scope and regularly overruled that the truth had just recently started to trickle out. The true character of these hearings finally became public on 2 January when the chairman of NRC's Atomic Licensing and Safety Board behaved in such a biased manner that all parties (except GPU) called for him to recuse himself. He has not done so and this presents NRC with a still bigger dilemma: If they summarily dismiss Judge Smith, as the situation clearly demands, the entire hearings would be revealed for the sham they've long been known to be plus a new chairman for the ASLB would have to be installed.

Met-Ed again

EDITOR:

IT'S HAPPENED again. I opened my Met-Ed bill and was greeted with another yellow pamphlet full of double-talk, their annual request for a rate increase. This is becoming a sure thing, about like receiving your tax form from the IRS. Seems this year the folks on the Island need 7.6 percent. According to recent figures in the Patriot, the 1984 inflation rate was 4.7 percent, and was 3.8 percent in 1983. Apparently the rate is considerably higher for a utility. But then, I suppose a negative inflation rate would have no bearing on utility rates. That's the way it is when you enjoy a monopoly on goods and services. There's just no reason to become more efficient and cost conscious.

I've tried to control my electric cost. All the recommended gimmicks: storm doors and windows, caulking, insulating the water heater and pipes, a timer on the water heater, sleeping in an unheated bedroom, sit in semi-darkness, etc. And still my bill escalates. Since 1978, my electric consumption has steadily decreased from an annual usage of 11,463 KWH to my 1984 total of 7,604 KWH. A reduction of 3,859 KWH. My bill? During the same period, it has risen from \$486.14 to its 1984 total of \$767.25. Imagine if I had still consumed 11,463 KWH.

Met-Ed is still beating the TMI-1 drum. Their little yellow pamphlet goes on to tease the mind with questions and answers. Q: How will the current increase affect my bill? A: That depends. Without TMI-1 in service, monthly bills for residential customers using 500 KWH per hour would go from \$47.13 to \$53.02. With TMI-1, this \$53.02 would decrease to \$49.19 per month — a "savings" of \$3.83 per month. According to my little calculator, this is still an increase of \$2.06. However, since Met-Ed discovered a new mathematical equation, I'm going to use it. Next week, I am going on a diet, and I plan to consume a piece of pie with ice cream daily, an increase of 490 calories. But, wait, I'll drop the ice cream, thereby reducing my consumption by 275 calories daily. That's a whopping "savings" of 8,250 calories a month. In six months I should really be slimmed down.

You know, the Met-Ed PR expert is really a master of double-talk. When some character conducts the next poll of "least trusted" occupations, he should add this PR occupation. It would be a cinch to replace the long-suffering used-car salesman from the bottom of the list.

—Gary L. Fickel,
Gardners

SVA contacted the office of the State Attorney General, Leroy Zimmerman, and asked if the office had plans to take the NRC to court if they go ahead with a decision to restart Unit I at Three Mile Island. He responded with a letter:

"Issues relating to public protection from hazards of radiation are of concern not only to the Attorney General, but also to the Governor and to agencies such as the Dept. of Environmental Resources whose statutory responsibilities encompass such issues. This office thus could become involved in proceedings relating to the restart of TMI-Unit I at the request of the Governor or an agency. As yet, however, we have not received such a request."

NRC TRANSCRIPT

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY ALLIANCE

From 11-7-84 transcript of an NRC meeting on TMI 2. newsletter
1) There are 1000 people working on the cleanup. 715 onsite. 575 of the 715 are GPU employees 140 are with Bechtel. 2) The Quick look showed about 30% of the reactor fuel is not in its original location. 3) 11 of the 20 Japanese are on site. 4) GPU thinks a lot of fuel debris is in the coolant system, lower plenum. 5) Phase 3 of the cleanup will begin in early 1987 and will deal with disposal of processed water. 6) The cannisters the fuel is to be placed in will be 14 inches in diameter and 12 and one half feet long. 7) GPU believes 8 to 16% of the fuel on a weight basis was transported from the core region (30% of the volume???) 8) GPU says fuel removal from the core region should be completed about July 1986, The other areas are bottom of the reactor vessel and primary systems outside the reactor vessel. 9) about 250 fuel cannisters will be needed 10) GPU says on Pg. 29 the first cannister will arrive in April 1985 Gee thats next month.

Newsletter typed March 5, 1985.

THANKS TO MEMBERS - Many of you have probably received the annual membership letter prepared by Jim Hurst. Annual family membership is five dollars per family. The response has been very good and those members who send ten dollars or more will receive a special package of nuclear power materials prepared by the Nuclear Information Resource Service NIRS. If we missed you in our mailing send to Pane P.O. Box 268 Middletown Pa. 17057.



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