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Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

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YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 12, 1980

TMI leaks revive cleanup debate

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH*
Of the Daily Record

Newly-publicized radiation leaks at Three Mile Island have rekindled debate about the speed and method of cleaning up the idle nuclear reactor.

Medium-levels of radioactive tritium, cesium and strontium were discovered two weeks ago in damp, cork-filled gaps between walls at Unit 2, TMI officials announced for the first time Thursday at a public briefing.

(The announcement was made just as 14 TMI workers completed the fifth manned entry into Unit 2, venturing closer to the damaged reactor core than ever before.)

Tritium also has been discovered in a drainage system under a concrete and steel storage vault, and in groundwater near a water storage tank, said Robert C. Arnold, TMI senior vice president.

Slight levels of cesium also were

found in the drainage system, another TMI spokesman said.

There is a slight chance radiation in the cork joints came from Unit 2's containment building, said Arnold. He also said the radiation could have been washed into the expansion joints during initial decontamination efforts after the March 28, 1979 accident.

Karl Abraham, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman, said leaky pipes have not been ruled out either.

Radiation from any of the three trouble spots has not gone offsite, Arnold said.

Nuclear power foes insist Metropolitan Edison Co.'s current radiation woe is a device — "a test balloon" — to get public support for the utility's proposed multimillion-dollar accident water cleaner. Met-Ed, a subsidiary of

General Public Utilities, owns TMI.

The cleaner, called the submerged demineralization system (SDS), will be reviewed by the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission next year.

Anti-nuclear groups have said SDS yields waste too radioactive for safe burial.

Radioactive wastes from SDS' cousin, EPICOR II, are being stored temporarily on the island in a steel and concrete silo. EPICOR II cleansed medium levels of radioactive water from the accident.

The drainage system under EPICOR II's storage vault was the second source of radioactive pollution Arnold mentioned Thursday.

Tritium levels there are considerably higher than normal readings found in nature, said

Cont. P 4

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, December 8, 1980

TMI operators seek \$4 billion from NRC

PARSIPPANY, N.J. (UPI) — General Public Utilities Corp. and its three operating divisions announced today they have filed a \$4 billion claim against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission growing out of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

The claim by the parent firm of TMI charges negligence on the part of the federal commission.

GPU said the NRC's "negligent" actions caused the Three Mile Island accident. It also claimed that the NRC staff had failed to comply with its own safety regulations and had failed to warn GPU about similar incidents that occurred at other nuclear power plants before the accident early last year seriously damaged the plant near Harrisburg, Pa.

GPU Chairman William G. Kuhns said the Three Mile Island mishap would not have occurred if the NRC had acted with due care.

The claim was filed with the NRC in Washington. The company said it is barred from suing in the

courts until after the NRC acts on the claim. The commission has six months to accept or reject the claim. If it rejects it, then GPU may go to the courts.

GPU is asking \$1 billion to cover the cleanup cost of the accident, which will take until 1987 to complete; \$1.6 billion in replacement power costs; \$430 million in future restoration costs for TMI Unit 2; \$900 million for lost revenues, and \$40 million for increased cost of borrowings as a result of high interest rates.

The Three Mile Island incident began at 4 a.m. on March 28, 1979, when Unit 2 of the plant, which was operating at 97 percent of capacity, experienced an unscheduled shutdown because of loss of feed-water.

Explaining the basis of the claim, Kuhns said the NRC had failed to give warnings and to change its safety rules as a result of a similar earlier incident at the Davis-Besse plant of Toledo Edison Co. and had "negligently approved

procedures of Babcock & Wilcox Co.," the maker of the nuclear reactor system.

Kuhns said the NRC "is the government agency charged with statutory responsibility to warn utilities of plant design and operational dangers. The agency thereby induces a reliance by the utility on such government action. When the government agency fails to provide these warnings, it is liable under existing federal legislation described under the claim."

Kuhns said the decision to file the claim was made after careful study of the various investigations of the Three Mile Island mishap, including its own inquiry, an inquiry by the NRC headed by Mitchell Rogovin and the report of President Carter's Kemeny committee.

GPU said both the Kemeny and Rogovin inquiries pointed to negligence by the NRC as a cause of the accident, and added that "lessons from previous accidents did not result in new, clear instructions being passed on to the plant operators."

\$560 Million Suit

46 Call TMI's Owners, Operators and Suppliers Negligent

By JANIS L. WILSON
Staff Writer

A \$560 million negligence suit was filed against owners, operators and suppliers of Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station by 46 central Pennsylvanians Friday in U.S. Middle District Court.

The lawsuit stems from the nuclear accident at the Metropolitan Edison Co. facility on March 28, 1979. Besides Met-Ed, defendants are: General Public Utilities Corp., Met-Ed's parent company; Jersey Central Power & Light Co., a GPU subsidiary; Pennsylvania Electric Co., another GPU subsidiary; Babcock and Wilcox Co., the firm that designed and built the TMI facility; J. Ray McDermott & Company Inc., parent and controlling company of Babcock; Dresser Industrial Valve and Instrument Division of Dresser Industries Inc., a supplier to TMI; and Catalytic Inc., responsible for maintenance of TMI.

The lawsuit alleges several problems occurred at the plant before the Unit 2 reactor was

damaged. The list includes a fire in September 1977, an unplanned generation stoppage in March 1978, and a two-week facility shutdown in January 1979, allegedly for "mechanical malfunction."

The plaintiffs allege the companies involved with TMI "failed to exercise reasonable care for the protection of plaintiffs from the risks of harm," and claim the design of TMI "fails to provide safeguards against the unreasonable risk of nuclear catastrophe caused by sabotage or terroristic acts."

The accident will deter consumers from purchasing property near the plant or from buying consumer goods manufactured or processed here, the suit claims.

Some plaintiffs allege the accident forced them to evacuate the area, "causing expense and loss of income," while others "were exposed to radiation released from Three Mile Island and will require constant medical monitoring . . . and treatment," according to the lawsuit.

The complaint also contends that some plaintiffs suffered emotional injury, including "fear of developing cancer in the future" and others suffered loss of profits and that property values declined after the accident.

The nuclear accident "was proximately caused by the negligence of some or all of the named defendants, acting either alone or in combination with each other," the lawsuit alleges.

Further, the 46 charge they will continue to suffer such losses and damages as cancer, genetic defects, "peaceful use and enjoyment of their property," "contaminated or spoiled" products, and reduced patronage from persons who "fear the contamination of local food or products."

The complaint, filed by Louis M. Tarasi Jr. of Pittsburgh and Dusan Bratic of Dillsburg, asserts damages could exceed the \$560 million provided under the Price-Anderson Act for such occurrences. The plaintiffs seek a jury trial and ask that punitive damages be awarded.

YORK DAILY RECORD • WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 17, 1980

Plans for federal aid to bail out TMI outlined

HARRISBURG (AP) — U.S. Rep. Allen Ertel, D-Pa., outlined a plan Tuesday to finance the \$1 billion Three Mile Island nuclear plant cleanup, including federal loan guarantees and some form of industry aid.

Ertel, the chairman of a congressional task force looking into the problem, said he will circulate a legislative proposal in January to fellow task force members.

The question of who will pay for the seven-year cleanup of the March 28, 1979 nuclear accident is still unanswered.

Metropolitan Edison Co., the operator of the plant, said it is strapped for cash, and the state Public Utility Commission has said ratepayers must not be forced to pay for the cleanup.

Though the task force has not yet adopted a proposal, Ertel said he favors federal loan guarantees and cited the precedent of the Chrysler Corp. bailout and small business loans.

At a news conference, Ertel, whose district includes TMI, said the task force plans to introduce legislation in 1981.

He declined to discuss specific dollar amounts, saying that would be left to later negotiations among the parties involved.

However, he said, federally guaranteed loans should depend on fulfillment of the following conditions:

—Aid from the electric utility industry. The aid could come in the form of a direct payment to Met Ed or a loan from an industry insurance plan set up to deal with the financial consequences of accidents such as the one at TMI.

The amount of aid from the utility industry has not been determined, but it would be sizeable, Ertel said.

—Pennsylvania and New Jersey would have to end a gross receipts tax on additional utility power sold as the result of the nuclear accident. The tax either would be passed back to the consumer through reduced rates or would help pay for the cleanup.

Another possible source of cleanup money is funding from the U.S. Department of Energy, if DOE decides valuable research

could be conducted as part of the cleanup.

"This is not written in concrete," Ertel cautioned.

The task force has discussed a federal purchase of the plant, direct federal aid to Met Ed or a 50 percent federal guarantee of bonds to be sold to finance the cleanup.

Ertel said some congressmen favor direct federal aid to Met Ed, but said that would stand little chance of winning approval in Congress.

Besides, he said, a direct government payment to Met Ed would set an unfortunate precedent.

Since forming in August, the task force has met with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the Pennsylvania and New Jersey utility commissions, Met Ed, the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission and shareholder and consumer groups.

The TMI plant still contains the damaged nuclear reactor core and 700,000 gallons of highly radioactive water.

Stress Is Out As TMI Issue

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Irrevocably split over whether psychological stress of Three Mile Island area residents is legally relevant to the future of the Unit 1 power station, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission decided Friday against telling a licensing and review board that stress should be an issue in the restart.

The 2-2 tie vote by the commission means the issue, which has been hanging for more than a year, can't be considered by the licensing board when it recommends on restarting Unit 1.

In failing to actually resolve the matter, some of the quarrels dividing the NRC on this and other nuclear safety issues spilled over into an order issued late Friday. The commissioners chose to close several meetings to discuss the subject, even though other instructions to the Unit 1 review board were discussed extensively at public meetings.

As has happened before, this one found Chairman John Ahearne and commissioner Joseph Hendrie opposed to making psychological stress a restart issue, while commissioners Victor Gilinsky and Peter Bradford thought the licensing board should make it a factor.

Differences were hardly disguised in the 30-page order, which went against the advice of the licensing board itself and midstate anti-nuclear groups.

The question that has tied the up commissioners up in knots is this: Do the licensing board and ultimately the NRC have authority under either the Atomic Energy Act or the National Environmental Protection Act to assess effects of psychological stress when the Metropolitan Edison Company's request to operate Unit 1 again is considered? And if the NRC has authority, should it be exercised?

"... An NRC licensing action is not an appropriate forum for psychological stress issues. There may be adjudicatory odies which are appropriate for such issues — the NRC is not the one," Ahearne said in the order.

Both he and Hendrie argued that the NRC can best address the various forms of mental anguish lingering since the March 28, 1979, accident at Unit 2 by assuring that nuclear safety procedures are properly in place and by adequating informing the public.

Ahearne said he would have challenged more of Bradford contentions in favor of considering psychological stress, but "past ex-

perience shows that reasoned arguments are of little interest to those whose minds are made up." He said both Bradford and Gilinsky had analyzed issues "as being simpler than they really are."

Hendrie said, "The short answer is that Congress has already decided that the country is to have a nuclear power program even if it makes some people uneasy." Making psychological stress a licensing board issue would "turn the hearing process into an exercise in futility."

Hendrie couldn't accept an attempt at quantifying anxieties of the public, "rational and irrational," into some sort of cost-benefit ratio under federal environmental law.

Speaking for the losing side, Gilinsky said he was convinced broad language authorizing the NRC to protect the public health and safety in licensing decisions was enough to make stress an issue in the restarting of Unit 1. The licensing board's recommendation 10 months ago that it be allowed to consider psychological stress during Unit 1 hearings, plus the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania's backup arguments, were enough to convince Gilinsky.

Bradford discounted Hendrie's fait accompli-like conclusion that Congress had decided nuclear power was here to stay and any feeling the NRC had to decide whether Unit 1-related stress was quantifiable. Rather, he said the issue was whether the NRC should let the licensing board examine ways to mitigate stress if the undamaged reactor is allowed to generate electricity again.

The psychological stress order was the last of more than a dozen issues the licensing board has been instructed by the NRC to consider in its restart recommendation, which is expected next summer.

The order was also the latest in a series of decisions reached by inconclusive NRC votes. President Carter's choice for commission chairman, Albert Carnesale, was blocked by pro-nuclear Senate Republicans prior to the presidential elections. Filling the fifth seat on the NRC now awaits a decision by President-elect Ronald Reagan, who takes office in January.

Commissioner Bradford said he would have preferred the commission to hold off until a new chairman is appointed before issuing an order so the issue could be decided by a majority of the NRC.

Where will nuke water go?

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

HARRISBURG — Despite a federal panel's probing Tuesday night, Metropolitan Edison Co. officials refused to tip their hand about where treated Three Mile Island accident water will go. The utility's limited resources are better spent on treating the water now, disposing of it later, they said.

Disposal options include: discharge into the Susquehanna River; evaporation from ponds; tank storage on the island; mixing with concrete; transporting to the ocean; recycling in cooling towers and Unit 1, to be discharged into the river at a later date.

A few members of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission TMI Advisory panel sputtered at Met-Ed's chief official Robert C. Arnold's statement that a choice won't be made until 1982.

But the only thing Arnold revealed was that the utility wants the 1 million to 2 million gallons of processed accident water regarded as water it regularly releases into the river.

Arnold recognized public pressure against such a move, but would not go so far as to say Met-Ed was splitting the water treatment issue to postpone an imminent court fight.

"No matter how clean you say that water is, there are people who just will never believe you," said Art Morris, mayor of Lancaster, and a member of the NRC panel. "They will never want it discharged into the Susquehanna."

Arnold told the Daily Record, "We just can't put the issue of ultimate disposal to bed right now. We have an absolute obligation now to provide the capability to process the water. We're deferring a decision on the relatively miniscule radiation releases involved in the disposal of the treated water."

Despite self-proclaimed scarce resources, Met-Ed to date has spent \$8 million on an accident water cleaner which has yet to be approved by the NRC. The unit, called the submerged demineralization system (SDS), is more than half completed, Arnold told the panel.

"But isn't it foolish to allow such a financially-strapped utility to proceed with construction of SDS before getting approval?" a panelist asked NRC spokesman.

Replied NRC's Lake Barrett, "No one has come forward with a better piece of technology."

Arnold denied SDS was a \$8 million gamble. He said Met-Ed anticipates no unusual barriers in its attempt to get SDS on line by late next year.

Final NRC approval hinges on the results of an environmental impact study now before the NRC commissioners, according to Barrett.

Met-Ed phoning bill delinquents

Cash-poor Metropolitan Edison Co. has begun telephoning its customers with delinquent utility bills in an effort to collect more than \$5 million in arrears.

"In the past we depended on — and encouraged — customers to call us" when they ran into financial problems and fell behind in their bills, said Judith D. Botvin, a Met-Ed spokeswoman. "Now, we're extending ourselves to call them."

About \$3.3 million of \$5 million is owed by 47,000 residential customers, according to Wesley G. Williams, manager of business office operations in Reading.

Most of the residential customers owe less than \$150, while about 2,760 owe between \$150 and \$250; 1,000 owe between \$250 and \$500 and nearly 200 customers owe more than \$500 each.

"Although we allow for a certain amount of loss through customer write-offs, the amount presently owed us is excessive. It's especially intolerable at this point in time with the company in such dire need of cash," Williams said.

Met-Ed, which operates Three Mile Island and owns 50 percent of it, has been strapped for cash since last year's nuclear accident. The state Public Utility Commission turned down Met-Ed's request in August for \$35 million in emergency funds — an advance on the utility's \$76.5 million base rate case now being by a PUC law judge.

Williams said Met-Ed personnel in some divisions have been temporarily assigned to the business office as a "corps of callers" to telephone customers. "Some of these

delinquent customers actually have financial hardships which prevent their paying," Williams said. "We try to arrange payment schedules to make things easier for them."

Botvin said "we've been very gratified with the results," adding that "between 90 and 95 percent" of the customers reached have entered into payment arrangements.

"Other customers," Williams said, "simply feel that paying their electric bill is a low priority — they'd rather pay for an expensive car, a boat or some other luxury item. If there is no willingness on the part of the customer to cooperate, termination proceedings will be initiated."

The number of residential customers withholding part of their utility bill payment as a protest against the TMI plant is "insignificant," Botvin said. "Mostly it's people who have other bills and chose to distribute their money in other ways. By calling them we remind them we are one of their creditors, too," she added.

Many of the calls are made in the evening when there's a better chance of reaching the customer at home. "The approach of calling (customers) at all is new," Botvin said. In the past "we contacted customers who have overdue bills through the mail."

Williams said the problem of overdue bills is not restricted to Met-Ed which serves 345,000 customers in 14 counties in Eastern Pennsylvania. He said other utilities throughout the country are facing the problem because of the economic climate, regulatory restrictions and public attitude.

Doug Beddell, a TMI spokesman.

Beddell said gas inside the vault may be pushing its way through seams in drums which contain used EPICOR II filters and liners.

Or the drums themselves could be corroding, he said. A third possibility is that heavy rains leached through the vault, drawing radiation outside, said Beddell.

The third trouble spot Arnold mentioned is underneath a tank which holds borated water used to stop the nuclear fission reaction during emergencies.

Water samples taken from test wells near the tank showed high levels of tritium in the groundwater. Tritium was first detected last spring, said Tom Gersuky, director of radiation protection, state Department of Environmental Resources. The highest readings so far were in September.

Gersuky said the tritium would eventually reach the Susquehanna River, although not until the end of 1981, assuming groundwater flow rates have been calculated accurately.

He said the tritium levels measured fall below federal safe drinking water standards.

Radiation protection officials cannot pinpoint the source of that tritium with certainty.

Some blame a leaking borated water tank. But direct leaching from the reactor building through the cork joints has not been ruled out.

Those joints extend 10 feet underground and are believed to rest directly on bedrock.

"(The radiation) is not that serious or Met-Ed would have been required to tell us immediately," said Steven Sholly, of TMI Legal Fund, an anti-nuclear coalition. "I doubt very much the containment building is leaking."

But Met-Ed spokesmen said elements of an emergency still exist at the Middletown plant. Cleanup must be expedited to prevent future problems, they said.

The reactor containment building was not designed to hold anything for years, said Gersuky.

He added, "The question is whether this radiation is new or has been around since the accident and is just being discovered now."

"It could be a Band-Aid effort until that (accident) water is out of there," he said.

YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, DECEMBER 19, 1980

Anti-nukes blast effort to spur TMI-1 restart

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

HARRISBURG — Charging the utility's request came 15 months too late, a coalition of anti-nuclear groups Thursday attacked Metropolitan Edison Co.'s recent motion to speed hearings on the restart of the undamaged Unit 1 at Three Mile Island.

Meanwhile, a federal official said Thursday the Department of Energy probably will take responsibility for the damaged reactor core at TMI, according to the Associated Press.

George Cunningham, assistant secretary, told a TMI citizens advisory panel, "DOE is very interested (in the core) from a research and development standpoint. There is very valuable data there and a great deal to be learned from obtaining and studying the material."

The plant owners do not expect to remove the core until 1985.

Cunningham said the department would also assume responsibility for other material too contaminated to be handled by commercial burial sites. Such material would include resins from the purification of some 700,000 gallons of contaminated water.

The undamaged unit was closed Aug. 9, 1979, on orders from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The NRC is treating a Dec. 5 letter from General Public Utilities President Herman Dieckamp as a motion to reconsider that order, confirmed NRC's Gary Sanborn.

Met-Ed's motion should have been filed within the customary 10-day response period following an NRC ruling, six anti-nuclear parties said in a brief filed Thursday with the commission.

Sanborn could not confirm whether the 10-day rule applied to the shut-down order.

Utility spokesmen defended the Dieckamp letter. They said delays in restarting Unit 1 have unduly burdened Met-Ed customers with replacement power charges.

But nuclear power foes charged Met-Ed's request was rooted in concern for economic impact on utility stockholders and investors, not in concern for public health, safety and economic well-being.

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TMI stress high among young married couples, state report says

By GEORGE LOBSENZ
United Press International

Young married couples, worried about how radiation might affect their families, suffered the most psychological stress among those living near Three Mile Island at the time of the nuclear accident, according to a state Health Department report.

The report, released Monday, was based on interviews with 700 persons living within five miles of Central Pennsylvania nuclear plant.

The survey also said women and the well-educated tended to be more upset by the March 28, 1979, accident.

"Persons who were younger, married, higher-educated and female reported more distress . . . than did older, single, less-educated males," it said.

"The greater responsiveness of younger, married persons was possibly due to their concerns about the effects of radiation on their present and future children and, since radiation effects often have a long latency, concerns about their own future health.

"More-educated persons were more upset possibly because of greater knowledge of the effects of radiation and the technical problems at the Three Mile Island facility," the report stated.

"The male-female difference is consistent with many other studies in which females have reported higher distress and more symptoms than men."

The report also suggested people who actively tried to cope with their feelings about the accident, such as by engaging in anti-nuclear activism, were more upset than apathetic neighbors.

In general, the report said, "coping did not change the situation and, as a result, people who tried to cope may have felt particularly frustrated.

"This would be especially true for persons who use political actions as a coping device."

Dr. George Tokuhata, head of the Health Department's epidemiological research, said the findings appeared solid although they may have been distorted by poor memories or political beliefs of those interviewed.

Moreover, the report noted, "In view of the fact that some persons near Three Mile Island are suing for damages because of alleged mental distress, the possibility of conscious distortion should be considered."

The report sought to discover how psychological stress caused by the accident related to age, sex, marital status and other variables among Three Mile Island area residents.

Tokuhata said the report also found that:

—Homeowners tended to be more disturbed than renters.

—Women tended to associate stress symptoms with Three Mile Island more than men.

—People with more friends — or more social support — tended to be less upset than those with fewer meaningful ties.

—Not too surprisingly, those who were basically more "sensitive" or "introspective" were more likely to be upset.

Met-Ed, Penelec merger savings still 'attainable,' consultant says

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A partner in the consulting firm of Theodore Barry & Associates said a projected \$18 million savings from the management merger of Metropolitan Edison Co. of Reading and Pennsylvania Electric Co. of Johnstown appears "attainable."

Perry L. Wheaton told a state Public Utility Commission hearing Thursday that his New York-based consulting firm analyzed data supplied by the companies and the "order of magnitude" of the projected savings "looks attainable."

Perry was recalled to the stand by Samuel B. Russell, counsel for both utilities, to rebut the testimony of Frank R. Budetti of St. Louis, Mo., a consultant hired by several Johnstown area economic development groups who oppose the planned consolidation.

Budetti contended the projected savings may not be realized and "substantial costs" will result "when all of the considerations arising out of the management merger are considered."

Under the merger Met-Ed and Penelec would become the "East" and "West" divisions of Pennsylvania Electric Co. The two divisions would share identical boards of directors and officers and the corporate headquarters would be in Reading.

Perry said one of the "many criteria" the firm wanted to consider in its review of the merger was "whether cost-benefits would be obtained. In that context the company developed a proposal" that \$18 million would be realized through "cost-avoidance and cost savings."

The companies' proposal projects that \$9.6 million will be saved because 247 employees will be eliminated. Another \$7.7 million will be saved, the companies said, through "cost-avoidance" of having to fill 205 positions. The companies de-

fine "cost-avoidance" to mean expenses that would otherwise be incurred in the absence of any management combination.

A company breakdown shows that \$1.2 million would be saved through the corporate consolidation by eliminating 19 corporate-level positions initially and 19 in the future. A "divisional reorganization" calling for the elimination of 136 non-corporate-level employees at Met-Ed and 73 at Penelec would save \$8.4 million.

Budetti contends the larger savings resulting from the reorganization of personnel within the two divisions could be achieved independent of the corporate-level management merger.

Edward R. Casey, PUC administrative law judge, asked Wheaton to respond to Budetti's contention that Theodore Barry & Associates "accepted all analyses" of the company without doing any independent calculations. Wheaton said four-man-years of work went into preparing the management audit. "We analyzed what the company put forth." He said the projected savings depend on a "number of steps" that have to be taken but he did not elaborate.

The Barry firm was hired by the PUC in November 1979 to perform a management review of Met-Ed and Penelec and General Public Utilities Corp., their parent firm.

In other testimony Thursday, W.A. Verrochi, Penelec president and the designated head of the new management combination, said he didn't see any "negative impacts" on Johnstown customers of having the corporate headquarters in Reading. It "will not in any way diminish our ability to respond."

He further said the consolidation will "make response to consumer complaints much better."



'Sorry, Filknock, but human error is an excuse good only for nuclear plant and airplane accidents!'

TMI Area Evacuation Costs High

STATE COLLEGE (AP) — Evacuation following the 1979 accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant cost individuals and businesses between \$9 million and \$14.5 million, a Pennsylvania State University study has concluded.

The cost of evacuating households in a 15-mile radius around the reactor near Harrisburg were between \$6 million to \$10 million, said Teh-wei Hu, professor of economics at the Centre County school.

The cost of lost work days, absorbed mainly by business and industry, was calculated to be \$3 million to \$4.5 million, he added.

The study also shows that, during the period immediately following the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident, real or perceived stress caused a large increase in doctor visits and use of sleeping pills, tranquilizers, alcohol and cigarettes.

The study was funded by the state Department of Health and was conducted under Penn State's Institute for Policy Research and Evaluation.

TMI steam called 'routine'

MIDDLETOWN, Pa. (AP) — Officials at Three Mile Island on Wednesday urged local residents not to worry about a cloud of steam and a whistling noise that came from the nuclear plant the night before.

The whistle, the officials said, came from a routine release of non-radioactive steam from an auxiliary boiler at the plant's Unit 2 reactor, which was not damaged in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident on March 28, 1979 at Unit 1.

A spokesman for General Public Utilities, which owns TMI, said the boiler is not connected to the primary reactor

system. The steam was not radioactive and there was no release of radioactivity to the atmosphere, he said.

The oil-fired auxiliary boilers are used to supply steam for various in-plant services when the TMI reactors are not operating, the spokesman added.

The boiler, which supplies steam to the secondary cooling system of the Unit 2 reactor, had been shut down for maintenance and the release was part of the process of returning the boiler to service, shortly after 10 p.m. Tuesday, he said.

From 4 RESTART

The group further charged Met-Ed's petition to the NRC was a ploy to woo the congressional subcommittee now considering a relief package for the financially troubled utility.

Met-Ed spokesman David Klusick flatly denied the charges.

"This has nothing to do with the congressional task force," he said.

"There are a number of interests to balance, such as health and safety of the workers," he said. "But we do have an interest in our customers and it will cost these people millions of dollars (if the delay in restarting Unit 1 continues)."

Klusick said Met-Ed is not arguing with the need for hearings, despite Dieckamp's previous point that there is no legal requirement to hold them.

"We just feel we should be treated the same as other (Babcock & Wilcox-designed) plants," he said.

Six B&W reactors were returned to service shortly after the March 28, 1979, accident at TMI following NRC-mandated modifications, Klusick said.

Klusick also denied a charge that Met-Ed is putting on a "good show" to convince the Public Utility Commission to return Unit 1 to base rate calculations.

The PUC ordered removal of Unit 1 from customer charges when the NRC ordered cold shutdown after the 1979 mishap.

Klusick was confident the NRC will take a serious look at Met-Ed's request.

Said anti-nuclear spokesman Steven Sholly, "We trust the public and the Congress will recognize this request for what it is — a desperate act by a utility fighting a losing battle for corporate survival."

Thursday's brief was filed jointly by six parties who are testifying in Unit 1 restart hearings that began in October.

The parties include: Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee; Steven C. Sholly, an individual intervenor; Three Mile Island Alert Inc.; Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York; People Against Nuclear Energy and Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power.

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Vol 2 No 5

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YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, JANUARY 9, 1981

Evacuation plan the same

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH

Of the Daily Record

Points raised in a current study of local evacuation plans by the League of Women Voters of Greater York indicate little — except the bureaucracy — has changed in the way of emergency preparedness since the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island.

The six-week study, although not yet conclusive, charges numerous municipalities do not have emergency evacuation plans; their siren systems, if available, are inadequate; medicine to shield the thyroid from radiation is not stocked; radiation monitors are outdated or nonexistent; and most plans rely on volunteers who may not perform in an actual emergency.

The league based its observations on a survey of 14 boroughs and townships in York County.

At a public meeting Wednesday evening, league members said they hoped to inspire municipal officials to devise more complete plans.

"The evacuation plans were conceived the weekend of the TMI accident," said John Comey, a state emergency planning spokesman, "The basic concept has not changed ... (it) isn't much different from flood evacuations.

Comey added, "It is possible to move large numbers of people quickly, as our vast experience with natural disasters indicates."

According to Randy Curry, York County's emergency coordinator,

most changes in emergency plans have been administrative — the way emergency planners write their documents to meet ever-changing federal guidelines.

Consequently, the county plan has been revised three times.

On the substantive side, Curry says the evolving county plans reflect more efficient evacuation routes, clearer information for the public and working relationships with people holding resources needed during crises.

Maps have been prepared and distributed to area residents showing evacuation routes, said Curry.

Curry is but one planner who finds the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission guidelines a source of seeming irritation. One state spokesman said it's like trying to hit a moving target.

"We submitted state TMI plans to the feds before June of 1980 for review," said John Comey, press secretary for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, "They made informal comments but wouldn't officially critique it, knowing full well a new regulatory document was being prepared."

Said Curry, "The trouble with the regulations is they're being written by people in Washington not working here at the grassroots, seeing what works."

Curry and Comey both said the latest set of emergency guidelines is more realistic than the original one. Still, deficiencies exist, Comey said.

"For example, many areas have civil defense sirens, but a good portion do not," Comey said.

Example: Newberry Township chairman supervisor Bruce Smith reports there is only one civil defense siren to cover the entire 31-square-mile township. Newberry Township is located just across the Susquehanna River from TMI.

Inadequate means for immediate public notification was hit hard by the league study. Of 14 municipalities visited by the study group, none mentioned a provision to contact the public within 15 minutes, as NRC rules require, the women said.

Again, Smith was critical of the NRC rule.

"How can we cover over 100 miles of township roads in 15 minutes to notify all our residents? It's impossible," he said.

Comey said the Metropolitan Edison Co., owner of TMI, has volunteered to install and pay for 80 sirens in the five counties falling within a 20-mile radius of TMI.

A Federal Emergency Management Agency report to the President in August was equally gloomy in its evaluation of public address systems in the event of nuclear disaster.

The report was generally pessimistic about the possibility of fleeing atom accidents. FEMA spokesman Tom Hardy said the federal report, whose release was delayed six months, is now out of date.

TMIA plea!

THE NRC HAS RECEIVED LETTERS FROM ALL OVER THE COUNTRY REQUESTING THE IMMEDIATE RESTART OF TMI UNIT 1!!!!!!

THE NUMBER OF PRO-RESTART LETTERS ACTUALLY OUTWEIGHT ANTI-RESTART CORRESPONDENCE, SHOWING THAT A LARGE NUMBER OF LITERATE, VOCAL, PRO-NUCLEAR ADVOCATES ARE MAKING IT THEIR BUSINESS TO LET WASHINGTON KNOW HOW THEY FEEL.

PLEASE HELP US, AND YOURSELVES, BY INFORMING THE NRC OF YOUR FEELINGS ON THE MATTER.

U. S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20555

THANK YOU!

YORK DAILY RECORD

SATURDAY, JANUARY 17, 1981

State argues against boost Met-Ed seeks

HARRISBURG (AP) — An expert witness for the state consumer advocate testified Friday that the operator of the Three Mile Island power plant cannot justify a request for a \$76.5 million rate boost.

"We do not recommend any more than \$5 million based on the earning requirements of Metropolitan Edison Co.," said consultant Michael Dirmeier, summarizing his testimony before Administrative Law Judge Joseph Matuschak.

"Those are our revenue recommendations based upon an

Cont p 2

Angry ratepayers urge bill boycott

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

ETTERS — Dennis Zerance has not paid his Metropolitan Edison Co. electricity bill for five months. Pat Smith has not paid hers for 18 months.

Both Newberry Township residents say unreasonably high power rates have resulted from the accident at Three Mile Island in March 1979.

Neither Zerance nor Smith has suffered a cutoff of power because both have filed formal complaints against Met-Ed with the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

The secret, Zerance explained, is not to protest legally imposed energy surcharges, but to challenge Met-Ed's quality of service or the accuracy of its meter readings.

The tactic is just a protest, participants of the second annual Ratepayers' Congress were told Wednesday night. Smith said bills will eventually be paid to avoid service cutoff, but not before showing Met-Ed its customers are tired of escalating electric costs.

Zerance, owner of a modest two-story house in Etters, said he has installed 18 inches of insulation in the roof; timers on the water heater; a woodburning stove; storm doors and windows. He and his wife use lights sparingly. Yet the monthly Met-Ed bill averages \$79, he said.

"About \$32 is the charge for electric usage," said Zerance. "The rest is surcharges, energy adjustment and deferred energy costs."

"I stopped paying my bill when those extra charges became more than my actual usage," he said.

About 100 people attended the Congress at Newberry Township Elementary school which was sponsored by area anti-nuclear groups.

By the end of the meeting, organizers had gathered names of 45 families who say they'll not pay Met-Ed in March. Smith said the group hopes to get 5 percent — or 147 — of Newberry Township's 3,477 households to skip their March electricity payments.

Those bills will be collected and burned on the steps of the state capitol on March 28 to commemorate the second anniversary of the TMI accident, she said.

Convincing the conservative communities of Newberry Township to not pay their electric bills may be difficult, acknowledges Smith.

"That's why we chose 5 percent as the beginning goal," she said.

Other speakers told the audience the boycott, although focused on Newberry Township for now, will be supported throughout central Pennsylvania.

The Evening News, Wednesday, February 4, 1981

Restart of Unit 1 is mulled

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

As plans advance for Thursday's manned entry into the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission law panel conducting hearings into the fate of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor has taken under consideration a suggestion from the NRC staff that Unit 1 be restarted at low power levels.

Ten technicians divided into two teams are scheduled to complete the installation of eight closed-circuit television cameras on the entry level and operating deck in the Unit 2 containment building and perform additional decontamination tests Thursday.

Work on the monitoring system began Tuesday by five teams of technicians who prepared the building penetration for the cables and carried in power cords and other equipment.

All work assigned to the men was completed, according to John T. Fidler, spokesman for GPU Nuclear. The only unexpected event in the otherwise smooth entry occurred when one of the technicians suffered "heat stress" and left the building. He was treated at the plant's first-aid station and was expected to return to work today.

Tuesday's entry was spread over six hours but Thursday's tasks are expected to take half that time. Besides enabling cleanup supervisors to watch the decontamination operations, the system can be used as a teaching tool for workers as the recovery process from the March 1979 accident continues.

Meanwhile, the NRC staff Tuesday suggested that the Unit 1 reactor could be turned on at power levels of up to 5 percent as a way to expedite the federal restart proceeding.

State argues from 1

opportunity to earn a fair rate of return on the company's used and useful investments," he said.

The costly Three Mile Island plant cannot be considered a used or useful investment and should not be factored into the new rates, said Dirmeier, of the Georgetown Consulting Group of Ridgefield, Conn.

Dirmeier testified at the administrative proceedings on behalf of Consumer Advocate Walter Cohen. Cohen has called for Met Ed to receive a rate boost of between \$3 million and \$5 million.

After the hearing, Cohen said increasing revenues by less than 1 percent, or \$5 million, would "get them through the year and still allow (Met Ed) to operate an electric company."

Cohen said he views the company's \$76.5 million rate request as an attempt by Met Ed to put itself in a position to resume paying common stock dividends.

The utility, arguing that ratemakers have hamstrung its ability to recover operating costs, said the higher rates that it sought from the PUC last July would increase its revenues 17 percent annually.

For an average consumer using 500 kilowatts of power monthly, bills would rise \$5.95 a month under the plan.

Dirmeier argued that Met Ed should not be permitted to use costs related to the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at TMI to justify the boost.

Like the Unit 2 reactor crippled in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident on March 28, 1979, Unit 1 is out of service and it is uncertain when, or if, it will be allowed to be brought back on line.

"The company thinks that it should receive these funds, receive a return of, or on, its investment and costs incurred at TMI-1, and we don't agree," Dirmeier said.

"These investments should not be recovered by the company at this time. That's the single biggest issue," he said.

Another week of testimony is scheduled in the rate case, after which Matuschak is expected to take six to eight weeks to send his recommendation to the full Public Utility Commission.

Labor leaders split over nuclear issue

By DON SARVEY
Staff Writer

Two Harrisburg labor leaders have become antagonists over the issue of nuclear power, in a split that has prompted plans for a demonstration this weekend and the filing of formal charges for expulsion from the Harrisburg Central Labor Council.

Henry T. Doherty Jr., business manager of the Harrisburg and Central Pennsylvania Building and Construction Trades Council, today disclosed plans to picket an "energy education day" program to be held Saturday at Harrisburg Area Community College by the Greater Harrisburg Area Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment.

Doherty says that Jane Perkins, secretary-treasurer of the Pennsylvania Social Services Union, who serves as local coordinator of the Committee for Safe Energy, "has no right to say this is a labor committee" because it is not sanctioned or organized by the Central Labor Council.

The Committee for Safe Energy advocates de-emphasis of nuclear energy in favor of greater reliance of coal.

But according to Doherty, the organization "does not speak for labor in general, nor is this labor's policy in general."

He said the AFL-CIO is officially "in favor of coal, nuclear and any other form of safe energy that will make us less dependent on foreign oil."

Perkins said, however, there were "other opinions within the labor community we feel need to be expressed" and the principle of free speech is the real issue. She said union members "cannot be dictated to by labor leadership."

She said she appeared at the November meeting of the labor council's executive committee to invite union officials to become involved in planning the program at HACC, no matter what point of view they wished to present. But the Building and Construction Trades Council was opposed, she said, and the executive committee voted in December not to take part.

Perkins revealed that Doherty had filed a formal charge with the Central Labor Council accusing her of "engaging in activities contrary to the harmony of the labor movement." Perkins is a trustee of the labor council.

Doherty confirmed that he had filed the charge, but declined to discuss it in detail. He said a hearing would be held sometime in February, and Perkins could face expulsion as a labor council officer.

Doherty expressed displeasure with a newspaper advertisement about a March 28 anniversary observance of the accident at TMI Unit 2 in which Perkins listed herself as a sponsor and identified herself as a trustee.

Perkins pointed out that the advertisement declared that affiliations were listed for "identification purposes only" and did not suggest that the labor council was a sponsor.

YORK DAILY RECORD • THURSDAY, JANUARY 22, 1981

Aid for TMI cleanup sought

HARRISBURG (AP) — Pennsylvania's top utility regulator renewed her plea Wednesday for federal aid to help decontaminate the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

"I call your attention to the need for appropriations to finance this continued cleanup effort," Susan Shanaman said in a speech delivered to the President's

Nuclear Safety Oversight Committee in Santa Barbara, Calif.

"This needed federal financial aid should be provided as a grant, not as a loan," added the Public Utility Commission chairman. "Loans must be repaid. Repayment of any loan provided or guaranteed by the federal government must be, ultimately, paid by consumers."

The Pennsylvania PUC has ruled

that uninsured cleanup costs, expected to exceed \$700 million, cannot be charged to consumers.

Ms. Shanaman said the PUC and the New Jersey commission have authorized revenue increases totaling \$447 million for the three utilities that own TMI, in the two years since the plant was disabled in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, January 29, 1981

TMI staff laxity cited

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

Nearly two years after the March 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has concluded that crucial data about the condition of the simmering Unit 2 reactor was not sufficiently evaluated by plant personnel and not adequately transmitted to government officials.

A special NRC inquiry team reported after a 10-month review of the actions of plant personnel on the day of the accident that "although pertinent information was not intentionally withheld on March 28, 1979, information was not adequately transmitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission or the Bureau of Radiological Protection." The latter is the bureau in the state Department of Environmental Resources responsible for protecting the health and safety of the public from nuclear power plant operations.

Based on the team's findings, the NRC's Office of Inspection and Enforcement has cited Metropolitan Edison Co., the plant's operator, for two items of alleged noncompliance with NRC regulations. But Victor Stello Jr., the office's director, said no fines will be imposed because the statutory limit was reached when the NRC fined Met-Ed \$155,000 in January 1980 for other alleged infractions during the accident.

The report found that two "primary factors" caused the failure of station personnel to inform the necessary regulatory agencies. "The predominant factor was the absence of an effective on-site system to accumulate, evaluate and disseminate information. The second factor was the lack of comprehension by plant personnel of the behavior of the plant systems."

Robert C. Arnold, head of the

GPU Nuclear Group at TMI, said a preliminary reading of the NRC report is "encouraging on several counts. After nearly two years of investigations of the Unit 2 accident the finding is there was no willful withholding of information" from the public.

"Consistent with previous investigations the report concludes that improvements in the performance of people are needed," Arnold said in a statement released today. "We have been responsive to that concern at TMI, which is now being operated by GPU Nuclear Group. GPU Nuclear has assembled a greatly strengthened management team for TMI. We fully accept the lead responsibility to gather and promptly analyze data on conditions at the plant."

The NRC team's report noted that "the NRC did not have an effective system to ensure that information was properly accumulated,

TMI foes consider cleanup challenge

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

With a U.S. Supreme Court ruling under its belt, a Lancaster-based anti-nuclear group probably will challenge the operation of a system to purify highly contaminated water at Three Mile Island if the process is approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, a spokeswoman said today.

Beverly Hess of the Susquehanna Valley Alliance said the use of the "submerged demineralizer system" will "generate highly radioactive filters that will have to be stored on TMI."

Preventing TMI from becoming a long-term radioactive waste dump was one of SVA's two goals when it filed suit against TMI's operator in May 1979 over its water-treatment plans.

Hess, now president of the Public Interest Resource Center, was one of four individuals who joined in the SVA suit.

She said the other goal was to keep the processed water from being disposed of in the Susquehanna River, the source of drinking water for Lancaster.

Monday's Supreme Court ruling will make it possible for the SVA to go to court on those two substantive issues, Hess said.

She said the high court's decision "establishes" the right of citizens with environmental concerns "to be heard in court rather than having to exhaust administrative remedies" before the NRC.

Over three dissents the Supreme Court refused to hear arguments by General Public Utilities Corp., TMI's owners, against a lower court ruling that allows SVA to seek legal redress in court.

GPU argued that the Third Circuit Court of Appeals' decision — if allowed to stand — would create "a chaotic overlap" between the NRC and the courts. SVA took the case to the appeals' court after U.S. Middle District Judge Sylvia Rambo ruled in October 1979 that the "relief" SVA sought "must be requested from the NRC" and only after the NRC's final order will be request "be ripe for consideration by the courts."

The appeals court disagreed with Rambo's ruling in March 1980 and GPU went to the Supreme Court in September.

In June SVA filed a motion in Middle District Court to amend its suit to argue that TMI is becoming a long-term repository for nuclear waste. Hess said today SVA's attorney will ask Rambo to rule on that motion which has been held in abeyance pending the Supreme Court decision.

Hess said SVA was on "tennerhooks" waiting for the Supreme Court ruling. She said SVA did not think it could raise the \$30,000 to argue the case before the Supreme Court. "We can try with zest to find the money for arguing the (substantive) issues of the case, but to try to have raised funds "for a procedural case" before the Supreme Court "would have been much more difficult.

If the NRC approves the use of the \$8 million submerged demineralizer system, SVA will "try to find money to go for an injunction to keep SDS from running," she said. The SDS, which is being constructed in the TMI Unit 2 spent fuel storage pools, is designed to process the 700,000 gallons of highly contaminated water in the basement of the Unit 2 reactor building.

YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 1981

Radioactive material detected under TMI water storage tank

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

Trace amounts of radioactive cesium have been detected underneath a Three Mile Island water storage tank, plant officials confirmed Thursday.

Last month, the utility reported high levels of radioactive tritium in groundwater under the same tank adjacent to Unit 2.

A leak in that water tank appears to be the source of both radioactive elements, said Doug Bedell, a TMI spokesman. But TMI engineers are continuing to investigate other possible sources which could include the Unit 2 containment building, Bedell added.

He said a catch basin is being installed to prevent the two elements' migration through the soil to the nearby Susquehanna River — a trek that would take longer than a year were it to begin.

In a related development, TMI officials blamed leaking pipes and valves for radiation found last December in damp, cork-filled gaps between walls at Unit 2.

Those pipes and valves are located in a concrete-walled cubicle in the basement of the Unit 2 auxiliary building. That underground room butts up against the containment building basement. It has not been decontaminated since the March 28, 1979 accident.

Gale Hovey, director of Unit 2, told federal nuclear regulators that independent laboratory tests of cork samples had pinpointed the cubicle as culprit, not the Unit 2 containment building.

Concentrations of cesium, strontium and tritium in the cork differed from those found in the reactor building basement, Hovey said.

About 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive water have been standing in the basement of the containment building since the accident. It was thought that water might have been seeping into the cork.

Plant workers also announced Thursday that they switched off an oil-fired, reactor cooling system which had been consuming 3,600 gallons of oil daily, said Fidler.

TMI officials said the auxiliary cooling system is no longer needed — Unit 2 reactor has begun cooling itself "like a tea kettle," said John Fidler, a TMI spokesman.

The move will save TMI's operator, Metropolitan Edison Co., \$200,000 per month, said Fidler.

The amount of heat emitted by the crippled reactor as its elements decay is now 45 kilowatts — or equivalent to the heat of 45 steam irons. Two months ago, it was 62 kilowatts, said Fidler.

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Hearings to cost all of us

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

Anti-nuclear groups, faced with spiraling legal costs and dwindling treasuries, are having to trim their efforts to stop the restart of the undamaged Unit 1 at Three Mile Island.

Lengthy federal hearings in Harrisburg on the safety of Unit 1 also are taking a toll on the cash flow of TMI's operator, Metropolitan Edison Co., according to a state Public Utility Commission auditor.

But the utility said Tuesday it plans to try to pass along those hearing costs to its ratepayers.

Intervenors in the restart hearings have no such alternative. For most groups, debate before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has stayed afloat through car washes, flea markets and donations from contributors.

Some groups, such as Three Mile Island Alert, say they knew it would be financially risky to enter the proceedings — \$20,000 to prepare for one session of the hearing, for example.

"But now, it's so frustrating because people are giving up, they're moving away or changing their lifestyle so they use less electricity," said Kay Pickering, staff coordinator for TMI-Alert.

As the hearings enter their fourth month, at least three groups, including TMI-Alert, are approaching the bench with no legal counsel. Volunteer laymen are presenting cases and quality is sure to suffer, said Ms. Pickering.

A federal nuclear expert recently advised one local anti-nuclear group it would have needed \$5 million a year to acquire the legal expertise to argue an effective case before the ASLB.

The group, Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York, has been able to raise only \$3,000, according to Gail Bradford, who is now ANGRY's sole representative in the hearing room since it, too, has lost its attorney.

Most of the money has gone toward parking and photocopying expenses, said Ms. Bradford. ANGRY long ago decided it could not afford attorney Daniel Pell's services — not

even at his special \$25-an-hour rate.

Pell, who says he is still sympathetic with ANGRY's claims,

remarked that it is impossible to match the seemingly endless financial resources of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Met-Ed.

The bottom line, Pell says, is the restart hearings are "nothing approaching fair and square."

He added, "The impression given to the public is that anyone has a fair shot at Met-Ed, but the intervenors just can't afford the litigation ... the sheer bureaucracy."

For example, one complete up-to-date copy of the hearing transcript — now more than 12,000 pages — costs \$4,800, according to Steven Sholly, an individual participant in the hearings.

"No single group can afford one copy," said Sholly.

Met-Ed contends its legal costs are but a fraction of the total costs of an idle Unit 1. Add replacement power costs to legal fees and the total bill to the utility is in the \$100 million range, said David Klusick, a Met-Ed spokesman.

As of Tuesday, the company could not supply figures on how much it has spent on lawyers for the restart hearings.

It is known that Met-Ed has been employing five lawyers from the Washington law firm of Shaw, Pittman, Potts and Trowbridge, reportedly one of the best-known nuclear law firms in the country.

"I'm sure this hearing is hurting their (Met-Ed's) cash flow," said

John Dial, chief auditor for the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission.

But Dial said the hearing costs would undoubtedly be tax deductible, if Met-Ed chose to take that accounting route.

Joe Benish, a Met-Ed spokesman, said the utility has no plans to deduct those expenses on its IRS forms. Instead, he said, Met-Ed will consider them part of the normal operating budget of Unit 1. That means the utility could recover hearing expenses as part of future rate increases.

Dial said the PUC staff probably would argue against allowing Met-Ed to pass along those costs, but he said the outcome now is speculative.

RESTART MULLED from 2

The NRC staff cited a strongly worded report from the U.S. Department of Energy that the power supply in Pennsylvania, Maryland and New Jersey could be "negatively impacted by a continuing outage of the facility."

The restart proposal was among 10 suggestions presented by the NRC staff to the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board in response to a request from board Chairman Ivan W. Smith on how the restarting proceeding might be expedited. The board is gathering the data to prepare a report to NRC Chairman John F. Ahearne on ways the commission might help speed up the dragging restart proceeding.

The DOE report said the Pennsylvania-New Jersey-Maryland power pool area is facing two summer and one winter peak periods in the next 18 months, the time frame covered in its study.

DOE noted the PJM area was "forced into two brownout situations due to inadequate capacity" in the summer of 1980. "PJM ... was the only region of the country to initiate area wide 'brownouts' (reductions in system voltage levels) during the summer of 1980," the report said.

The DOE report said the location of TMI Unit 1 enables it to supply power to the eastern portion of the PJM system without "west-east transmission constraints." It added, "The operation of the TMI Unit 1 during the forthcoming peak load periods will offer some major adequacy and reliability benefits to the PJM region."

Allowing Unit 1 to operate at low power level will enable it to achieve full generating capacity more quickly if the NRC approves the change.

A lawyer for Metropolitan Edison Co. also said Tuesday that Met-Ed has asked the NRC for permission to begin preliminary testing of Unit 1 systems before completion of the hearing process. He said the tests could save six weeks to two months in start-up time.

Approval to restart Unit 1 must come from the NRC, but the NRC staff said Tuesday that the NRC could lift Unit 1's license suspension before the hearing process is over provided that "the NRC sets forth an adequate basis for the decision."



STAFF LAXITY from 3

evaluated and disseminated" on March 28.

Stello also criticized the "emergency director" — the designation given the plant official who directed the management of the accident — for leaving the site to go to the lieutenant governor's office for a briefing the afternoon of March 28. While the official did "take prudent actions to ensure continued management of the emergency ... he should not have left the site during an ongoing accident," Stello said in a letter to Arnold.

Stello cited three instances where TMI personnel failed to obtain and evaluate data. They are:

— Information about the extended period of time during which the electromechanical operated valve on the pressurizer (the power operated relief valve) was open and the changes in the system status associated with closure of the block valve was available to plant personnel before 8 a.m. but was either not gathered or not adequately evaluated in a timely manner by plant su-

pervisors.

— Readings taken from the core exit thermocouples were improperly evaluated by supervisors at the time they were measured. (These readings could have indicated that the zirconium cladding was disintegrating and reacting with water to generate hydrogen which later formed the infamous "hydrogen bubble.")

Cont 6

TMI tax benefits bypass Londonderry

IT SEEMS ridiculous that Londonderry Twp.'s sole compensation for hosting the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor complex all these years has been a measly \$5 (five dollars) paid in the form of a building permit fee. If this were New York, New Jersey or Connecticut, where utilities are required to pay property taxes on power plants to the municipalities in which they are located, Londonderry Twp. would be swimming in money from TMI owners Metropolitan Edison, Pennsylvania Electric Co. and Jersey Central Power and Light. What is amazing is that it took the town fathers so long to complain about the puny compensation they received in exchange for the dubious benefits associated with having two nuclear power stations as township residents.

At the same time, however, it is a bit absurd and doubtless illegal to apply a new building fee scale retroactively as a method of obtaining some compensation for the travail imposed on the township and its residents as a result of the accident at the Unit 2 reactor in March, 1979. While it appears that Met-Ed may be inclined to make some monetary arrangement with the township to keep the peace and, possibly, to avoid another law suit, the inequity is not

the utility's fault, but the fault of a state law which by design ignores the existence of any burden imposed by a power station on a community.

Met-Ed and its sister utilities do, in fact, pay a form of property tax on their Three Mile Island facility, which amounted to \$7,641,161 in 1980 alone. Londonderry Twp. received a small portion of those taxes, but no more than it would have received if the nuclear complex had been built 200 miles away in western Pennsylvania. Under the Pennsylvania Public Utility Realty Tax Act of 1965, taxes on utility property are placed in a pot and dispersed to the various municipalities in the state based on a formula which takes no account of where the utility property is located.

THE THREE MILE Island accident offers indisputable evidence that a nuclear plant does impose itself on a community and the surrounding area. But even if the risk of accident was not a factor, there also are the dislocations and community expenses which occur when a power plant is under construction, and there is the permanent intrusion of the plant itself, including the noise, activity and airborne particles associated with it, as well as the concentration of power lines

serving the facility.

We don't believe a community hosting a power station ought to reap a bonanza in taxes because of it, as is the case in the three states mentioned above. But the law should recognize that a community pays a price for providing the power source from which other communities benefit and should receive some modest compensation in recognition of that fact, as should other nearby communities affected by the plant's presence. But attempting to make a law perform acrobatics, which seems to be the case on the part of Londonderry Twp., is bad law and fails to address the legitimate grievances of the township.

STAFF LAXITY from 5

— The occurrence and validity of the containment "pressure spike" (hydrogen explosion) was not communicated to responsible individuals in a timely manner nor was the information on the pressure spike (28 pounds per square inch) properly evaluated by subordinates.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

Vol 2 No 6

MARCH 1981

At March 28th Rally

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL Wednesday, February 25, 1981

Unions Go To Bat To Close TMI

On Monday morning in Harrisburg, leaders representing eight international unions formally announced their support in what has been predicted to be a massive National March on Harrisburg commemorating the second anniversary of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

The unions who have pledged their full support of the rally include: the United Mine Workers, the International Association of Machinists and Aerospace Workers, the International Chemical Workers, Graphic Arts International, the United Auto Workers, the International Longshoremen's & Warehousemen's Union, United Furniture Workers of America, and the International Woodworkers of America.

At the news conference, the march organizers predicted that thousands of union members will be pouring into Harrisburg on March 28th with a list of demands. The union's platform regarding TMI include: keeping the nuclear power facility closed, especially Unit-I; not allowing the dumping of contaminated water from cleanup efforts into the Susquehanna River. The water resulted from cleanup up efforts at the damaged Unit-II reactor.

Also outlined on Monday were three other demands: support of the United Mine Workers in their efforts to gain a decent contract; shorter work week and massive public works programs; and, guaranteed alternate jobs for nuclear workers at union rates.

"There is a new crisis at Three Mile Island," Joe Jurczak, United Mine Workers union spokesperson said at the meeting. "Dangerous levels of poisonous cesium have just been discovered in ground water in the area. At the same time, the owners of TMI are proposing to dump 700,000 gallons of radioactive water in the Susquehanna River, the source of

drinking water for hundreds of thousands of people. How long will the people of central Pennsylvania be forced to live with this nuclear nightmare?"

When asked if the United Mine Workers were utilizing the TMI issue as a foundation in order for them to gain a better contract, Jurczak denied the allegation. The UMW's contract expires on March 27th, the day before the tentative march rally.

Jurczak added that he was calling on all the people of the greater Harrisburg area to come to Harrisburg on March 28th to demand: "No more TMIs. Keep Units 1 and 2 shut down. No dumping of radioactive water in the Susquehanna River."

It was disclosed that full-time organizers have been at work in Harrisburg, Washington, D.C., Baltimore and New York in getting the word out to union members to attend and support the March 28th march in Harrisburg. "Here in Pennsylvania, for example," Jurczak stated, "the UMW has done a mailing to all of our locals urging them to mobilize for the march. We are putting three full-time organizers on the road for ten days each to visit our locals and help them mobilize."

Jurczak added that he believes that the march will be a historic demonstration. "We believe the entry of some of the country's leading unions into the fight to keep TMI shut down opens a whole new stage in the fight for safe, affordable energy and in the trade movement itself."

"We insist on representing the best interest of our membership and other people which is to eliminate this danger," said Earl Keihl, International Regional Director, United Furniture Workers of America. "The date of that accident has burned into our consciousness...everything we had worked for would have been abandoned, our homes, jobs

cont. P6

URGENT!!

IMPERATIVE: That TMI UNIT 1 be kept CLOSED!

- WHY?
1. Clean up of TMI 2 will take 10-12 years.
 2. The entire island is contaminated.
(Even resident rats!)
 3. We won't stand for another March 28th NIGHTMARE!!

- WHAT CAN YOU DO?
1. Write a letter to the NRC urging TMI 1 be kept CLOSED!! National opinion is important! Pro-Nukes are organized and pressing for the re-start of UNIT 1.
 2. Activate your friends and members to do the same.

Address letters to: Joseph Hendrie, Chairman NRC
U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555

THANKS to those who have already sent letters!!

Scientists hit TMI cleanup plan

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A committee of scientists contends the federal scenario for the Three Mile Island decontamination is "seriously deficient" in its discussion of psychological stress suffered by area residents, "superficial" in its treatment of the socioeconomic impacts of the cleanup and does "not . . . adequately" address other decontamination options.

While conceding that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's statement on the TMI cleanup "addresses an enormously complex problem," the committee of 10 scientists found that "a number of reasonable options and the associated magnitude of their costs and hazards have not been adequately considered."

The committee was formed by the Environmental Protection Agency to make an independent assessment of the NRC staff's Draft Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the TMI cleanup.

The assessment was not completed before the comment period on the NRC draft document closed, so the committee's review was sent to the EPA for transmission directly to the NRC commissioners for consideration when the final NRC impact statement comes up for approval. Paul Leech, an NRC environmental project manager, said the NRC staff expects to have the statement finished within two weeks.

Bernd Kahn, director of the Environmental Resources Center at the Georgia Institute of Technology in Atlanta, was the EPA committee chairman. The committee expressed "strong support" that decontamination steps to allow core removal "should be performed as promptly as is consistent with maintaining public health and safety and subjecting the procedure to public review."

The scientists criticized the "quality" of NRC staff's "discussion of psychological stress" as "seriously deficient. The frequent characterization of public anxiety as 'phobic' or 'pathological' denigrates the legitimate concerns of the local populace and could call into question the objectivity of the analysis," the committee said.

(The NRC staff report said that "phobic concerns" of area residents about "possible events" that could happen during the cleanup "will cause some TMI residents to fear any agency-sponsored action.")

The committee said "insufficient scientific evidence and analysis are provided (in the NRC draft report) to estimate reasonably the

magnitude of the potential psychological, public health and community impacts" of the cleanup.

Further, the "treatment of socioeconomic impacts is superficial and of a lower scientific quality than that which characterizes the (NRC staff) statement as a whole." The socioeconomic impacts of discharging treated radioactive water into the Susquehanna River "and of alternatives to such releases must be considered," the committee said, even when the level of radioactivity in the discharges is below federal limits.

The committee recommended that the NRC consider transporting radioactive wastes resulting from the cleanup "to other locations for treatment, storage or disposal as an alternative to performing these activities on site." The committee said it believes "this option is technically feasible" and recommended "prompt development" of criteria for classifying the wastes into categories for transporting and processing.

The committee also recommended modification — "under emergency designation, if necessary" — of the regulations that prohibit removing the wastes to more suitable locations.

The committee expressed concern over plans to process at TMI the highly contaminated water from the reactor building's basement using the submerged demineralizer system. GPU Nuclear, which operates the plant, "may encounter complications due to the multiple uses of the fuel pools," where the SDS would be located.

The "integrity . . . over the long-term" of the liners that will be used to store the highly radioactive SDS-spent resins "is in question," and "the predicted decontamination factors for treating contaminated water may not be attained."

The effects of "potential accidents" during the cleanup should be considered, the committee said, including the possibility of a "criticality accident while the equipment hatch to the containment building is being used."

The broad-based committee drew members from the medical, technical and applied science disciplines, including Kenneth L. Miller, director of the Division of health physics at the Hershey Medical Center, Dr. John L. Randall, associate director of the Lancaster General Hospital's department of family and community medicine, and Gordon Thompson, a representative of the Union of Concerned Scientists.

Our Readers Write

Nuclear Power Vs. Coal Power

EDITOR:

IN A FEB. 19 Patriot letter, John J. O'Connell, Assistant Executive Director Labor and Industry for Energy and Jobs, addressed the issue of putting TMI-1 back in operation. He stated, "TMI-1 was never damaged and has been left idle for no mechanical reason" and that he "must assume that keeping this plant off line is only symbolic." I would remind Mr. O'Connell that nuclear power plants do not operate by themselves, they are operated by utility companies. The accident at TMI-2 in March 1979, raised numerous serious questions about Met-Ed's competency to safely operate a nuclear power plant. These questions and many others regarding the safe operation of TMI-1 are currently being deliberated in NRC hearings. Obtaining answers to these crucial questions is an attempt to provide citizens with the assurance of due process under the law.

Mr. O'Connell then provided some data in electricity costs. He stated "the cost of nuclear power is four-tenths of a cent per kilowatt hour and the cost of coal is 2.4 cents." A recent report prepared for the U.S. Department of Energy estimates the cost of nuclear power generation to utilities was 2.2 cents/kwh in 1979. The report also estimates that government subsidies to nuclear power have totaled \$37 billion since 1948, and notes that in the absence of subsidies, nuclear electricity would probably range from about 3.3 cents to 4.4 cents/kilowatt hour.

Mr. O'Connell concludes by referring to Virginia Electric & Power Company's December receipt of an operating license for a nuclear plant. He mentions that as a result they were able to reduce dependence on oil and delivered a rate reduction to ratepayers. If this is accurate, Virginia Electric (VEPCO) should be extremely pleased with nuclear power. It is interesting to note that VEPCO scrapped plans for the nuclear plants in 1977, and cancelled another in 1980. In response to the cancellations, VEPCO's president, William W. Berry, said that the next big power plant his firm will order will be coal and will be built only if beefed-up conservation measures fail. Why would VEPCO consider coal if, as Mr. O'Connell stated, coal is six times more expensive than nuclear?

—James Hurst
Middletown

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Boos, Jeers Resound as NRC Board Meets Public

Unit 1 Restart Finds Scant Support at Hearing Here

By RICHARD ROBERTS
Staff Writer

Most of the 30 or so people who addressed a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission administrative law board Thursday night at the William Penn Museum urged that the undamaged reactor at Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station not be reactivated.

Only five people spoke out in favor of restarting Unit 1, and they were greeted with boos, catcalls and jeers from the often boisterous audience of about 300 who packed the museum's auditorium to hear their fellow citizens voice opinions before the three-member NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

The panel is holding hearings in Harrisburg on Metropolitan Edison Co.'s request to restart Unit 1, which was unscathed during the March 28, 1979, accident that severely damaged its twin, the Unit 2 reactor. The proposal is being fought vigorously by a number of anti-nuclear groups.

Thursday night's session was disrupted at one point when state Rep. Bruce I. Smith Jr., R-Newberry Twp., defied an order by Ivan W. Smith, board chairman, not to stray from the topic of Three Mile Island. Rep. Smith wanted to discuss a misunderstanding between the board and the museum on renting the auditorium.

When Rep. Smith was not deterred, an agitated Chairman Smith ordered the court reporter to stop transcribing and walked out, followed by fellow panelists Dr.

Walter H. Jordan and Dr. Linda W. Little. They were booed and derided by the crowd.

Rep. Smith, left sitting alone on stage, then appealed to the audience, saying, "If they can't read a one-page contract properly, how are they going to understand the needs of the community?" He was answered by resounding applause and cheers.

Franklin D. Linn Sr., president of the Lower Swatara Board of Commissioners, led off the public statements, saying his constituents oppose the operation of Three Mile Island as a nuclear facility and favor instead converting the power plant to another fuel source.

"I don't think Washington or anyone on the panel realize that the people who live in the area . . . really are uptight," he said. "Every day you hear the siren blow in the township and don't know whether it's TMI or not. We'd like to see the place cleaned up and squared away."

Susan Shetrom, representing the Harrisburg-based Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center, compared a decision allowing Met-Ed to restart the Unit 1 reactor while the cleanup of the Unit 2 reactor progresses to asking a child to perform two difficult tasks simultaneously.

"Do not invite another fiasco by restarting Unit 1," she said. "This is a gentle land not meant for the horrors of nuclear power."

Mary L. Bachofer, secretary of Friends and Family of TMI, said the 630 members of her group "urge

that Unit 1 be allowed to restart and return to full power as soon as possible, even as these hearings continue."

She said the March 1979 nuclear accident "would have been of great consequence only to the industry" but "has been used politically to the advantage of all sorts of persons and groups." She said "some irresponsible journalism" had helped fuel "public hysteria."

"Restrictions on nuclear energy such as these unnecessary hearings will force upon society an unimaginable reduction in the standard of living," she said. "We reject this alternative."

Anthony A. Ferrar of Hershey seconded Bachofer's plea, warning that central Pennsylvania industry might flee to the Sun Belt states if Met-Ed continues to charge increased electricity rates to pay for power to replace that lost because of the Unit 1 shutdown.

The recent discovery of radioactive rat droppings at Three Mile Island spurred numerous comments, including a chastisement of Met-Ed officials by Dennis Zerance of Newberry Twp.

"The straw that broke the camel's back for me was when a Met-Ed spokesman said no rats had left the island," Zerance said. "Do they have formations every night and hold a roll call?"

He likened the restart of the Unit 1 reactor to "building a fire next to one you are trying to put out."

TMI reports

'deliberately misleading'

By JIM HILL
Of the Daily Record

While Three Mile Island officials were telling federal and state agencies that the reactor was under control on March 28, 1979, the officials knew that the nuclear core was in fact uncovered and overheating, a congressional report said Tuesday.

Instead of relaying the information about the hot nuclear core, TMI officials "presented . . . misleading statements that conveyed the impression that the accident was substantially less severe and more under control than what the managers themselves believed and what was in fact the case," the report concludes.

Metropolitan Edison Company was "afraid that if they brought the information to the attention of authorities, they (the authorities) would call for an evacuation," said a high-ranking majority staff

member of the House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee, which wrote the report. The staff member asked not to be identified by name.

The committee investigation was launched primarily to learn "why it took two days to find out what was going on" during the crisis, the staff member said.

A taped telephone conversation shows that the TMI plant supervisor knew at 9 a.m. the day of the accident that temperatures inside the reactor core were 2,500 degrees. That was only five hours after the accident officially began.

Based on computer temperature readings given to him over the phone, the supervisor speculated that some of the inner-core instruments might be melting. "By the temperatures, he had to know that the core was uncovered," the staffer said. (An uncovered core is

no longer under water and is in danger of melting.)

The piece of paper listing those temperature readings "disappeared for about five weeks" after the accident, the staffer said. "Then it just turned up one day in May in the (TMI-2) control room."

While the supervisor was speculating on the condition of the core, state and federal emergency planning officials believed the reactor was under control.

And local radio stations were broadcasting official reports that TMI "was experiencing an on-site emergency" that would have no effect on the general public.

In the early hours of the accident, plant officials were uncertain if the core could be cooled. And so they were uncertain that their cooling plans would work, the report said.

cont. P6

Ertel bill to aid TMI draws fire

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Lobbyists for six national environmental groups have urged Pennsylvania congressmen this week not to sponsor a national property insurance proposal to finance on-site damage at Three Mile Island and future nuclear accidents.

A bill drafted by a House task force headed by Rep. Allen Ertel, D-Montoursville, would finance 70 percent of TMI cleanup costs not covered by private insurers (up to \$700 million or more) with premiums collected from other utilities and a special surcharge against Metropolitan Edison. Ertel wants an endorsement from Pennsylvania members of the House at a delegation meeting next week before he introduces the bill.

The environmentalists' letter attempting to dissuade Pennsylvanians' support marked the first stand taken by a interest group likely to play a role in the Ertel bill's fate.

"We strongly oppose this legislation and believe that it represents an unsound approach to financing the TMI cleanup," the environmental lobbyists wrote.

They claimed the Ertel task force had failed to prepare "a plan to assure that the specific financial and regulatory problems facing Met-Ed and General Public Utilities will not jeopardize the cleanup of TMI 2 . . ." The letter was signed by Washington representatives of the Environmental Policy Center, Friends of the Earth, Union of Concerned Scientists, Environmental Action, Sierra Club and Congress Watch, a Ralph Nader group that sometimes monitors environmental issues.

Ertel had not received the letter Thursday and would not comment without having read it.

While not proposing a clear alternative to the property insurance proposal, which would be mandatory for all nuclear utilities, the environmentalists raised five specific objections to the Ertel bill. They are:

—GPU's financial straits should be the primary responsibility of the utility and state regulatory commissions in Pennsylvania and New Jersey. The financial issues are not something the federal government "can or should address," the lobbyists said.

—The task force bill ties the TMI cleanup to the "broader debate over the ways in which nuclear power plants are insured and financed," which goes "far beyond what is necessary."

—Because the bill would apparently pay off all uninsured costs except for the first \$50 million, the environmentalists figure it "would create a serious disincentive to proper management and quality control of nuclear plant construction." Federal policy should empha-

TMI panel to push quick waste removal

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

A citizens advisory panel moved onto other business Thursday after it had finished with the question of what to do with the contaminated water at the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear reactor.

The panel recommended to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the federal Department of Energy accept the high-level radioactive solid wastes that will result from the cleanup of the nuclear plant.

The panel, formed by the commission to study cleanup alternatives, decided it would try to enlist the support of Gov. Dick Thornburgh in its attempt to push the federal energy agency toward quickly getting the wastes off the Middletown island.

The energy department previously committed itself to accepting TMI Unit 2's damaged core for research purposes. But it has been, and remained Thursday, reluctant to accept resins from accident-related water cleaning systems.

According to panel member Thomas Cochran, a physicist with the National Resources Defense Council, the energy department is in disarray due to looming budget cuts and current vacancies in its permanent leadership. Moreover, it is caught between the wishes of the NRC and Congressional armed services committees, he said.

Both House and Senate armed services committees oppose comingling TMI wastes with high-level radioactive military wastes, said Cochran. But commercial sites legally cannot accept high-level wastes, so military-type disposal is the only option, he said.

Energy department spokesman Andrew Millunzi denied Cochran's charge that the department is in disarray. He said work on TMI-related issues continues, despite a lack of assistant secretaries caused by the change of presidential administrations.

"The Department of Energy is not in a position to say how many resins it will take for research purposes," said Millunzi. "I can't say any more than we are considering the possibility of accepting some of the wastes."

The citizens panel on Thursday also polished a list of six recommendations for decontaminating

the 1.6 million gallons of water trapped in Unit 2's basement. Those proposals are due before the Nuclear Regulatory Commissioners March 1.

Those suggestions included decontaminating the water promptly using Metropolitan Edison's proposed submerged demineralization system, should the water cleaner be approved by the NRC; recycling much of the accident-generated water for cleanup work; immobilizing the radioactive isotopes in the water as quickly as possible; setting goals for the amount of radiation the utility should remove from the water; storing the cleaned water temporarily in tanks on the island; and reviewing the appropriateness of that storage annually.

But before those recommendations were given final approval, Lancaster attorney Jean Kohr tried unsuccessfully to force the panel into recommending a position against eventual dumping of cleaned accident water into the Susquehanna River.

Ms. Kohr and Lancaster Mayor Arthur Morris were the only panel members who wanted the NRC to eliminate that option in its planning of the \$1 billion TMI decontamination.

The ultimate disposal of the water has become a rallying point for worried citizens — particularly in Lancaster, which gets its drinking water from the Susquehanna River. About 150 of them showed up at the panel meeting in the Harrisburg Forum to voice their discontent. A few picketed in front of the forum building.

The panel voted two weeks ago to recommend the water be stored temporarily in tanks on the island, to allow scientists to obtain accurate estimates of remaining radiation.

In a related development, plant officials reported they have found higher amounts of radioactive cesium 137 and cobalt 60 than previously reported at one of 15 groundwater monitoring stations on Three Mile Island.

Plant cleanup chief Bob Arnold said the levels were about twice federal drinking water standards.

But he said the radiation appears to be limited to a specific area and does not represent a hazard to the river or to off-site groundwater.

cont. P6

size cost-cutting and safety, they said. (Ertel has inserted a \$2 billion limit on insurance coverage for each accident, but the quasi-governmental corporation that would dispense payments could raise the limit.)

—The measure "does not appear to be an outright bailout," but the insurance corporation's "unlimited assessment powers has the same effect." Rather than link in-

surance premiums more closely to risks, the bill establishes the corporation "as the ultimate guarantor of the industry's financial solvency." The proposal "hardly meets" current demands for less government interference with private enterprise, the letter said.

—While the bill allows utilities \$50 million deductible insurance for its on-site property damage, citizens outside the plant proper who suffer injury, death or property loss because of an accident have "strictly limited" insurance coverage.

Mothers to carry fight to NRC panel

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A group of Middletown mothers, fearful of the possible hazards posed by the restart of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor, will carry their concerns to the federal panel deliberating the fate of the undamaged reactor next week.

Paula Kinney of Shope's Gardens said members of the group will make statements before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board March 5. The board will hold a special session from 7 to 10 p.m. at the William Penn Museum to accept public comments.

"It's very important that we go there and tell them how we feel," Mrs. Kinney

said. She said the mothers are worried that problems may develop if Unit 1 is restarted while the severely damaged Unit 2 reactor is still being decontaminated.

She called the proposal to restart Unit 1 during the cleanup "absurd and ridiculous."

Mrs. Kinney said the mothers also plan to picket one of the board's regular sessions which are held in the meeting room at the Walnut Street Parking Garage.

The mothers, who are not affiliated with any group, were initially stymied in an attempt to stage a protest at the NRC office in Middletown and to meet with an NRC official when they found the office closed Tuesday. Mrs. Kinney said there was a misunderstanding by a member of

her group over the office's hours of operation. It is normally closed on Tuesdays.

Many of the mothers and their children who arrived earlier than the designated 11 a.m. protest left when they "saw the office was closed and assumed we were going to do it another day," Mrs. Kinney said. However, she said, five mothers and eight children remained.

The NRC's top on-site man at TMI, Lake H. Barrett, deputy director of the NRC Program Office, went to the NRC Middletown office after receiving news media inquiries about the protest. "I did talk with them for about 45 minutes," Barrett said. "They expressed their feelings about not wanting Unit 1 to restart and the stress they are under. I said I would relay those concerns on" to other NRC officials, he added.

Mrs. Kinney said the group told Barrett, "We're mothers and we're very concerned about bureaucracy."

Meanwhile, in an unrelated matter, the NRC's Citizen's Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of Unit 2 has recommended that the NRC approve the submerged demineralizer system to process the highly radioactive water in the reactor building's basement.

In a letter to the NRC, the panel also proposed minimum amounts of radioactivity to be allowed in the purified water.

The Patriot News, Hbs., Feb. 28, 1981

Radioactive Rodent Droppings Discovered in TMI Building

MIDDLETOWN (UPI) — Radioactive rodent droppings have been found in the basement of a building adjoining the contaminated Three Mile Island Unit No. 2 nuclear reactor, plant officials said Friday.

The basement of the crippled reactor remains flooded with 60,000 gallons of radioactive water which spilled during the plant's March 1979 accident, the nation's worst commercial nuclear acci-

dent.

The droppings were found in several areas of the basement of the control and service building. Officials said exterminating crews were summoned to catch the rodents so that radiological tests can be done on them.

The rodents on the island in the Susquehanna River near Harrisburg would have to move to the mainland in large numbers for them to pose a public health risk.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, March 4, 1981

Hendrie reappointment draws fire on two fronts

By EDWARD ROBY

United Press International

WASHINGTON — Anti-nuclear groups and at least one key congressman have attacked the administration's decision to replace John Ahearne with Joseph Hendrie as acting chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Rep. Toby Moffett, D-Conn., called Hendrie's promotion Tuesday "an extraordinary, clear signal that the Reagan administration wants to forget about the Three Mile Island accident and go back to business as usual in the nuclear industry."

Richard Pollock, director of Ralph Nader's Critical Mass group, called the move disgraceful because Hendrie was ousted as chairman by President Carter after a presidential commission said the NRC's handling of Three Mile Island showed fundamental changes were needed.

And Robert Pollard of the Union of Concerned Scientists, a former NRC reactor inspector who once worked under Hendrie, said whether or not Hendrie is chairman, he is "not the type of person who belongs on the NRC in first place."

"He's still going to continue his practice of sacrificing safety to help the nuclear industry," he said.

On Tuesday, Hendrie, the lone Republican on the commission, presided over his first NRC meeting as chairman since he was deposed on Dec. 7, 1979.

Ahearne, a Democrat, remains a commissioner. With Commissioners Victor Gilinsky and Peter Bradford often pitted against Hendrie on issues of tighter safety controls on industry, Ahearne often casts the decisive vote.

As chairman of the House environment, energy and natural resources subcommittee, Moffett said he noticed Hendrie "has repeatedly shown impatience with anyone who dares doubt that all is well with the nuclear industry."

"This does not bode well for those of us who believe the nuclear industry must be rationally and objectively evaluated, based on its actual performance, not its rosy promises."

President Reagan has yet to fill the vacancy on the five-member panel left last summer when Richard Kennedy's term expired. But the panel already has its legal limit of three Democrats.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, March 6, 1981

Reagan OKs TMI Aid

President Reagan has approved inclusion of \$27 million in the proposed 1982 federal budget for a Department of Energy research project aimed at facilitating Three Mile Island cleanup efforts, U.S. Energy Secretary James B. Edwards Jr. advised Gov. Dick Thornburgh Thursday.

The governor said he and key members of his administration and the state's Washington office have been engaged since shortly after Reagan's inauguration in private talks with Edwards and other administration officials about the problems posed in the aftermath of the TMI accident.

During the discussions, Thornburgh has urged that consideration be given to the establishment of a federally financed research effort to ensure the quickest and safest possible cleanup of the damaged nuclear reactor.

"We are very gratified that these discussions have culminated in the president's decision today, particularly coming as it does at a time when there is an understandable desire to cut the federal budget wherever possible," Thornburgh said.

The governor said the \$27 million project would focus on problems related to gaining entry to the core area, assessing core damage, and developing plans for the safe decontamination and disposal of radioactive elements in the reactor facility.

Unions Go To Bat

(Continued)

everything. We were near-victims once. We must not be the real victims in the future."

A tentative schedule for the 28th includes a mass meeting at the Harrisburg City Island from ten to twelve noon. This will then move into a march to the state capitol for the rally which will include speakers and special music.

The combined membership of the eight sponsoring international unions represents some 3.1 million workers.

International Association of Machinists spokesperson George Robinson stated that "repeatedly, labor is paying the price for nuclear power. It is the workers who bear the burden of higher electric bills, increased tax subsidies and risks to their health and family security."

But Robinson also noted that a permanent shutdown of the Three Mile Island nuclear facility and other nuclear power plants would mean a loss of jobs in the nuclear industry. Hence the union demands were also made for guaranteed alternate jobs for nuclear workers at union rates.

Robinson estimated that some 235,000 machinist union members are employed in the area of manufacturing parts for nuclear power plants. He substantiated this by stating that it was not the union members who make the decisions that they will be manufacturing these components. He also pointed out that it is the union's responsibility to seek and secure jobs for its members wherever possible making whatever is called for.

The group in Harrisburg also blasted the proposed "American Energy Week" observance set for March 15-21. "It is really nothing more than a scheme for manipulating the public to uncritically accept nuclear power and all the other inflated-profit schemes of the energy industry," Jurczak said. "It should be called 'American Big Profits Week.' The corporations will have the week of March 15-21. Working people and all those concerned with safe energy will have March 28th."

Besides the sponsorship given by the eight unions, a long list of endorsers was also made public at the meeting on Monday. Among those was the Three Mile Island Alert, People Against Nuclear Energy, the Susquehanna Valley Alliance, the National Guard Fund, the Newberry Twp. TMI Steering Committee, the Sierra Club, the March 28th Coalition, the Harrisburg Nat. Organization for Women, the U.S. Students Assoc., the PA. Social Services Union, the TMI Public Interest Resource Center, and 56 other groups.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

At the same time, TMI officials were telling authorities and the media that the reactor was shut-down safely.

"TMI managers did not convey information that they understood to be related to the severity of the accident," the report concluded.

The Interior Committee staff also felt TMI personnel were aware of the hydrogen explosion inside the reactor building. "Why else was there an order not to turn on any instrumentation (inside the building) because of possible sparks?" the staff member asked.

More than 90 percent of the information used in the Interior Committee report was available to The President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island (the Kemeny Commission) and to the Rogovin report, which was sponsored by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the staffer said.

But neither the Kemeny nor the Rogovin report investigated misleading reports from the island.

When asked what the purpose the

report could serve now, the staffer said, "The concern is that if we're going to have nuclear power, we have to rely on the integrity of those who own these places, and we have to see that they comply with their reporting requirements."

"There should be instructions to nuclear operators that the problem of overreacting is the state and federal governments' problem, and not their problem," he said.

The report contradicts an NRC report of two weeks ago that said TMI officials did not withhold information. Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Arizona, who chairs the Interior Committee, asked the NRC to explain its conclusions.

According to the Associated Press, Udall also asked NRC Chairman John Ahearne in a letter to tell Congress whether "the failure of Metropolitan Edison employees to report certain information . . . constituted a violation of the commission's regulations."

from 4 PANEL

Officials said they could not rule out the possibility that the cesium is coming from the containment building. Arnold said it is probably due to a faulty piping system which underlies the storage tank.

Although the monitors showed increased amounts of cesium 134 and cobalt 60, he said, cesium 137 was the most significant finding.

Arnold also said the company could not guarantee the integrity of storage tanks which could eventually hold cleaned accident water, should the NRC follow its citizens advisory panel's recommendation.

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Island Updates

News Watch on the
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YORK DAILY RECORD • MONDAY, MARCH 30, 1981



Thousands join in TMI protest

HARRISBURG (AP) — Organizers say their anti-nuclear protest on the Three Mile Island accident's two-year anniversary drew together environmentalists and labor in "an historic event."

Police said 7,000 took part Saturday in the sun-baked march and rally here, about 15 miles from the scene of the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident on March 28, 1979.

Rally organizers put the figure at 15,000.

"These demonstrations have to be regarded as sort of punctuation marks in an ongoing argument," said environmentalist Barry Com-

moner, looking out at the crowd from behind the stage during a speech by civil rights leader James Farmer.

"Each one has elevated the dialogue to a higher level. This one is an exclamation point."

Commoner said President Reagan, in his budget cutting effort, is pitting various interests against each other. But, he said, Saturday's demonstration brought labor and environmentalists together.

"From the point of view of integrating labor interests and environmental interests, this is an historic event," he said.

The crowd displayed a holiday spirit, tossing frisbees or lounging

in the grass on the mall behind the state Capitol.

With temperatures in the 60s under cloudless skies, it was the first real spring weekend of the year in Harrisburg.

After a one-mile march from City Island in the Susquehanna, upstream from Three Mile Island, row upon row of marchers spread across the parking lot behind the state Capitol, facing the speakers stage.

A bright blue banner over the stage read, "No More TMI's."

Feminist and former U.S. Rep. Bella Abzug drew some of the loudest applause of the day, asking the audience, "Is there anybody who

Cont p

GPU Maintains SDS System Is Cure

According to officials at Three Mile Island, processing the 600,000 gallons of radioactive water still in the basement of the TMI Unit 2 containment building is the next major phase of the Unit 2 cleanup. Much of the water streamed through the open relief valve atop the Unit 2 pressurizer during the accident two years ago.

Tiny ion-exchange beads with a chemical affinity for the two main elements - cesium and strontium - in the contaminated water are at the heart of the system that GPU Nuclear officials believe will be used to clean up the water.

The processing system is known as the submerged demineralizer system, or SDS. It is a further application of the same ion-exchange technology that TMI engineers employed in cleaning up 500,000 gallons of accident water from the Unit 2 auxiliary building.

The two main differences between the SDS and EPICOR-II, the system that processed the auxiliary building water, are that the SDS will use primarily an inorganic material, called Zeolite, rather than the organic resins that were used in EPICOR-II, and the SDS will be operated under water to provide additional

shielding for plant employees.

Zeolites are an excellent "sponge" for cesium, which accounts for an estimated 99 percent of the radioactivity in the water, and are also effective in removing strontium. Once it passes through the Zeolites, the water will be pumped through additional resin canisters in the SDS system and then the EPICOR-II system for final "polishing," or removal of residual radioactive material.

Officials at TMI maintain that except for tritium, all but trace amounts of the radioactive fission products

in the water will be removed. They state that Tritium is the same as hydrogen, a component of water, in its chemical structure and therefore will not be removed by the demineralizing process.

Like the auxiliary building water, the processed containment building water will be stored in tanks on Three Mile Island until a decision is made on its ultimate disposal. GPU Nuclear is not planning to propose an environmentally compatible method of disposing of the tritiated water until 1982 at the earliest. "There will be no

Cont p

Legislation would reduce electric bills

From Staff and Wire Reports

HARRISBURG — Rep. Bruce Smith introduced bills Thursday that would reduce electricity rates for households near nuclear plants and require plant employees to live within five miles of their workplace.

Smith, a York County Republican who lives in Newberry Township near Three Mile Island, said utility discounts would acknowledge that "residents near nuclear power are exposed to the danger and residents from far away enjoy the electricity at no risk."

He said the discounts would vary with proximity: 50 percent within five miles of a plant, 25 percent within 10 miles, 10 percent within 15 miles, and 5 percent within 20 miles.

Spokesmen for General Public Utilities, owner of Three Mile Island, had no comment on the Smith bills.

The "nuclear residency" bill is based on the similar teacher residency bill, Smith said. It would require nuclear plant workers to live within five miles of the plant.

"These companion bills would create a demand for homes near nuclear plants," Smith said, adding there are six homes for sale within sight of his house.

The residency bill would also restore morale and confidence in problem areas, and establish "an improved good neighbor policy" near nuclear plants, he said.

"My constituents will feel safer



Smith

when the civil defense siren blows if they see that the control room operator's family is outside playing baseball with the rest of the kids," Smith said.

To limit growth near nuclear plants, in keeping with the Kemeny Commission's recommendations, Smith said his bills would deny discount electricity to residences or businesses constructed 60 or more days after the effective date of the bill.

"You don't want to encourage growth near nuclear plants," Smith said.

The bills had no co-sponsors, Smith said. As to their chances in the legislature, the freshman representative said: "Well, they're not business-as-usual bills."

NRC: hearings before restart

From Staff and Wire Reports

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission on Monday refused to allow restart of the undamaged reactor at Three Mile Island until completion of hearings into the nuclear plant's condition.

At the same time, however, the NRC buoyed hopes of the plant's owner by granting permission to conduct non-nuclear hot air heat tests on the Unit 1 reactor. The heat tests are necessary before the NRC can approve generation of power at the plant.

The four-member commission also ruled the financial condition of General Public Utilities shouldn't be a factor when startup of the reactor is considered.

"We have only preliminary reports of the NRC action, but we are encouraged by what we have heard," said Robert C. Arnold, GPU's chief operating officer at the damaged nuclear plant.

"The NRC rulings would appear to improve our chances for restarting Unit 1 before the end of the year, but we continue to be vulnerable to further delays from the hearing and the post-hearing administrative process," Arnold said in a prepared statement.

The NRC's decisions were made in response to requests GPU has made since the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board opened hearings on the startup last Oct. 15.

GPU, which must buy power at high costs from other utilities, maintains it is losing money each day that startup of the undamaged unit is delayed.

Citizens organizations based in communities around the plant are against startup of any part of the stricken nuclear plant because of possible health and environmental damage.

Gail Bradford, ANGRY's (Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York) representative to the restart hearings, praised the NRC's decision not to authorize restart of Unit 1 until the hearings are complete.

"The hearings would have been a sham if they hadn't," she said.

On the subject of financial requirements, Ms. Bradford said the ANGRY group is not convinced Metropolitan Edison is equipped to make all the changes it says it has planned. Thus, solvency should be a prerequisite for firing up the reactor, she added.

"The commission has denied the GPU request because it is unable to find that authorizing restart prior to completion of the hearing would serve the public interest," the NRC said in its 10-page ruling.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, April 2, 1981

Governor opposes restart until 'fears' subside

By SCOTT MACLEOD
United Press International

Until "fears" about health and safety at Three Mile Island are put to rest, Gov. Dick Thornburgh opposes a restart of the undamaged nuclear power plant.

The governor also says there should be broad-based aid to the ailing utility that owns TMI to help it pay for the \$1 billion decontamination of a nuclear reactor stricken by a major accident two years ago.

Plant operator Metropolitan Edison Co. proposed restarting the undamaged Unit No. 1 at TMI as soon as possible, and the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering the proposal.

As for disabled Unit No. 2, Met-Ed lacks \$700 million of the \$1 billion cost of the cleanup, which is scheduled to last until at least 1988.

"Until the matter of the cleanup is resolved, I don't think it is appropriate to get into the secondary question of startup," said Thornburgh in an interview, roughly two years after the March 28, 1979 accident.

"I think the major priority is to

clean up Unit 2 and dispel whatever fears there may be about the health and safety of the populace, and the integrity of the environment," he said.

"Our ultimate concern is, was, and will remain the health and safety of the people of this area, and the integrity of the environment. As long as that decontamination process is not completed, there is a potential there we are concerned about it."

Met-Ed says the utility and its customers pay \$14 million a month in extra electricity charges because of restraint on Unit No. 1, and a major coalition of Pennsylvania businesses last week strongly urged it be restarted.

Congress this week indicated a reluctance to offer aid in a broad-based financial package for the ailing Met-Ed, and Thornburgh declined to insist that Congress should be part of the assistance equation.

"I have taken the position in general all along the financial burden of the TMI cleanup is going to have to be widely shared," he said.

TMI cleanup awaits \$75 million in funds

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

The monumental cleanup at Three Mile Island will get a major shot in the arm if Congress approves the \$75 million in federal research funds that the Reagan administration is seeking for the task.

The money would be used for removal, packaging and disposal of the highly radioactive materials from Unit 2 during the next three years and could speed the decontamination process that has been slowed by the financially beleaguered Metropolitan Edison Co.

Mahlon Gates, acting assistant secretary of nuclear energy for the U.S. Department of Energy, planned to ask a Senate subcommittee today for \$37 million in TMI funding for fiscal 1982. The remaining \$38 million urged by Reagan's DOE officials would be required as the cleanup proceeds in 1983 and 1984.

Met-Ed in January announced it was cutting its 1981 cleanup budget from \$100 million to \$50 million because of financial troubles and an enjoiner from the state Public Utility Commission not to use ratepayer revenues for the job.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff said Monday the cleanup could take up to seven more years.

Gates was expected to label the TMI grant as DOE "research and development" funding. DOE would be interested in obtaining and analyzing up to 20 cylinders containing synthetic substances used to strain and absorb radioactive isotopes in

the 700,000 gallons of highly contaminated water in the Unit 2 basement. DOE also would take possession of the remnants of the melted fuel rods from the reactor core.

Gates planned to tell the Senate hearing that the DOE commitment would pay for less than 10 percent of the estimated \$1 billion cleanup process, and, therefore, cannot be classified as a "federal bailout" of General Public Utilities Corp., Met-Ed's parent firm.

However, Gates suggests that DOE involvement may prompt the nuclear industry to offer some financial assistance.

The NRC staff sees as the top priority in the cleanup the processing of the contaminated water in the Unit 2 basement. Bernard Snyder, NRC director of the TMI program office, told the commissioners in a briefing Monday that the continued presence of the water is a "an unacceptable risk to workers."

The briefing coincided with the release of the long-awaited Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement on the TMI cleanup. The report concluded that Unit 2 must be cleaned up "as expeditiously as reasonably possible" to prevent the contaminated water from tainting the Susquehanna River and local groundwater and to head off a spontaneous chain reaction in the damaged fuel core.

Snyder said decisions on the disposal of the water could be deferred for up to two years and the water stored in tanks on-site. But, he cautioned against allowing TMI to become a long-term radio-

active storage dump, calling the prospect "not desirable."

Snyder said several decisions would have to be made before a cleanup schedule could be outlined.

Acting NRC Chairman Joseph M. Hendrie noted that for "what seems like a lifetime" the first decision necessary had been how to clean up the contaminated water in the reactor basement. Snyder said the staff had been waiting "for a while" for a proposal on this from the plant's operators.

However, when asked if Met-Ed hadn't been — in turn — awaiting the staff report before making its proposal, Snyder replied: "I think it was a major factor in their holding up."

Harold Denton, chief of reactor regulation, said he expects Met-Ed to submit a proposal in a few days for using a submerged demineralizer system to process the water.

The NRC staff report concluded that the cleanup can be accomplished with existing technology at an infinitesimal health risk to the public. The "most significant environmental impact" from the cleanup would be on workers, according to the 1,300-page report.

Hendrie said he couldn't estimate when the impact statement would be approved, but he is expected to push for rapid approval. If the impact statement is approved, Met-Ed could proceed with the cleanup with only NRC staff OK, unless the utility proposed something outside the options in the statement. Shortly after the accident, the commission ruled that it, not the staff, had to approve any major cleanup step.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, April 3, 1981

Stockman says no to U.S. TMI role

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — In an administration otherwise interested in encouraging nuclear power, Budget Director David Stockman has emerged as the most powerful opponent of federal aid for the Three Mile Island Unit 2 cleanup.

Stockman told a group of congressmen in a private session Wednesday that the federal government has no responsibility for the TMI accident. According to Rep. Allen E. Ertel, D-Montoursville, who attended the meeting, Stockman said Metropolitan Edison Co. ratepayers should pick up cleanup costs over and above the \$300 million in property insurance Met-Ed is using to get the \$1 billion-plus decontamination process started.

Sources close to Stockman in the Office of Management and Budget confirmed he fought Energy Secretary James B. Edwards' March 10 proposal to greatly expand federal research and development assistance to the cleanup. In a high-level struggle going on until that date, a compromise figure of \$37 million in Department of Energy aid was settled upon. Both OMB and DOE officials confirmed that Secretary Edwards, an ardent ad-

vocate of nuclear energy, had wanted considerably more than \$37 million in fiscal 1982.

When Edwards' deputy, Acting Assistant Secretary Mahlon Gates, announced the \$37 million budget item to a Senate subcommittee on March 10, he said the money was necessary, in part, to "help alleviate the concerns of the utility industry that have arisen because of the continuing delays being experienced in cleaning up TMI." The DOE testimony runs counter to the economic philosophy as Ertel said Stockman expressed it at the meeting Wednesday.

Reacting to Ertel's questions about the TMI funding dilemma, Stockman used the free enterprise argument common among administration officials speaking on Capitol Hill this spring — let market forces work without government intervention. If Met-Ed is forced into bankruptcy by the estimated \$1 billion cost of the accident, then so be it, Stockman said at the meeting.

In a letter he sent to Stockman on Thursday, Ertel quarreled with the budget director's argument where utilities are concerned. Ertel backed Stockman's statement at the meeting "that when private

businesses encounter difficulties, the free enterprise system should prevail without federal intervention." But because a utility is "a regulated monopoly in which the consumers of electricity have no choice in selecting their utility and virtually no involvement in the determination of the rates," Ertel said Met-Ed's predicament is different.

"Traditional market forces do not apply and the implications of a utility bankruptcy are far more extensive than those encountered when a business becomes financially insolvent in other sectors of our economy," Ertel wrote Stockman.

Ertel said Stockman did agree to study a bill that would set up a national nuclear insurance pool to partially finance the TMI cleanup and on-site damage in future nuclear accidents. Provisions in the bill Ertel introduced last month call for a presidentially appointed corporation, which would borrow up to \$100 million in federal funds for start-up money and collect utility premiums of up to \$750 million over the next five years.

Urging Stockman to support the insurance approach, Ertel said in the letter he will amend the bill

Cont p

\$47,000 IN BILLS BURN

By MARY KLAUS
Staff Writer

Nearly 200 anti-nuclear protesters Friday night fed more than \$47,000 worth of Metropolitan Edison Co. electric bills to crackling flames during a bonfire on the Capitol steps on the eve of the second anniversary of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station accident.

"Project David," with the ratepayers representing David and Met-Ed cast as Goliath, attracted 150 to 200 protesters, Capitol police said. Protesters of all ages burned their March electric bills, which they are refusing to pay as a protest against Met-Ed and nuclear power.

As project organizers fired two barbecue grills, one to burn bills and one to heat a large, brass kettle full of tea, Bill Keisling, author of "Three Mile Island: Turning Point," termed the bonfire "a great victory for grass-roots politics."

Judging from banners and buttons, most protesters were from the midstate. A colorful quilted banner made by Marsha McHenry of Newberry Twp. identified the "Newberry Twp. Neighbors Against Nuclear Energy." A nearby banner noted that "578,000 people are hostages of TMI. Day 731."

Buttons and T-shirts carried such slogans as "No Nukes," "Shut

Down TMI Forever," "Clean It Up and Shut It Down," and "Reagan Is Not My President."

Keisling said commissioners of the state Public Utility Commission and U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission won't listen to the ratepayers' complaints that they can't afford to pay more money or risk their lives for Met-Ed.

"Some of us have vowed to lay our bodies on the road in front of the power plant to prevent Three Mile Island from reopening," he said. "But when Met-Ed rolls its trucks over our bodies, will anyone listen to our cries?"

Pat Smith of Newberry Twp., one of the Project David organizers, said her electric rates have been increasing for 14 years.

"Next month, the PUC will decide on Met-Ed's request for a \$76.5 million increase, which will result in 17.2 percent higher electric bills per customer," she said. "And spokespersons from the PUC and state Consumer Advocate Office have said they expect Met-Ed later this year will request another increase. Customers should be angry!"

Smith said that many customers are unable to pay their ever-increasing electric bills, and that many are questioning the accuracy of their electric meters. She added that ratepayers have as much right to protest as the colonists did at the

Boston Tea Party.

Willis Wolfe of Etters RD 2 said, "When we try to express our concerns or anxieties and points of view regarding nuclear power to our government officials, regulatory organizations and the nuclear utility, we are ignored. When our patience has become exhausted and we demonstrate our resentment, we are called radicals." He said customers must remain united in opposing a technology with threats and dangers that outweigh the advantages.

Kay Pickering of Three Mile Island Alert called on Pennsylvania Power & Light Co. customers to unite with Met-Ed customers in protesting nuclear power, since PP&L is building a nuclear power plant near Berwick.

TMIA Chairman Joel Roth, who wore a hat saying "Three Mile Island Never Again," asked the crowd if TMI was safe or cheap. "No," screamed the protesters.

Roth said that when he visited TMI on Friday with U.S. Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., the door to the control room got stuck. "They're still incompetent," he said, as the crowd roared in agreement.

The protesters and dozens of photographers crowded around the two barbecue grills. Flames licked at the electric bills as Pickering piled them onto the grill.

She said that the fire consumed
cont. P6

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, April 2, 1981

Met-Ed wins \$51 million hike

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The state Public Utility Commission in a surprise move today awarded Metropolitan Edison Co. a \$51.8 million base rate increase and its sister utility, Pennsylvania Electric Co., a \$54.8 million boost.

The commission voted unanimously to accept with only minor alterations the recommended decision of Administrative Law Judge Joseph P. Matuschak, who heard the base rate cases.

Today's session had been scheduled to poll the individual commissioners on aspects of the cases. But, the commission instead acted on a recommendation from the PUC trial staff, which said the regulatory

body should accept Matuschak's findings.

Met-Ed's increase will raise the monthly bill of a customer who uses 500 kilowatt hours by \$1.20 per month. The effect on Penelec customers could not immediately be determined.

Met-Ed had sought \$76.5 million and Penelec \$67.4 million in their base rate requests. The money will be used to meet general operating and maintenance, transmission and distribution expenses unrelated to the TMI accident.

Commissioner Susan M. Shanahan said that Met-Ed had not had a change in its base rates since 1978. The 1978 rate case was based on data from 1976, she added.

The vote followed nearly 35 minutes of discussion by the commission members concerning the lack of response from the federal and state governments to the request of General Public Utilities Corp. for help in cleaning up the damaged Three Mile Island Unit 2. GPU is the parent company of Met-Ed and Penelec.

Commissioner Michael Johnson delivered the strongest denunciation of the lack of support for the cleanup, saying the commission has been "abandoned by people in the national administration, state administration, by people of both parties, and in particular by my party, the Democratic Party."

T H O U S A N D S F R O M 1

wants to volunteer to get cancer in the name of progress?"

Many demonstrators said they had come from long distances for the demonstration, after getting involved in opposing nuclear plants near their homes.

Hannah Valley, 27, of St. Louis, drove 16 hours with two companions to reach the march.

"I wanted to see Three Mile Island. I wanted to be able to look at the place and say, 'That's where we almost had a meltdown,'" said Ms. Valley, a member of the St. Louis Coalition for the Environment.

Quadir Muwwakkil of Barnwell, S.C., said, "Since we are all fighting the nuclear industry in our own areas, we came to find out what TMI's (opponents are) doing and get ideas to help us."

S T O C K M A N F R O M 3

to ensure the insurance program "is spun off to a wholly private activity" after the start-up money is repaid to the U.S. Treasury.

Stockman's official position on the Ertel bill probably will be revealed early next month when two House subcommittees have scheduled hearings on the measure. The insurance corporation could fund up to three-fourths of the cleanup not covered by the utility's private insurance. Met-Ed would pay half of that amount back — around \$250 million, depending on the eventual cost.

TMI cleanup may consume 5 to 9 years

WASHINGTON (UPI) — The damaged Three Mile Island reactor can be cleaned up safely in nine years at most, with work crews running only a slightly elevated risk of cancer, a government environmental impact study said today.

The final report, prepared by the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, identified radiation doses received by cleanup workers as "the most significant environmental impact" associated with the decontamination effort.

"It is predicted that less than one additional cancer death attributable to exposure to radiation will occur among the entire work force engaged in cleaning up TMI-2," the two-volume impact study said.

The study also said the cleanup "should proceed as expeditiously as reasonably possible to reduce the potential for uncontrolled releases of radioactive materials to the environment."

The NRC, responding to fears the decontamination process would expose local citizens to unforeseen

radiation risks, ordered the impact statement prepared on Nov. 21, 1979.

Its approval by the five-member commission, which met this afternoon, would allow TMI owner General Public Utilities Corp. to proceed with the cleanup, the only remaining roadblock being funding, which is being debated on several other fronts.

The cleanup was needed to decontaminate the reactor damaged in the country's worst commercial nuclear accident, which began in the early hours of March 28, 1979.

Decontamination already has involved the purging of 43,000 curies of radioactive krypton gas into the atmosphere last summer. The containment building still must be decontaminated and the reactor's damaged fuel core and thousands of gallons of radioactive water still must be removed.

The study found that "existing methods are adequate" or can be adapted to do all the necessary work "without incurring environmental impacts that exceed acceptable limits."

Although little cleanup work has been done so far, the study found that the decontamination process will take five to nine years from the time of the accident.

The NRC staff also concluded that "TMI should not become a permanent radioactive waste disposal site," an option favored by some who fear removal of the highly radioactive fuel core and wastes will pose unacceptable risks to area residents.

The staff also found that psychological stress, which previous reports have identified as the main impact of the accident, "has declined, but there is a potential for temporary increases in distress as various cleanup activities are undertaken."

YORK DAILY RECORD • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 1, 1981

We're not ready for a TMI, League says

From staff and wire reports

HARRISBURG — The undamaged Three Mile Island reactor should not be reopened "at this time" because emergency planning is inadequate, the League of Women Voters of Greater York said Tuesday.

The league believes "there is not adequate personnel or equipment to effectuate an evacuation" of York County, president Phyllis Nelson, 320 Blue Ridge Drive, told the U.S. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Based on several months of hearings, the board will make a recommendation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission when or if

the idle unit should return to service.

She said a league study of evacuation planning found "a paucity of improvements" in the two years since the nuclear accident.

Areas of concern, she said, included lack of medical facilities with personnel trained to handle radiation victims; lack of trained municipal volunteers who would be needed to carry out an evacuation; probable communications tie-ups; and lack of enough school buses and drivers to evacuate school children.

Skeletal planning and emergency management by only one county employee "leaves large areas barely touched, developed or re-

viewed," she added.

She said transportation and personnel shortcomings of an evacuation "overwhelm" the planning efforts at the school district level.

She was critical of the lack of cooperation among the state Department of Education, school districts and municipalities — "all of whom maintain their autonomy in the case of an emergency," she said. In some instances, townships and school districts would evacuate to different relocation centers, the league found, and some parents have not been told where their children would be taken.

Area hospitals are not equipped to handle a large nuclear accident that could irradiate many people,

she said. "Any serious accident with a large release could not be accommodated for," she said. Lists of nursing personnel for emergencies is out-of-date, she added.

The league also concluded:

- The population does not know what it is supposed to do or where to go in case of emergency.
- York County roads are inadequate during rush hour, much less during a mass evacuation.
- The county evacuation plan is based on the assumption that half the population will leave on its own.
- The league favors a 20-mile instead of a 10-mile evacuation plan.

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL Wednesday, April 1, 1981

SOUND OFF



WANTED: Large tract of land in state of Arizona, preferably in the congressional district of Udall. Purpose: for the relocation of one Three Mile Island nuclear power plant.

PRO NUCLEAR people are like dope peddlers, as long as they are making fantastic money at the sucker's expense they want to keep it that way. Waste buried years ago is starting to affect people now. The old saying, "an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure," is still very good advice.

STAFF THIS ISSUE:

Editors: Cathie Musser
Kathy Manfred

Gail Shuey
Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff



BILLS BURN FROM 4

359 Met-Ed bills totaling \$47,455 and 25 PP&L bills totaling \$1,327, all previously gathered. Nine percent of all Newberry Twp. residents refused to pay their bills, she added.

Pickering then invited protesters to burn their own bills as others chanted, "Two, four, six, eight, we don't want to radiate." One angry woman dropped her \$170 electric bill into the flames. Another called for the burning of Met-Ed.

"This is how the revolution started," said Terry Roth of TMIA.

"Tonight, we set fire to more than these electric bills," Keisling said. "We also set fire to the idea that the governor, the Legislature, the PUC and the NRC hold absolute power in their hands. Tonight we, the ratepayers, resolve that the power is in our hands." Tea and cookies were served after the bonfire.

The ashes of the burned electric bills will be mailed to Gov. Dick Thornburgh, state PUC commissioners and Met-Ed officials, Pickering said.

Mr. and Mrs. David Wilderman of Camp Hill, standing with their young children, Jenny and Jesse, summarized the feelings of many when they said, "We must take aggressive action so utilities don't increase the nuclear industry."

Muriel Sobel, of Harrisburg at the time of the TMI accident and now of Philadelphia, said she went to the protest because she strongly opposes nuclear power.

Smith urged Project David participants to continue withholding payments.

"You can overlook 'further collection efforts' notices and warning letters," she said. "If you receive a termination notice, you have 10 days in which to make a partial payment or file a complaint. If you feel justified in filing a formal complaint with the PUC, call the PUC consumer service information, TMIA or TMI Public Interest Resource Center. If you are contacted for payment, you can plead poverty or complain about service or meter discrepancies."

SDS SYSTEM FROM 1

hazard in keeping the tritiated water stored in two newly constructed 500,000-gallon tanks," the officials said.

The containment building water is more highly radioactive than the auxiliary building water was. The Zeolites, in the SDS system an inorganic ion-exchange medium, can accommodate much greater amounts of radioactive material than organic resins. "Their use in the SDS system will greatly reduce the number of canisters containing radioactive wastes that will have to be stored temporarily on Three Mile Island, either in the SDS system itself or in the specially constructed, concrete-walled waste storage area outside Unit 2," GPU Nuclear officials said.

The SDS system has been installed in the two Unit 2 spent-fuel pools. Because Unit 2 had been in operation for only three months when the accident occurred, the fuel pools did not contain any used fuel.

The SDS system cost GPU Nuclear \$8 million to design and build. Because the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has not yet authorized use of the system, it has been installed at GPU

Nuclear's own financial risk. GPU Nuclear expects the NRC to approve the SDS by the time it is tested and ready for operation in May.

Officials at TMI repeatedly state that it is necessary to process the reactor building water expeditiously both to provide safer access to the building for cleanup crews and to remove a major potential source of harmful releases to the environment.

"The containment building was not designed to serve indefinitely as a reservoir," GPU officials said. "As long as the contaminated water remains in the building, a possibility exists that it could seep into groundwater outside and, eventually, reach the Susquehanna River."

The basic technology of the submerged demineralizer system is the same as that in a home water softening unit. Greatly magnified, the Zeolites and resin beads resemble complex "snowflake" molecules with charged "sites" that attract, or snap up, the metallic fission products. Similar ion-exchange systems are routinely used to clean up radioactive water in reactor cooling systems at all nuclear power plants.

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Vol 2 No 8

MAY 1981

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL Wednesday, April 22, 1981

Group Charges Public Shut Out From TMI Hearings

Sue Shetrom, project director of the Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC), charged the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission with "arbitrary and capricious" behavior in denying citizens further opportunities to appear before the board to make "public limited appearance statements."

"Chairman (Ivan) Smith has shown that he does not care about the citizens of this area," Shetrom charged. "His only concern is getting TMI Unit 1 back in operation as quickly as possible."

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board is currently hearing testimony on the proposed restart of TMI Unit 1 and will make recommendations to the full U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Smith's announcement followed a request by a local citizen to make a public limited appearance before the board. Smith announced last Thursday that only those citizens who have previously made such requests would be allowed to schedule appearances before the board. All others would be limited to submission of written statements.

Shetrom said that citizens and organizations had not been informed of any deadline for requests nor had they received any prior notice that Smith's decision would be forthcoming.

"What is particularly infuriating," said Shetrom, "is that we have been attempting to get the board to open the proceedings to more citizen

input. We had recently received a letter from Leonard Bickwit, general counsel to the NRC advising us that no further special evening sessions would be held. But, Mr. Bickwit advised that, 'I would suggest that you urge (citizens) to contact the board directly so that it may schedule a time for a limited appearance.' We have been doing just that."

The Commission's Order and Notice of Hearings (August 9, 1979) stated: "The Board should attempt to schedule some of its sessions in the evening or on weekends to permit the maximum possible public attendance." Shetrom pointed out that to date, two sessions have met that criteria, one of which was open for public com-

ment.

"The one session set up for public, limited appearance statements probably would never have occurred," said Shetrom; "If TMI PIRC had not set up the time and place for the hearing and invited the board. Only at that point, did the ASLB take responsibility for the hearing."

"The public has continually been shut out of the restart proceedings. Intervenor have been denied financial assistance, denied staff assistance and now, individual citizens have been denied their right to speak directly to the ASLB," Shetrom added.

"What has become clear," concluded Shetrom, "is that these proceedings are simply a method of expediting the restart of Unit 1. The board is either afraid or just does not care about the feelings and opinions of the citizens of this area."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, May 1, 1981

Notices for TMI class-action suit are in the mail

By JANIS L. WILSON
Staff Writer

Details of the proposed \$25 million settlement of the Three Mile Island class-action lawsuit in federal court and instructions on how members can protect their legal rights were mailed today to 580,000 persons and businesses within 25 miles of the plant.

U.S. Middle District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo approved the legal-notice forms, which include an explanation of who is included in the three groups, that they are already represented by an attorney, how to obtain claim forms or how to exclude themselves from the class.

Advertisements will begin running Tuesday in 11 area newspa-

pers, plus regional editions of The New York Times, The Wall Street Journal and TV Guide, to notify people who have moved.

The cost of the published and mailed notices, including \$90,000 for postage and \$60,000-\$70,000 for advertisements, is \$230,000.

The notice explains that a class action "is a lawsuit in which the court has decided that plaintiffs (those who actually started the suit) have made claims that are like those of any other persons who experienced the same problems as plaintiffs. If the plaintiffs win the suit, then class members may share in any award of damages. If the plaintiffs lose the suit, then class members likewise lose the suit. If the suit is settled with the approval

of the court, then class members may share in the settlement."

Three subdivisions are included in the class — businesses and persons who suffered economic losses on or after the accident, and individuals who seek medical-detection services. The proposed settlement calls for \$20 million in payments for economic expenses and \$5 million for medical research, radiation monitoring and public education.

The notices were prepared by Worldwide Marketing Inc. of Wayne, where a post-office box has been rented to gather the forms. Worldwide, a direct-mail marketing agency, has included a special computer number on each notice. The number identifies each claim so that the firm can keep a

Cont. pg. 6

Behind the nuclear poll

A NEW HARRIS POLL finds Pennsylvanians philosophically opposed to nuclear power (by a margin of 50 to 43 percent) but prepared to drop principle in exchange for lower electric bills (52 to 42 percent).

Among a series of questions on energy designed by the Governor's Energy Council, which commissioned the poll, respondents were asked, "Would you favor or oppose building more nuclear plants in Pennsylvania if this would lower your electric bill?", which suggests a benefit to be derived from nuclear power which it almost certainly cannot deliver. A spokesman for the energy council said the question sought to determine the level of economic motivation in the nuclear issue without prejudice toward one side or the other.

But the question, nevertheless, is misleading because it presupposes that it is possible to spend billions of dollars to build nuclear power plants without this tremendous investment being reflected in what people pay for electricity. Nothing could be further from the truth, despite what we continually hear about nuclear power being cheap. One has to listen closely, but what is being said by nuclear proponents is not that more plants will make our electric bills less than they are, but less than they might become if we continue to use oil to generate a significant portion of our electricity.

One could go to the gaming tables of Atlantic City and still be hard-pressed to find a more speculative activity than attempting to estimate the final cost of a nuclear power plant. Despite this handicap, which has seen the projected costs of plants under construction revised upward once or twice a year to three, five, even ten times what they were originally estimated to cost, it has not prevented scores of industry spokesmen, government officials and Harvard researchers from venturing forth with figures which presume to show how much consumers

would save if we could just replace all those oil-guzzling power plants with nuclear reactors. They haven't been right yet about the cost of nuclear power, but the public is supposed to believe that this time around they know what they are talking about.

In any case, there is no argument that oil-generated electricity is expensive and vulnerable to higher prices and loss of supply. The amount of petroleum used to produce electricity in this country is equivalent to about one-half the amount of oil we import from abroad, so reducing or eliminating our use of oil to generate electricity is a desirable goal. The debate centers on how best to accomplish it.

BUILDING more nuclear power plants would be one way, but the cost would be immense and would require, as the Harris poll indicates, going against the wishes of half the people in the country, a level of opposition which in most circumstances would qualify as insurmountable. Not only is the public skittish about nuclear energy, so are investors. Financially, there are few utilities in a position to undertake new nuclear projects, and a number, such as Philadelphia Electric, are struggling to complete existing projects, while still other utilities attempt to sell shares of the nuclear plants they own. Add the Three Mile Island accident, the paralyzed cleanup effort, the continuing absence of a permanent storage facility for reactor wastes, and the ongoing technical problems, one is left with very little to recommend the construction of new nuclear plants, except, possibly, that it might be cheaper than burning oil.

There are other alternatives to burning oil, however, the cheapest and most successful of which has been conservation. Less than a decade ago, the conventional wisdom was that generating capacity would have to be

Cont. pg. 6

N-crisis planning is hit by MacLeod

By United Press International

Pennsylvania is still "ill-equipped" to respond to radiation emergencies like the Three Mile Island accident, the man who served as state health secretary during the crisis two years ago said today.

Gordon MacLeod said in a speech in Hershey to the Pennsylvania Medical Society's Committee on Medicine, Religion and Bioethics, that a 22.5 percent reduction of the Health Department's budget since TMI has diminished its effectiveness.

He also asserted that the state is unprepared to respond to another nuclear emergency because officials have declined to establish a special "radiation health" unit within the Health Department.

MacLeod resigned from the administration of Gov. Dick Thornburgh six months after the March 28, 1979, nuclear accident. Thornburgh cited unspecified "institutional differences" with MacLeod.

"The lack of public health preparedness for another nuclear accident has been repeatedly cited, but to no avail," MacLeod said. "Without a well-staffed radiation health unit in Pennsylvania, we are ill-equipped to handle the many aspects of any future nuclear-reactor accident."

MacLeod also criticized the state Health Department, now under the direction of Secretary Arnold Muller, for its handling of data pertaining to health effects of the Three Mile Island accident.

MacLeod said incidences of hypothyroidism, a thyroid disorder, have never been "fully explained." Also, there was no study to determine whether the size of newborn children had been affected by radiation from the accident.

"In the absence of a radiation health unit, our own state Health Department lacks the professional competence to match the effects of technology," he said.

MacLeod's comments echoed a major finding of the President's Commission on Three Mile Island in October 1979.

STAFF THIS ISSUE:

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TMI racing clock to rid site of waste

HARRISBURG (AP) — Technicians at Three Mile Island are racing the clock to ship 22 canisters of radioactive waste to the nation's only nuclear disposal site before its scheduled July 1 shutdown.

And even if they make it, TMI spokesman Doug Bedell said Friday, there will still be another 95 canisters to worry about, some of them much more radioactive than those bound for Hanford, Wash.

Bedell said a shortage of the 15-ton, lead-lined casks used to transport the waste has delayed the shipment of a second canister from today until early next week, probably Monday.

He said the shortage may make it impossible to keep up the pace necessary to clear out the canisters fast enough.

"We hope to be able to complete it by July 1," Bedell said. "It all depends on the availability of the casks. It's going to be a close thing but we hope to do it."

The first canister of waste stemming from the TMI cleanup began the 72-hour cross-country trip Thursday over an unspecified interstate highway route.

It was the first waste to leave the Susquehanna River island since the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident crippled the TMI Unit 2 reactor more than two years ago. The plant owners are involved in a projected seven-year, \$1 billion cleanup.

Washington state voters decided in a referendum to shut down the Hanford nuclear waste disposal site on July 1.

Bedell said several nuclear corporations and the disposal site owners have appealed the referendum results in federal court.

As for alternative sites, Bedell replied, "There's not likely to be any place at all. They (the canisters) won't go anywhere. They will stay here for a while."

He added, "That would not make us any happier than any of the people around here. None of us want this to turn into a waste site."

Radioactive waste from the TMI cleanup is being stored on the island in a concrete pit, a situation that worries nearby residents and the plant operators.

The 22 canisters bound for Hanford contain relatively low-level radioactive resins generated by the processing of contaminated water from the reactor's auxiliary building.

Another 50 canisters containing higher-level waste, not acceptable at Hanford, are also being stored on the island. Bedell said the U.S. Department of Energy has agreed to take one canister for research purposes and may eventually dispose of the others at U.S. Defense Department sites.

In addition, Bedell said another 46 canisters of waste are expected to result from the decontamination of 700,000 gallons of highly contaminated water still inside the Unit 2 reactor cooling system and containment building.

About 10 of them will be more highly radioactive than anything that is now onsite, he said, while the remainder will be comparable to the waste that is now being shipped to Hanford.

The "real hot ones ... are going to be stored right in the fuel pool where they're generated, underwater," he said.

Decontamination of the reactor building water is expected to start at the end of May, assuming the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approves the treatment system.

Loan To Met-Ed Is OK'd

A coalition of banks has informed the Metropolitan Edison Co. that they will lend it some \$19 million to help it meet its Pennsylvania tax bill. Announcement of the banks' decision was made on Monday.

But it also appears that future bank loans to the utility will be dependent upon the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission's decision expected on Thursday regarding whether Met-Ed should charge customers for costs associated with the Unit-I reactor at TMI.

The banks stated that with an unfavorable vote from the PUC, they would be reluctant to extend more credit to the owners of TMI, GPU Nuclear.

Last June the PUC cut Met-Ed's rates by \$26.9 million stating that the nuclear plant's undamaged Unit-I reactor was not useful to the utilities' customers, thereby removing it from the rate structure.

GPU stated that the consortium of banks were concerned that the PUC has not acted on complaints put on record by TMI's owner regarding the reduced rates.

YORK DAILY RECORD • WEDNESDAY, APRIL 29, 1981

Eight-member crew to install pump in TMI

MIDDLETOWN (AP) — Technicians will enter the contaminated Three Mile Island containment building this week to install a pump needed to purify radioactive water flooding the basement, officials said Tuesday.

An eight-man crew is scheduled to install a floating pump designed to move the contaminated water to a near-complete filter system under construction in an adjacent fuel handling building.

The system, called the Submerged Demineralizer System, will remove radioactive particles of cesium and strontium

from the water, purifying it except for tritium.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission must approve the system before it goes into operation. A spokesman has said plant operators hope to start processing water by the end of May.

The Thursday entry is the ninth since the TMI reactor was crippled in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident more than two years ago. Some 600,000 gallons of contaminated water escaped into the containment building basement during the mishap.



A Closer Look at the Ertel Bill

Here is how Rep. Allen Ertel's proposal for a mandatory national nuclear property insurance program would work:

- The president would appoint officers of a National Nuclear Property Insurance Corp. and a seven-member board of directors including the chairmen of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission.

- Utilities with nuclear reactors would be required to take out the insurance and pay premiums based on, among other things, general accident probabilities and specific company operating performance.

- Coverage would be \$50 million-deductible for on-site property damage and cleanup costs over and above private insurance. The corporation would pay out up to \$2 billion per accident or some other coverage cap determined by the corporation.

- Up to \$750 million would be collected over the next five years. The corporation could borrow \$100 million from the U.S. Treasury for start-up costs during the period before premiums could be collected. The loan

would be paid back with interest from premium collections.

- Insurance coverage would be retroactive for the Three Mile Island accident and the three General Public Utilities Corp. firms that co-own Unit 2. Special TMI coverage would pay 75 percent of cleanup costs over GPU's \$300 million in private coverage. GPU would pay half of that back, interest-free.

- Utility commissions in Pennsylvania and New Jersey, whose rate-setting powers would not be disturbed by the federal legislation, would devise a TMI financial plan designed to assure all other resources are used — including any contributions from the nuclear industry.

- An inter-agency task force made up of representatives from the NRC, Energy Department and Securities and Exchange Commission would coordinate TMI federal activities and formulate a contingency cleanup plan in case GPU goes bankrupt. The plan would include authorization for federal funding of "emergency activities" on the site.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, May 2, 1981

TMI Cleanup Aid Request Riles Congressional Panel

By MICK ROOD

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A House subcommittee Friday bristled at the idea of legislating outside funding to clean up the damaged Unit 2 reactor at Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station — especially since Metropolitan Edison Co. customers pay less for electricity than many other ratepayers.

The message during a hearing on a national nuclear insurance bill sponsored by Rep. Allen Ertel, D-

Montoursville, Pa., was that the three utilities and their customers who own the power plant should pay the anticipated cleanup price tag of \$1 billion, minus any contribution from the nuclear industry.

Congressmen reacted negatively to Ertel, who proposed that nuclear utility ratepayers across the nation supply loans and grants covering two-thirds of uninsured expenses at Three Mile Island, and to Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission Chairman Susan M. Shana-

man, who wanted the federal government to "advance" funds for the decontamination project.

"Mr. Ertel is asking us to expand our thinking," said Rep. Albert Gore Jr., D-Tenn. "But any plan asking Tennessee Valley Authority ratepayers or other utility ratepayers to pay costs of the accident faces a rocky road at best."

Gore argued that customers of the TVA, which has a good nuclear safety reputation, should not have to pay for mistakes made at TMI.

"If I was a ratesetter in Pennsylvania, I'd be trying to dump it off (accident costs) on anybody I could, too," said Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., a nuclear power critic.

Shanahan had proposed earlier that federal funds be "advanced" for "complete and prompt decontamination." Congress could fashion a sharing program with the nuclear utility industry and government later to repay the funds, she said.

Saddling ratepayers of General Public Utilities Corp. — parent of TMI operating companies — for accident costs would be "like blaming the victim," Shanahan said.

She argued that both the government and industry share the responsibility for the TMI accident. As she has in earlier appearances, Shanahan noted that law in Pennsylvania and other states prohibits utility commissions from granting rate increases for "unused and useless" facilities like TMI Units 1 and 2.

YORK DAILY RECORD • SATURDAY, APRIL 4, 1981

Won't sell to Met-Ed

It seems as though everywhere we turn we're being told that our electric bills could be greatly reduced by the restart of TMI. I was particularly appalled by my latest electric bill, which advised, "This bill would be reduced by about \$3.40 had the undamaged nuclear generating unit on Three Mile Island been permitted to operate." I can't believe the gall of Met-Ed to believe that consumers are willing to jeopardize their health and families for about \$3.40 a month.

Our son was five weeks old at the time of the TMI crisis. We were advised to evacuate our home, and there was a real danger of never being able to return. Our health and future was a very real concern. Now, we're told to forget all that and accept the restart of TMI.

I hope the public doesn't fall victim to Met-Ed's campaign to "help us" reduce our bills. I don't believe our electric costs will ever go down, no matter what the company says. I refuse to sell out for the promise of saving about \$3.40 monthly, even if we can't afford to pay the extra!

Mrs. Beverly Vecero
Springettsbury Township

Disagreement is found on TMI link to infant deaths

By JILL LAWRENCE
Associated Press Writer

Conflicting testimony from a Philadelphia biologist and a Health Department official has fueled a long-running debate over whether the Three Mile Island accident led to an increase in infant deaths and birth defects.

The two disagreed on which way the wind was blowing after the March 28, 1979 mishap, and advanced conclusions based on statistics from almost entirely different geographical areas.

In testimony submitted Wednesday to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, Dr. Bruce Moholt said there is "some evidence" that iodine-131 from the crippled Unit 2 reactor caused an increase in thyroid disorders among newborns.

The board will make a recommendation on whether the undamaged reactor should reopen. Hearings are scheduled to end this month.

Moholt, science director of the Environmental Cancer Prevention

Center in Philadelphia, said the predominant wind direction after the accident was northeast.

The incidence of hypothyroidism rose for six counties northeast of the plant — from two cases in the nine months before the accident to eight in the nine months following it, he said.

There was also a statistically significant increase in infant deaths within a 10-mile radius of the plant following the accident, Moholt maintained.

The biologist's statements were contradicted by Dr. George K. Tokuhata, director of epidemiological research for the state Health Department.

In prepared testimony, Tokuhata said wind direction within 48 hours of the accident was north and northwest, and not a single case of hypothyroidism was reported in eight counties in that direction for all of 1979.

The counties he analyzed were

completely different from those involved in Moholt's calculations, with the exception of Dauphin.

Tokuhata said hypothyroidism remained "within a normal range" in the state for both 1979 and 1980.

Department investigators concluded that the TMI accident was not a factor in an "apparent concentration" of seven cases in Lancaster County in 1979, he said.

According to Tokuhata, one of the cases was reported before the accident and two were from the Amish community, which has a higher than normal incidence of certain genetic conditions and diseases.

Tokuhata said department investigators also eliminated TMI as a cause of changes in the infant mortality rate. He said the rate within the 10-mile radius was "considerably high" during the first quarter of 1979, before the accident, for unknown reasons.

The rate remained the same during the second quarter and declined substantially during the third and fourth quarters, he said.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, April 9, 1981

Dye test will track TMI flow

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A red fluorescent dye will be put into the Susquehanna River late today to track river currents 17 miles downstream from Three Mile Island.

William E. Riethle, TMI environmental control manager, said the test — the second in eight months — will begin at 5 p.m. and is aimed at determining whether the plant's monitoring stations are in effective locations. The dye will be visible as a red streak for a short distance after it is released.

Riethle said 10 cross-sections of white buoys have been anchored in the reach of the river from TMI to Columbia. Several boats also will be stationed in the river. Water samples will be taken for laboratory analysis.

The dye has been certified as environmentally safe by the Environmental Protection Agency. The test has been approved by EPA and the state Department of Environmental Resources. Lancaster City, Columbia and Wrightsville Waterworks are cooperating in the monitoring effort, Riethle said.

No changes were deemed necessary after the first test in September when the river's flow was lower. A third test is planned for May, Riethle said. He noted that TMI has been collecting river samples at numerous points since 1974.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, April 28, 1981

NRC gives staff cleanup go-ahead

From Evening News Wire Services

WASHINGTON — The chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission today authorized the NRC staff to proceed with cleanup activities at the damaged Three Mile Island reactor without seeking commission approval.

Chairman Joseph Hendrie issued a policy statement giving the staff a green light to proceed with all actions assessed in the comprehensive environmental impact statement the staff issued on the cleanup last month.

An NRC spokesman said the new policy will allow GPU Nuclear to undertake decontamination of the 600,000 of highly radioactive water in the reactor basement if the NRC staff approves. Disposition of the decontaminated water, however, will still have to be decided by the four commissioners themselves.

The policy requires the staff to keep the commissioners informed of each major cleanup activity it intends to approve at the reactor,

which was badly damaged and contaminated in the March 28, 1979 accident.

"I believe this policy statement is a major step forward," said Hendrie. "Now that the environmental impact statement has been published, the commission believes that Metropolitan Edison should accelerate the pace of the cleanup to complete all decontamination activities expeditiously, consistent with ensuring protection of the public health and safety and the environment."

The next step in the cleanup process is decontamination of the water, which GPU Nuclear plans to accomplish with the Submerged Demineralization System, an ion exchange system which officials say is "98 percent" ready to be used.

"I have directed the staff to expedite its review of the system proposed for use to clean up this water, and I believe processing should be able to start this summer," said Hendrie.

TMI notices on lawsuit are in the mail

From Page One

record of any transactions. A running tally of who requests claim forms or wishes to exclude themselves from the class will be kept. Any duplicate claims can be detected.

To save money, notices will be sent to only one name at an address, though one person can request claim forms for others. However, some applicants will have legitimate dual claims, such as for business loss and personal expenses, such as evacuating.

"Your right to make a claim for economic losses related to the TMI accident will be lost forever" unless requests for claim forms or requests for exclusion are mailed by the deadlines, the document points out.

The exclusion form, which must be returned by June 15, notifies the court that a person or business no longer wishes to be a member of the class. Those excluding themselves from the class action would preserve their "right to initiate your own individual lawsuit for medical-detection services and/or economic loss," the notice states.

However, a still unresolved legal issue is whether the two-year statute of limitations expired March 28 or whether it can be extended to include the period of time

from when the class action was certified July 10 until the time the proposed settlement was announced on Feb. 20.

To make a claim for economic loss, one must return the request-for-claim form, which is included with the notice, by the Aug. 3 deadline. No return envelopes are provided.

Claim forms will not be mailed until Rambo determines whether to approve the proposed settlement. Post cards will be sent to those seeking claim forms, saying their request was received and that the forms are forthcoming.

An attorney close to the case said one reason for the delay is that if either side in the lawsuit knew the exact amount of claims to be asserted it might withdraw from the settlement and much of the work done on the case would collapse.

A hearing has been set for Aug. 24, when attorneys and expert witnesses will outline whether they think the settlement is fair and reasonable. Comments by members of the public will be considered by the judge, who has given temporary approval to the plan.

The notices include Spanish language instructions.

POLL from 2

doubled every ten years to meet a growing demand for electricity, but the increase in demand has slowed to a crawl requiring fewer new power plants than once was anticipated. Though much has been done, the full range of opportunities provided by conservation are far from being exploited fully.

Coal is another possibility, and though it presents a number of problems, they appear to be far more easy to address than the difficulties posed by nuclear energy. No alternative to our reliance on conventional fuels has been more widely adopted and less recognized by the energy experts than the burning of wood in the home. Add the amazing grass-roots interest in utilizing the energy of the sun and a host of other alternative energy sources and one cannot help but get the feeling that our energy choices are not limited, but broader than they have ever been. All promise to make important contributions, but if there is one choice that stands out as the least likely to be a bargain it is nuclear power.

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Vol 2 No 10

JULY 1981

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, June 23, 1981

GPU asks \$325 million rate boost

Bills would reflect Unit 2 cleanup

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The Pennsylvania owners of Three Mile Island plan to seek \$325 million in rate increases from the state Public Utility Commission with part of rate boost earmarked for the decontamination of Unit 2.

This proposed filing will mark the first time since the March 1979 accident at TMI that GPU will seek customer revenues to help pay for the projected \$1 billion cleanup.

The PUC has prohibited GPU from using ratepayer money for the decontamination, currently being funded by insurance coverage. About \$100 million in insurance remains to be collected by GPU.

William G. Kuhns, chairman of General Public Utilities Corp., said Metropolitan Edison Co., half-owner of TMI, will seek a \$200 million rate boost, while Pennsylvania Electric Co., which owns 25 percent of TMI, will ask for a \$125 million increase. He said the base-rate increases will be filed later this month.

Kuhns also said Met-Ed and Penelec have dropped plans to merge their managements and boards of directors because continued pursuit of the proposal would be counterproductive. The PUC tabled the proposal May 22 after a vote on the issue was deadlocked 2 to 2.

Kuhns said that one-half of the proposed base-rate increases is earmarked for placing the undamaged Unit 1 back in rates and in recognition of the Unit 2 decontamination costs. "Already operating under restrained conditions, the GPU companies must have sufficient revenues to serve their customers, and the decontamination of Three Mile Island must be funded to protect the public," Kuhns said in a letter formally notifying the PUC of the intentions to seek the rate boosts.

"Beyond that, the companies' earnings must be restored to a point where access to the capital markets can be regained. Only in this manner can sufficient funds be obtained to insure continued reliable service while providing for the construction of new facilities to meet the demands of new customers and economic growth projected for the (GPU) system's service territory," Kuhns said.

"The decontamination of Unit 2 must continue as an overriding obligation to the public. But, we must have the funds to accomplish this massive task," Kuhns said. He noted that GPU is continuing efforts to

secure help with the cleanup costs from the nuclear industry and the government.

"However, we must request customer revenues now for the decontamination program in order to provide a regulatory framework for ultimate resolution of how the costs are to be shared and funded," he added.

Kuhns said the rate increases would be offset by savings in energy costs when Unit 1 begins generating electricity and by the expiration of charges for deferred energy costs — money owed by Met-Ed and Penelec customers for power bought after the March 1979 accident.

"In effect the net increase to the customer proposed by the filing would result from recognizing the existing plant investment in TMI 2 plus some deferred Unit 1 expenses and the impact of inflation since the last base-rate awards," Kuhns said.

"When we look at all of the elements in these filings in relation to several other factors now affecting the customer's bills, the bottom-line total average increase, if granted in full, will be about 22 percent for the Met-Ed customer and 15 percent for the Penelec customer," he added.

Met-Ed received a \$51.8 million base-rate increase April 2, two-thirds of the \$76.5 million it sought. The increase raised the bill of a Met-Ed customer using 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month by \$1.20. At the same time, Penelec was awarded a \$54.9 million increase, which raised the average customer's monthly bill by \$3.24. Penelec had requested a \$67.4 increase.

In a separate letter to the PUC Monday, Kuhns asked the PUC to terminate proceedings concerning the management merger. "Important as the program is, the other Penelec and Met-Ed subjects with which we and the commission must deal currently and in the years ahead must take precedence."

In other TMI-related matters:

—Ten technicians and engineers will enter the Unit 2 containment building Thursday to perform a number of tasks. The entry, expected to last four hours, will be the 12th since July 1980.

—A 30-minute videotape of firefighting filmed during a simulated fire emergency at TMI June 2 will be shown at a training session for area fire companies tonight at 7 in Londonderry firehall near Middletown. Participating in the drill were Londonderry, Rescue and Union companies from Middletown and the 193rd Air National Guard Crash/Rescue Unit.

TMI radiation effects disputed

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

LANCASTER — The number of cancer deaths and genetic defects among offspring of Three Mile Island cleanup workers may be higher than the Nuclear Regulatory Commission originally reported in its study of cleanup alternatives for the crippled plant.

The NRC, in its draft environmental impact statement, predicted less than one or two deformed children would be born to parents who had assisted in the \$1 billion cleanup after the 1979 accident.

Using figures released in the NRC's final report, however, Dr. Thomas Cochran, a physicist on the NRC's citizens advisory panel to the TMI cleanup, said Thursday night the number could be nine or as high as 18 over the next 10 generations.

Genetic abnormalities can, in part, cause certain forms of sickle-cell anemia, one type of diabetes, schizophrenia, epilepsy and Down's syndrome, according to Frank Congel, an NRC radiological physicist who was present at Thursday's meeting of the citizens panel at the Lancaster City Council chambers.

The revised number of possible cancer deaths could be as high as three, Cochran said. The NRC had originally suggested it could be less than one.

After some discussion, NRC officials attending the meeting concurred that Cochran's arithmetic was correct.

Cochran told reporters the federal nuclear regulators had used an optimistic figure for the possible risk workers faced during decontamination. Since the risk cannot be predicted with certainty, Cochran said the worst possible cases of radiation dosage and odds of genetic defects also must be calculated.

The new data could prompt strong advice from the panel about the number of people used to complete cleanup and the extent of their training, said panel chairman John Minnich. Minnich is also president Dauphin county commissioner.

"There was a lot of press during the accident that no one was hurt by the accident at TMI," said Cochran. "But these figures show the real effects of the accident are coming later — during the cleanup — and they could be significant."

GPU Reports 58% Decline In Net Income

PARSIPPANY, N.J. (AP) — General Public Utilities Corp. reported Thursday a 58 percent loss in net income for the five months ended May 31, a less drastic drop than the four-month decrease reported in May.

Net income in the first five months of this year was \$4.8 million as compared to \$11.4 million in the same period of 1980, GPU officials said.

The four-month report released late in May showed the corporation's net income dropped 64 percent from the same period a year earlier.

Net income for the 12 months ended May 31 was down 75 percent to \$13.9 million, compared to \$56.3 million for the 12 months ended May 31, 1980. The decline reported last month for the 12-month period ended April 30 was 85 percent.

GPU officials have blamed the steady declines on the removal of the Three Mile Island nuclear plants from the its subsidiary's rate base about a year ago.

Jersey Central Power & Light Co., a GPU subsidiary, owns 25 percent of the idled plants near Harrisburg, Pa. Two other subsidiaries also own shares of the twin reactions, which have been idle since a March 1979 accident at one of the plants.

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL Wednesday, June 3, 1981 -

News From The Desk Of Cong. Allen Ertel

Concerned by an apparent discrepancy between two different reports which detailed the reporting of information during the Three Mile Island accident, Rep. Allen Ertel has asked the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission as well as the chairman of General Public Utilities to respond to the conclusions of the newest report.

The House Interior and Insular Affairs Committee recently released the study, entitled "Reporting of Information Concerning the Accident at Three Mile Island." Ertel, in his letter to NRC Chairman Joseph Hendrie, said that the report "reaches a very different conclusion than that con-

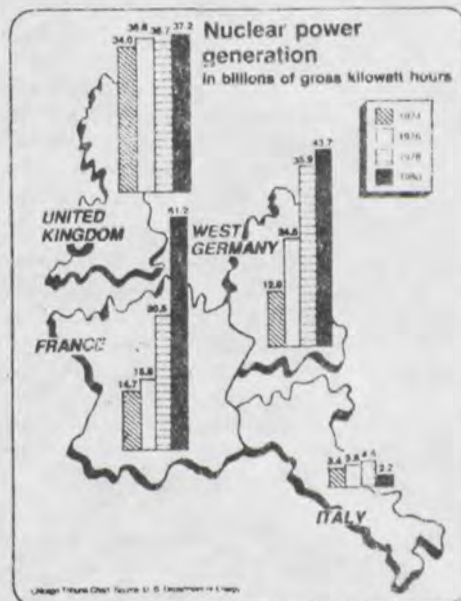
tained in the report issued by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission... entitled 'Investigation into Information Flow During the Accident at Three Mile Island' (NUREG-0760)."

"These different conclusions raise serious questions which go beyond the specific scope of the two reports to issues concerning the present management and operational organization of Metropolitan Edison, and the recently created GPU Nuclear division, and the implications of this organization for future nuclear power operations," Ertel wrote.

Specifically, the Interior Committee report concludes that "...in reporting to state

and local officials on March 28, 1979, TMI managers did not communicate information in their possession... The lack of such information prevented states and federal officials from accurately assessing the condition of the plant..."

Ertel asked both NRC Chairman Hendrie and GPU Chairman William Kuhns to respond to the conclusions to help Ertel in his evaluation of the report and the GPU Nuclear organizational structure.



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Government Accepts Potent TMI Wastes

By United Press International

The government will accept high-level radioactive wastes from Three Mile Island for research purposes, resolving a major disposal problem involving the nation's worst nuclear accident, officials said Friday.

In correspondence, the U.S. Department of Energy confirmed to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission that it would accept the high-level wastes as a means of conducting major research on disposal methods.

A spokesman for plant operator Metropolitan Edison Co. said DOE's decision resolved a major dilemma for the company in its nine-year plan to decontaminate the accident-stricken nuclear facility.

"It's a very welcome and encouraging development," said Douglas Bedell, manager of media relations for Met-Ed. "We are now assured a major portion of the cleanup wastes will indeed be

moved from Three Mile Island."

Lake Barrett, assistant director of the NRC Three Mile Island Project, said the NRC had assumed the department would take over the wastes, but that a DOE letter was the first time it had been put into writing.

He noted the DOE project depended on congressional approval of \$37 million in Three Mile Island research funds proposed by President Reagan.

DOE told the NRC it would "acquire" the high-level wastes that are presently trapped inside a nuclear reactor containment building at Three Mile Island.

The wastes measure 500,000 curies, a lethal level. By comparison, radiation workers are permitted to be exposed to only a few curies a year to guard against harmful effects such as cancer.

Previously, Met-Ed planned to store the high-level wastes in the

fuel-handling pool, which resembles a huge swimming pool, at Three Mile Island.

A spokesman for DOE said the government had made no commitment to take over the highest level wastes at Three Mile Island — the uranium-fuel in the damaged nuclear reactor.

In April, Three Mile Island officials began disposing of the first major wastes generated directly by the nuclear accident. They were low-level wastes sent to a commercial disposal site at Hanford, Wash.

The wastes were packaged in lead containers, and measured only 7-10 curies, compared with the estimated 40,000 curies of individual containers of high-level wastes, a Met-Ed spokesman said.

DOE said its research would attempt a process known as vitrification as a means of disposal of such high-level wastes. That is a process of imbedding the radioactivity in glass rods which would be buried.

YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, JUNE 12, 1981

You might feel this way, too, if your Met-Ed bill was \$611

By LINDA NOGALO
Of the Daily Record

An Etters couple were in "total shock" after receiving a \$611 electric bill last January and have brought charges against Metropolitan Electric Company because they're wondering why.

Darlene Aciri, 36, her husband, Frank, 48, and two teenage children live in a 70 by 30 foot, eight room modular home on 670 Beinhower Road. When her electricity cost \$611.13 for services from December 19, 1980 to January 21, 1981, she was caught by surprise.

The electric bill usually averages about \$100 to \$120 a month, Aciri said. The month before the \$611 bill, the bill was \$119, and the month after, it was \$176.

What's more, the Aciri home uses oil for heat and gas for cooking. Electricity is for appliances only. Oil runs about \$400 to \$500 a year and gas about \$25 to \$30 a year, she said.

Last summer, Aciri said they used their air conditioner often and usually kept the house at 76 degrees. "Even then, the highest bill was never over \$200," she said.

"Nothing in my life style or my

life had been different," she said, so she decided to see what was going on.

In February, Aciri called the Public Utilities Commission. Met-Ed came out and checked her meter. The meter was, Met-Ed said, 99.6 percent accurate.

Then Met-Ed did an "appliance analysis" which showed she could conceivably use enough wattage for the \$600 bill, the PUC report said.

The Aciris have three baseboard heaters in the basement, two refrigerators, a freezer, and a washer and dryer in their home which are the potential users of much electricity, a PUC staff person said.

With those findings, PUC did not have enough evidence to decide the case in her favor, said Joseph Farrell in the PUC consumer complaints department. But she did have the right to appeal the informal decision by Farrell's office, so Aciri filed a formal complaint against Met-Ed, as PUC advised.

Aciri also called a private electrician herself who checked "everything," she said, and could find nothing wrong with her home to create a bill so high.

With the hearing scheduled for next Thursday, Aciri said Met-Ed Credit Administrator Bruce Beck came to her last week to settle the bill out of court. The settlement, Aciri said, was to cut the bill from \$611 to \$250, an amount 59 percent less than the original. Aciri agreed and cancelled the hearing, although she did not drop charges, she said.

Met-Ed officials would not confirm there was a settlement. They deny the hearing has been cancelled and thus said they would not comment since the case is still pending.

While Farrell said it's not unusual for any company to settle before a hearing because of court costs, Aciri said she was surprised by Met-Ed's actions.

"I just figured I'd have to pay the bill — I was fighting a losing battle," she said. She even borrowed money from her boss to begin payments, she added. But she wanted to keep fighting. It was the principle.

"I never expected them to do that (cut the bill). Then I started to think — Did they do something wrong they don't want to admit?"

GPU to file suit against NRC

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — General Public Utilities will file a damage suit "in the near future" against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for its alleged negligent role in the Three Mile Island accident, a GPU spokesman said.

Spokesman Joseph M. Benish said the utility would seek relief in federal district court after the NRC, earlier Monday afternoon, unanimously rejected a \$4 billion claim for damages GPU said it incurred because of the accident.

"We would have been surprised if they hadn't," Benish said of the NRC vote to deny the claim, an action that clears the way for the lawsuit. A month ago, GPU board Chairman William G. Kuhns promised stockholders the company would "vigorously pursue" its case against the government.

In an order foreshadowing what probably will be a long legal battle, the NRC contended the utility

holding company's claim was "without merit." Utilities, the commissioners said, have always had "the primary responsibility for the proper construction and safe operation of licensed nuclear facilities."

The commission said the NRC has responsibility to set minimum safety standards, not to "certify that industry designs and procedures are adequate." Two of the four commissioners added that if those requirements had been met, operators "could have prevented the accident's serious consequences."

Late Monday afternoon, GPU spokesman Benish reiterated the firm's argument that the NRC should have been aware of defects in plants of TMI-Unit 2's design. GPU alleged the commission had been negligent in its statutory responsibility to warn TMI operator Metropolitan Edison Co. and other utilities of those defects, which were the "proximate cause" of the accident.

GPU had filed the claim in De-

cember under a law allowing private parties relying on a federal agency for regulatory warnings to claim damages if such warnings aren't given. Although the NRC's denial was expected, the commission waited until hours before Monday's six-month deadline to respond. The NRC order was the product of several closed-door meetings, which are allowed the commission when potential or pending litigation is being discussed.

GPU officials, whose three utilities including Met-Ed own Unit 2 jointly, have also sued Unit 2 reactor designer Babcock & Wilcox, contending that company as well knew of operation defects without warning utilities. The suit against B&W is expected to go to trial this fall. It may take more than two years for the NRC suit to reach conclusion.

Chairman Kuhns has said that while GPU feels confident of success in the courts, the corporation cannot count on court damage awards to help finance its immediate needs for the Unit 2 cleanup process.

The keystone of GPU's claim and its promised lawsuit is the failure of NRC officials to heed warnings of its own field inspectors after a transient at another B&W plant 18 months before the TMI accident. The same pilot-operated relief valve that stuck open undetected to trigger core damage at Unit 2 jammed in 1977 at Toledo Edison's Davis Besse plant in Ohio. But the less serious incident was remedied and not recognized as a generic safety problem so other other utilities using B&W reactors could be forewarned.

Commissioners John F. Ahearne and Joseph M. Hendrie filed a separate statement, complaining that the full commission's reasons for denying the claim were "unfortunately brief." (The commission's terse order on Monday, which was released without comment, devoted only 136 words to the substance of the claim.)

The industry, Ahearne said with Hendrie's agreement, must "take the initiative to develop safe nuclear plants, to monitor them for sufficiency, and to evaluate the need for change." NRC regulatory philosophy and law recognize that, they said.

"The federal government cannot invest enough resources into the review, inspection, and operation of each nuclear plant to develop the level of knowledge of individual plants possessed by the licensee," they said.

Ahearne said NRC safety regulations do not supplant review by nuclear plant licensees and do not "absolve" a utility of its "independent obligation" to safely operate reactors.

"It may be noted that compliance with NRC requirements could have prevented the accident's serious consequences," Ahearne said. "... Metropolitan Edison was cited for and chose not to contest violations of NRC requirements."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, June 4, 1981

GPU, PEMA score well on test

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

GPU Nuclear Group and the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency got their federal report cards today on Tuesday's exercise at Three Mile Island Unit 1 — and they'd be proud to take them home to mother.

The nuclear plant's operator and the coordinator of the state's response to the drill were given high ratings by the 37 observers from the Federal Emergency Management Agency and 10 from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

A report on the Unit 1 exercise will be forwarded to the federal Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which is conducting the Unit 1 restart hearings.

Given the pace of the hearings and an expected NRC decision in October, Unit 1 may be able to go critical in November, Robert C. Arnold, chief operating officer for GPU Nuclear, said after a preliminary report on the drill was released today.

If all goes well after that, Arnold said, the reactor could begin commercial generation in December.

The scenario of the exercise "was rather ambitious and far exceeded" what would have been required, Dale Donaldson, NRC team leader, told 75 people in the William Penn Memorial Museum.

The scenario, which included numerous fake technical problems, a power outage, fire and make-believe civilian evacuation, "stressed the system to its fullest," Donald-

son said. He noted the observers did not detect any sense of "artifice" among TMI employees — all of whom reacted "as if it were the real thing."

Donaldson said GPU Nuclear's operations and support staff had the bogus technical problems "solved 15 times" throughout the event and had the scenario been a reality, the emergency "could have been mitigated in any number of ways."

Thomas Hardy, of FEMA's Region 3 staff, said notification of state officials by the plant operators "went well and exceeded standards" and public notification was "adequate overall."

The assessment of the accident also "exceeded standards," said Hardy, who served as chairman of the regional assistance committee which responded to the drill. In addition to FEMA, the committee was composed of representatives of a half-dozen federal agencies.

Hardy criticized Dauphin County's emergency operations center in the courthouse basement for being "too small and quite fragmented." He also said the "sharing of information with the staff" in the county EOC was "spotty" and adequate displays were not used.

Michael E. Wertz, director of the county's Office of Emergency Management, told The Evening News that FEMA was "supposed to take into consideration" the fact that the EOC has been undergoing "a total renovation." He said the contractors did not leave the office

Cont. pg. 6

TMI water cleanup plan OK'd

By PATRICE FLINCHBAUGH
Of the Daily Record

Federal regulators Thursday approved use of a controversial \$10 million water cleaning system at Three Mile Island. Plant officials say they'll begin filtering the 700,000 gallons of highly radioactive water released during the 1979 accident in about three weeks.

The Submerged Demineralizer System (SDS) uses an ion exchange process — similar to a household water softener — to sift out radioactive particles and congeal them in resins, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Critics have argued those resins would be too radioactive to handle safely at commercial burial sites. However, the Department of Energy has agreed to accept the wastes for disposal and research purposes.

Most radioactive particles would be removed from the water by SDS except radioactive tritium, which is too close in chemical composition to water to be distinguishable. The amount of tritium in the water, though, is less than what would be released annually by an operating nuclear power plant, according to TMI officials.

Plans call for polishing the SDS-treated water in another filtration system before temporarily storing it in two tanks on the Susquehanna River island. That second system, EPICOR II, cleaned water in the reactor's auxiliary building shortly

after the accident in which about 1 million gallons of contaminated water leaked from the reactor.

Samples of the remaining water show it is 300 times more radioactive than federal safe drinking water standards.

Many critics protested the construction of SDS because it began without NRC approval. During the almost year-long building project, NRC spokesmen said the utility was proceeding at its own financial risk; the federal agency would not be pressured to approve the cleaner.

By February, though, a citizens advisory panel to the NRC endorsed use of the system, saying it had no other alternative to consider.

Gale Hovey, a top TMI-2 official, said Thursday the concept of SDS is not new; it has been used for years at government defense installations.

TMI's system was designed by Chem-Nuclear Inc., a company specializing in nuclear waste disposal. In the past, Chem-Nuclear has supervised processing of small batches of highly contaminated water — but never the huge quantities facing TMI workers, according to K.C. Aly, a Chem-Nuclear spokesman.

"We will have an opportunity to show we can deal with the extreme situation," said Aly.

The use of SDS also has been opposed as part of a lawsuit filed by the Susquehanna Valley Alli-

ance, an anti-nuclear group based in Lancaster. That suit is pending in U.S. District Court.

Judith Dorsey, a lawyer for the group, said it has received assurances about the operation of SDS and now has no objections to using it. "We spent a lot of time with them over the last several months, letting them know what are concerns were, and they basically took care of our concerns," said Ms. Dorsey.

The anti-nuclear alliance has objected to release of any TMI accident-related water — treated or untreated — into the Susquehanna River, a source of drinking water for some parts of Lancaster and York counties.

So far, that option has not been ruled out.

Cleanup of TMI's accident water is the next major step in the seven-year, \$1 billion process that began with purging of krypton gas from the containment building last summer and should end with core removal sometime in the mid-1980s.

"The approval that we're taking today I think is a significant step toward ultimately removing the core and cleaning up the containment building. And it's really a prerequisite to either of those two things," said Bernard Snyder, an NRC spokesman. "It really needs to be done in order to allow a large number of people in there to do the cleanup work."

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., June 28, 1981

TMI Welcomes N-Waste Ruling

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

Officials of Three Mile Island hailed as "welcome news" a federal court ruling keeping the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington state open to out-of-state radioactive waste, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear Group said Saturday.

GPU Nuclear was not a party to the litigation which resulted in U.S. District Judge Robert J. McNichols' decision Friday in Spokane that the voter-approved referendum to close Hanford was unconstitutional. But it was "an interested spectator throughout it" since Hanford is the only repository accepting low-level waste from the TMI Unit 2 cleanup, according to GPU Nuclear spokesman Douglas Bedell.

The U.S. Department of Justice and a group of eight private businesses waged the legal battle to prevent the ban from taking effect this Wednesday.

Bedell said GPU officials were "notified unofficially by the state of Washington by telephone on Friday that Hanford will remain open after July 1."

The Hanford decision was announced as involved parties prepared for the resumption of federal hearings this week in Harrisburg on the fate of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at TMI. The restart hearings before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission began in October.

Bedell said the "continued availability of Hanford is welcome news, but we hope that regional nuclear waste disposal sites will be developed so that it won't be necessary to ship TMI Unit 2 waste across the country." (Pennsylvania and other Northeastern states are trying to form a compact to establish low-level burial sites, but they are not expected to be open for several years.)

Shipments of work clothes, paper, plastic bags and other trash contaminated with low-level radiation from the Unit 2 cleanup are sent to Hanford for burial. The site also accepts the low-level radioactive resins from the Epicor II system which was used to process

moderately contaminated water that flooded the auxiliary building during the TMI accident in March 1979.

In preparation for the pending closing, GPU Nuclear had accelerated its shipment of Unit 2 waste to Hanford. As of Friday, 21 of the 22 Epicor II resin canisters approved for burial at Hanford had been shipped, Bedell said. The last one is scheduled to leave the TMI facility this weekend, he added.

The referendum — Initiative 383 — would have barred all deliveries from outside Washington of non-medical radioactive materials to Hanford. But McNichols said that disposal of nuclear wastes "is a problem of such national concern that it cannot be limited by state boundaries." He said the referendum violated the supremacy and commerce clauses of the Constitution.

Noting the ban was passed overwhelmingly by voters in November, Washington state attorneys indicated that McNichols' ruling likely would be appealed.

Be Accountable, The Proof Is In The Doing

Dear Editor:

"Our society has provided vehicles for improving ourselves. There is no sense in democracy if people are uneducated and ignorant of our needs." No truer statement or observation has been offered.

People wanting to improve their status, we are told, are not to be categorized as selfish or greedy. That is an astute observation, however some are. Over the years I have found that not all who feel insecure are foolish - "A Fools Paradise is one in which peace and security rest upon ignorance of the future moment!"

Unlike the business maxim attributed to the late, great industrialist, K.J. Kaiser, "Find a need and fill it", creating a market and exploiting it, is no fact or proof of need! There is a vast dif-

ference between wants and needs.

Sorry, but many opposed to TMI's misrepresented need assessment and lacking managements proposed feeling of security are no fools, stupid or not knowledgeable of the hazards resulting from the propositions offered as improvements in status or lifestyle. Paradise is not being exposed to a three ring circus of planned emergency, labeled safe & necessary energy, nor is it based on ignorance of the contagious malarky of some apparent inept proposal. There is no such thing as a safe hazard!

Some of our enterprising syndicates assume that people in an area are receptive and ethically motivated not to get suspect and wise to a temporary proposed market

with disregard for the future. There are those of us not ignorant or misinformed about the future moments. Hiroshima, thirty-five years ago or T.M.I. two years ago. The devastation and after effects of existing hazardous waste dumps, or the proposed safe hazardous waste dumps in Lancaster Co. Dauphin or Fishing Creek or any where? For that matter - Who's trying to dazzle whose interests' one asks? The apparent misunderstandings surfaced two years ago at T.M.I. and apparent disregard for the disposal of the waste appear synonymous and leave a lot to be desired I think! Many others agree.

Tell me not a half truth!

Tell me rather a bare faced lie.

Lies are crushed more easily.

Half truths never die! Safe

hazard's and scheduled emergency control? In my opinion, and in the opinion of many others I know; until there's a better act put together, Three Mile Island should remain closed!

The chips in the game paid for by the players. The waste processed and stored in the crypt for unused fuel cells and generation remain no-go until the technology is developed to deal with the operation in its entirety! Label it the tomb of future holocaust. Lets not be insulted into thinking we are foolish to oppose such mismanagement of unknown potential! Be accountable!

Dan Peffley

R. No. 1, Hummelstown

P.S. Now that D.O.E. proposes to take the waste, let's not put away the gun. The proof is in the talking. The future moment is not until it's known what they'll do with it.

From 4 TEST

until Monday at 2 p.m.

Had the emergency been real, the EOC would have been moved to another location in the courthouse, Wertz said. But, because it was a drill, the county commissioners did not want to close other offices and disrupt routine county business.

"With those circumstances, a lot of the things he (Hardy) criticized Dauphin County for were not fair," Wertz said. He added that he plans to contact FEMA to clear up the matter prior to the issuance of FEMA's final report which Hardy said is due in two weeks.

Besides the federal representatives, Lt. Gen. DeWitt C. Smith, PEMA director, and Arnold spoke. No questions were permitted from the audience which included government officials and reporters.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

From 5 WASTE

Although concerned over the possible closing of Hanford, GPU officials had stressed there was space on the island for temporary storage if off-site repositories were closed. However, Bedell noted "we would hope that a dispository area would remain open to TMI for we have no intention of making the island a long-term waste disposal site."

Meanwhile, the restart hearings are scheduled to resume Monday in the ground-floor meeting room of the Walnut Street Parking Garage, 25 N. Court St. After wrapping up unresolved issues from earlier ses-

sions, this round of hearings — expected to be the last — will focus on the results of the June 2 emergency drill at TMI. Final reports on GPU Nuclear's response to the test will be presented by the NRC and the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Both agencies gave GPU Nuclear favorable marks in their preliminary evaluations.

The hearings are expected to close by July 10 with the board scheduled to present a recommendation to the NRC by September. Within another 35 days the full commission would make a final ruling.

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Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

Vol 2 No 11

AUG. 1981

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, July 15, 1981

NRC says fire hit TMI crane on THE DAY

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A preliminary inspection of the polar crane at the top of the Unit 2 containment building at Three Mile Island has uncovered new evidence of a flash fire that occurred in the domed structure on the afternoon of March 28, 1979.

Components inside the operator's cab of the crane appeared charred, and the cloth-and-foam operator's seat was burned, conditions indicating that actual flames resulted from the "hydrogen explosion" which occurred at 1:50 p.m. on the day of the accident, according to a Nuclear Regulatory Commission report.

"It was not a sustained fire," said Dr. Ronald R. Bellamy, chief of the NRC's technical support section at TMI, because instruments monitoring the reactor building's temperatures "did not stay at a high level for any length of time."

The polar crane is 60 feet above the reactor and there is no vital equipment nearby that could have been in danger from the flames, Bellamy said.

The visual inspection of the polar crane July 1 was the first time since the accident that technicians got a close-up look at the crane and operator's cab.

The hydrogen explosion, variously called the "pressure spike"

and "hydrogen burn," occurred nine hours and 50 minutes after the Unit 2 reactor accident began.

When the uranium core became uncovered and overheated, the zirconium sheathing around the fuel pellets reacted with the superhot steam to form hydrogen gas. The hydrogen escaped from the reactor coolant system through the open, pilot-operated relief valve and accumulated in the containment building. Investigators theorize the flammable hydrogen was detonated by a spark when a different valve was activated by control room personnel.

The explosion registered on instruments as a jump in pressure in the containment building — almost straight up from near zero to 28 pounds per square inch. A rise in temperature also was recorded. The pressure descended sharply back to near zero within a minute.

The jump in pressure activated the containment spray system, which discharged about 500 gallons of sodium hydroxide into the building, quickly reducing the pressure and temperature. The spray system was shut off manually six minutes later.

Control room personnel, who reported hearing a "thud" at the time, did not understand the significance of the pressure spike — that a large volume of hydrogen had detonated and the hydrogen developed because the core was uncovered and overheating.

"I would tend to put a hydrogen burn closely synonymous with a fire. I'm not sure you could tell much difference between the two," Bellamy said, adding the hydrogen burn "had some flames with it."

Some rubber knobs and instruments in the cab were charred, Bellamy said, adding that "preliminary indications" — based on the report of the crane inspection crew — are that the damage was done by "actual flames."

John T. Fidler, spokesman for GPU Nuclear Group, said some papers on the seat inside the cab also were charred. He said the temperatures during the hydrogen burn apparently were hot enough "to cause ignition" of the material. He said the fire probably extinguished itself within seconds and was not put out by the containment building spray since the top of the cab shielded the interior from the sodium hydroxide spray.

Earlier indications of the effects of the high temperatures and radiation inside the reactor building were seen on a videotape recorded during a manned entry in November. They included a partially melted desk telephone which officials said would end up in that condition after being subjected to a temperature of 200 degrees Fahrenheit.

YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, JULY 3, 1981

Four contaminated by radiation at TMI

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI
Associated Press Writer

HARRISBURG (AP) — Four workers who made a hot, dusty climb onto a massive crane near the top of the damaged Three Mile Island plant have suffered mild radiation contamination, plant officials said Thursday.

Radioactive particles, mixed with dust and perspiration, penetrated the heavy cotton coveralls worn by the four technicians as they "shinnied" up to inspect the 60-foot crane on Wednesday, said TMI spokesman John Fidler.

However, the exposure was very mild and the men simply scrubbed

it off their skin with soap and water, Fidler said, adding there were "no medical consequences" and the men were back at work Thursday.

The workers were the 13th group to enter the plant since the March 28, 1979, accident that flooded the building with contaminated water

Cont. pg. 6

PUC again turns down plea to return Unit 1 to rate bases

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The state Public Utility Commission today turned a deaf ear to another request from the two Pennsylvania owners of Three Mile Island to have the undamaged Unit 1 reinstated in their base rates.

In a unanimous decision the commission stood by an earlier ruling that Unit 1 is not considered "used and useful" in the public service. Therefore, Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co. cannot collect a combined \$38.5 million in revenues from customers for costs associated with the undamaged reactor.

The request was included in a petition from the two utilities asking the PUC to reconsider several decisions in the companies' last base-rate increase granted in April.

Unit 1 initially was removed from the utilities' rate bases in May 1980 because the PUC ruled it was "not used and useful" in the public service since it had not generated electricity since February 1979. The action meant a loss of revenue of \$26.9 million for Met-Ed and \$11.7 million for Penelec.

Unit 1 was off-line for refueling at the time of the March 28, 1979, accident

in its sister Unit 2.

Met-Ed and Penelec twice appealed the May 1980 decision and sought to collect an equivalent amount of money from ratepayers to make up for the \$38.6 million shortfall, but both appeals were denied by the commission.

During hearings last year the utilities argued for reinstatement of Unit 1, citing its good operating record and contending it was being kept off-line by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The utilities also argued that the PUC was not, as a matter of law, compelled to exclude Unit 1 from the base rates because it was off-line.

But in April the PUC stood by its earlier ruling.

In April Met-Ed was awarded a \$51.8 million increase while Penelec got a \$54.8 million boost. The two utilities filed for new base-rate increases June 30 with Met-Ed seeking \$212.1 million — the bulk of it for the cleanup of Unit 2 — and Penelec asking for \$125 million.

The utilities also asked in the filing that Unit 1 be put back in their base-rates but full base-rate cases can take up to nine months before a decision is rendered.

In an unrelated matter, technicians

completed a number of tasks during the 14th entry into the Unit 2 containment building Thursday. The entry marked the first time a woman ventured inside the contaminated building since the entry program started in July 1980.

Mrs. Bevelry Della Loggia of Hershey, a radiological engineer, entered the structure shortly before 1 p.m. and left about 40 minutes later after having installed two radiation monitors, according to John T. Fidler, spokesman for GPU Nuclear Group.

The first team went inside the structure Thursday at 8:56 a.m. but it cut its stay in half, Fidler said, because the two men were working near a "hot spot." They left early when they began to reach the radiation exposure limit set for the entry, Fidler said. They were assigned to perform maintenance on a closed-circuit television system.

Meanwhile, the Pennsylvania MIL-RITE Council has urged the NRC to decide quickly on the issue of restarting Unit 1.

Robert C. Milsom of Pittsburgh, chairman of the statewide business, labor and government group, expressed concern that NRC failure to act will hurt the state's economy.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, July 9, 1981.

Brittleness of walls of Unit 1 'quite small'

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The extent of brittleness found in the Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor vessel is less than expected and poses no problem to the reactor's safe operation, according to GPU Nuclear Group.

"The amount of embrittlement that has occurred in Unit 1 is quite small and less than predicted for a unit that is seven years old, according to spokesman Douglas Bedell.

Unit 1 began commercial generation in September 1974, but it has been off-line since February 1979. Bedell said inspections and calculations were done on Unit 1 last spring and the results were sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in May.

"By conservative calculations, the Unit 1 reactor could withstand even the most vicious transient," Bedell said. A transient is a malfunction that causes the reactor to shut down automatically.

In April the NRC staff asked the operators of 44 pressurized-water reactors to submit data on the embrittlement phenomenon, according to Gary Sanborn, an NRC spokesman. He said there are 14 reactors, including TMI Unit 1, "for which the problem deserves further analysis than the others" because of the age of the vessels or the effects of radiation on the vessel walls. The vessels in question are between 4 and 20 years old.

After the data are analyzed, corrective actions may be needed, Sanborn said, but that hasn't yet been determined.

Embrittlement occurs when the eight-inch thick walls of the reactor vessel become brittle after being bombarded by neutrons over a period of time. The vessel is constructed of low-alloy carbon steel and lined internally with stainless steel.

If the embrittlement is severe, there is the possibility that cracks may develop in the walls when the hot reactor vessel is filled rapidly with coolant followed by depressurization, Sanborn said. The vital cooling water then could leak out of the vessel, causing the uranium-fuel core to overheat and release radioactive elements.

While unrelated to the embrittlement phenomenon, a loss of coolant in the sister TMI Unit 2 reactor in March 1979 led to overheating and a subsequent release of radiation in the civilian nuclear industry's worst accident in history.

Bedell said embrittlement of Unit 1 will not be a concern for at least 15 years. If the condition does advance, the fuel could be taken out of the reactor and the vessel reheated to restore its original strength. Sanborn said the NRC did not order the operators to test for embrittlement because "surveillance of these vessels is written into their licenses."

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, July 18, 1981.

NRC Panel Urges TMI Unit Restart

WASHINGTON (UPI) — A Nuclear Regulatory Commission advisory panel has recommended that the undamaged sister unit of the Three Mile Island 2 reactor be permitted to restart this year, it was learned Friday.

The recommendation was made in a June 14 letter to NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino from J. Carson Mark, chairman of the NRC's Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards, a panel of technical experts.

"The committee believes it acceptable to allow Three Mile Island 1 to complete the remainder of the required action plan as outlined by staff on a schedule consistent with other operating reactors," said Mark, referring to the safety modifications the NRC required after the 1979 accident at TMI 2.

The letter said the committee "believes the licensee has demonstrated reasonable progress toward completion of the requirements necessary to restart this facility.

"Subject to the satisfactory completion of the NRC staff review, the committee believes that TMI 1 can be restarted and operated without undue risk to the health and safety of the public," the letter said.

The NRC closed down TMI 1 after the 1979 accident and refused to let it operate again until licensing board hearings were held on whether it poses a public safety hazard.

The public hearings recently concluded and a recommendation from the board to the commission is expected soon.

Governor backs TMI restart, cooperative cleanup effort

By JOHN SCOTZIN
Staff Writer

Gov. Dick Thornburgh today said he would support the restart of the undamaged Unit 1 nuclear reactor as part of a cooperative effort to raise funds for the radiation cleanup on Three Mile Island.

At a late-morning news conference at the TMI Visitors Center just across the Susquehanna River from the plant, Thornburgh called on the nuclear industry and federal, state and other institutions to join in a \$760 million cost-sharing plan for decontaminating TMI Unit 2, crippled more than two years ago in the worst civilian nuclear accident in history.

Restart of the undamaged reactor — which has been out of service since the accident at Unit 2 on March 28, 1979 — as the basis for raising another \$245 million in cleanup funds should be contingent upon "adequate" safety measures, the governor said.

He urged the Nuclear Regulatory Commission "to tell us ... if a restart of the undamaged unit would or would not represent a safety threat during the cleanup operation, and if the company and other institutions have or have not demonstrated a greater capacity to fulfill their awesome responsibilities than seemed to have been the case two years ago."

To break the cleanup impasse created by what he termed the "shaky" financial status of General Public Utilities Corp., the owner of Three Mile Island, Thornburgh pro-

posed a 50-50 cost-sharing plan, with the burden spread evenly among national and local resources.

The governor noted that the state has limited means or jurisdiction for officially addressing the cleanup dilemma, and called it "a continuing and serious ... health and safety concern." He said "the time has come for someone to propose a fair and realistic way to deal with it."

"If we don't share this problem as Americans now, we'll confront even bigger ones as Americans later."

So long as the TMI containment building, "with its potentially deadly contents, sits uncleansed in the heart of Central Pennsylvania," Thornburgh said, "it poses a grave threat to our citizens. And so long as it sits uncleansed, it can only serve as a grim reminder that our nation has not yet come fully to grips with the potential consequences of nuclear technology."

"If this nation does not raise the estimated \$760 million I am told it will take to remove a certified threat to the health and safety of Pennsylvanians, it certainly has no business debating public and private investment in nuclear energy for the rest of the country."

The governor was referring to the continued storage of highly radioactive materials on the island, and the broad consensus of scientists and technicians that it constitutes a health and safety hazard.

On the other hand, he said, "the

lessons of TMI that already have been shared on a national scale make it quite clear that any 'tuition' we now pay for on-the-job cleanup training will be a solid investment in future nuclear safety and security."

Thornburgh's plan calls for:

—Establishment of a National Energy Research Institute that would be available to serve as a conduit for financial and technological cleanup support from the industry and other sources.

—Average investment of approximately \$31.7 million a year, or \$190 million over a six-year period, 1981-87, by the utilities, manufacturers and suppliers who constitute the nuclear industry in the United States. That would amount to 25 percent of the total cost.

—Average investment of about \$31.7 million a year, or \$190 million over the same period, in federal research and development grants related to cleanup. This would amount to 25 percent of the total cost.

—Investment of \$5 million and \$2.5 million a year, or \$45 million over that period, from the state governments of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, respectively. This would be six percent of the total cost.

—Dedication to the cleanup of unexpended GPU insurance coverage amounting to \$90 million, or 12 percent of the total.

—Additional investment by GPU of \$245 million, or 32 percent of the total.

Cont. pg. 6

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, July 11, 1981

Governor's Plan on TMI Criticized

By CARMEN BRUTTO
Staff Writer

An anti-nuclear group Friday charged Gov. Dick Thornburgh with a "blatant neglect" of the public interest in his proposed solution for financing the cleanup of Three Mile Island.

On Thursday, Thornburgh unveiled a plan which would have allocated costs among various groups in order to raise the estimated \$760 million still needed to decontaminate the damaged Unit 2 at TMI.

The governor also coupled with this proposal support for a restart of the undamaged Unit One contingent upon federal assurances that to do so would not affect public health or safety.

"While it is the governor's responsibility to insure the well-being of the citizenry, he has apparently compromised that in favor of the well-being of General Public Utilities," said Ed Nielsen, president of Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center. "The governor's statement is full of rhetoric that would lead the public to be-

lieve that the priority of the plan is public health and safety and the integrity of the environment, while in fact the obvious priority of the plan is the financial stability of GPU."

Under the Thornburgh plan, GPU, parent company of the operators of TMI, would pay 32 percent of all costs relating to the cleanup.

"While (we) applaud the governor's perception that TMI poses a grave threat to area residents, we in the public sector are convinced that the restart of Unit 1 will dramatically increase that threat, not remove it," Nielsen said. "Certainly while Unit 2 is being decontaminated, permitting Metropolitan Edison Co., with a history of deceit and incompetence, to operate Unit 1 would be reckless."

Nielsen said the governor, in the public interest, should not address a Unit 1 restart until completion of the cleanup of the damaged

reactor.

Nielsen also asked Thornburgh to be specific on where the funds would come from that are to be provided by the utility and the state and federal governments as their share of the cleanup costs.

"From the ratepayers, the taxpayers, or the stockholders?" Nielsen asked.

He also questioned whether the funds realized by GPU from a restart of Unit 1 would be adequate for a safe cleanup.

Thornburgh also came in for criticism from anti-nuclear activist Steven C. Sholley, who said the consumer will wind up paying the larger share of any cleanup costs.

"The public is going to bite the bullet on it," Sholley said. "Most of the money will be coming from the public almost directly."

GPU Nuclear Group, an arm of the utility responsible for the cleanup, said it continues "to support the need for a sharing of the cleanup costs" and called Thornburgh's plan "a realistic solution."

TMI restart hearings complete

HARRISBURG (AP) — Eight months of testimony on whether to allow the restart of Three Mile Island's undamaged reactor ended Thursday, with the hearing board chairman aiming for a decision by October.

In the final day of proceedings, lawyers for the state debated proposed emergency procedures with officials of General Public Utilities Corp., the plant operator.

"It looks like at last we've arrived at the moment," said hearing board chairman Ivan Smith at the end of testimony. "I thought we never would."

At issue was whether TMI's Unit 1 reactor, shut down since before the March 28, 1979, accident that crippled TMI Unit 2, should be allowed to reopen.

A lawyer for GPU and for Metropolitan Edison Co., the plant operator, expressed satisfaction about the hearing. "The record is very thorough," said Ernest Blake. "It's

been a long, tortuous affair, but that's a necessary ingredient."

Smith said the hearings on the restart were the most exhaustive in the history of the ASLB on health and safety at a particular nuclear plant. The hearings, conducted by a three-member panel of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, began last Oct. 15. Board member Linda Little said transcripts of testimony exceed 23,000 pages.

The hearing board is to make a recommendation to the full Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which has promised a final decision on the restart question 35 days after it receives the ASLB findings.

The hearing board considered three general topics: the competency of TMI's managers, the safety of the plant design and the ability of state and company officials to cope with any future nuclear emergency.

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL Wednesday, July 22, 1981

"It Is Unthinkable!"

Dear Sirs:

The recent alleged evacuation drills and the installation of huge warning sirens in many communities is being used by the NRC and Met-Ed as a psychological smoke screen. The installation of the sirens and the glowing accounts of the evacuation drill by the NRC and a complaint news media gives the public the impression that somehow the safety of the plant and this area is improved. It only reminds us how futile it would be to evacuate as confirmed by our chemical spill evacuation attempt in our town. If we did not have enough concerns we are beset by one of the paradoxes of American life in that for every disaster there seems to be people who are "Friend of" whatever is universally accepted as harmful to ordinary people. I would not be

surprised if such a group was not already formed as "Friends of Chemical Spills."

There is an orchestrated effort by the Governor, vested interests, politicians and the NRC to re-open TMI-I for the purpose of making money for the stockholders, this in spite of mounting evidence of significant increases in stillbirths and cancer in this area. It is a law of nature that the cumulative effects of radiation discharged by normal plant operation since 1974 plus the massive radiation clouds discharged by TMI on March 28, 1979 and subsequent Krypton Gas ventings must surface inevitably and unfortunately as a personal tragedy for many of our friends and neighbors.

There has been no apologies or sympathy expressed to the people of this area from the consumers in

the state of New Jersey, from Met-Ed, the NRC and the Federal government for the cruel imposition of radiation exposure and injury inflicted on us. There seems to be a lot of understanding, compassion and help for people on "boats" and in "foreign lands" and little if any for citizens of this country.

It is a fact of public record that the 423-page TMI report filed by the U.S. Senate Subcommittee reflects serious concern for the people of this area. It clearly warns that "the accident at Three Mile Island is not over." Based on this report alone it is unthinkable that any responsible persons, organizations and governments with any humanity or compassion for all people could allow the reopening of TMI again.

John J Kovalic

Letter

TMI restart not worth risk

EDITOR:

The article by George H. Keller, Ph.D. in the July 9 Evening News should make people notice how dangerous nuclear power really is. The accident at TMI 2 is not cleaned up yet; the most dangerous part, the removal of the damaged core, still remains.

As Dr. Keller stated, a super-prompt-critical power excursion could occur. Should this happen, and it is a possibility, some experts claim the area within a 90-mile radius could be contaminated with radiation so badly that it would have to be evacuated.

What would happen to all the records and the functions of the state government in Harrisburg? It should be noted also that Washington, D.C., is just about within the 90 mile radius.

It is food for thought just to wonder how the state and maybe federal governments could carry on if they had no access to all the records and important documents, necessary to conduct their business, that are kept there.

How Governor Thornburgh can possibly want to see TMI 1 start up, I can't imagine. What would be his directive should an accident occur at either unit? How could he ensure the removal of the state government and the great amount of data stored there, without which the government could not possibly operate?

In a melt-down, caused by accident or by the removal of the core, (a power excursion), this area would be uninhabitable for beyond the next century.

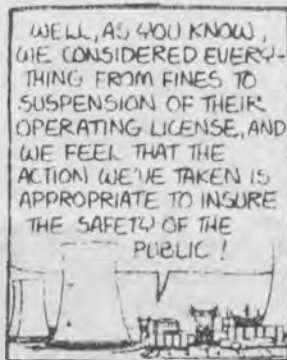
The settlement of about \$160 per family surely doesn't make the picture any way encouraging. Anything in the evacuated area would remain there, homes, furnishings, banks, deposit boxes contents and everything left behind could never be recovered; for years if not forever I can't understand how anyone would want nuclear power, especially located in such a densely populated area as the eastern seaboard. The probability of receiving only \$160 as a settlement for loss incurred does not set up a person in a new location, even if they would survive an accident.

In the first place, when they built the plant, they had more than the 20% to 25% reserve required by the government, so what was the big deal in building a nuclear reactor?

—Frank E. Neubaum, Etters

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, July 4, 1981

Funky Winkerbean



600,000 Gallons Ahead

First Trickle Of Water Enters SDS At TMI For Clean-up

Engineers at Three Mile Island have introduced the first radioactive water to the \$10-million system that will clean up 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive water in the basement of the Unit 2 reactor building.

The radioactive water that has been tapped during the past two days, however, has not come from the Unit 2 reactor building. It has been drawn, instead, from a holding tank in the Unit 2 auxiliary building.

The auxiliary building water, classed as intermediate-level water, is 25 to 50 times less radioactive than the water in the reactor building. The lower level water is being used to test key parts of the processing system before water is pumped from the reactor building.

As of 9:30 A.M. last Thursday about 30,000 gallons of auxiliary building water had been transferred to tanks in the Unit 2 fuel-handling building, where the water processing system, known as the Submerged Demineralizer System

(SDS), is located. A "batch" of about 50,000 gallons will be transferred to the SDS tanks before the first auxiliary building water is processed through the system next week.

Use of the auxiliary building water represents the final check-out phase of the processing system. Until now, the SDS has been tested only with clean, non-radioactive water.

Using the auxiliary building water, TMI engineers will be able to test the SDS water-handling and sampling systems, radiation monitoring equipment, shielding efficiency and, to some extent, the performance of the inorganic ion-exchange resins that represent the heart of the processing system. Some "fine-tuning" adjustments in the system have already been made.

The SDS has been installed in the two spent fuel pools in the Unit 2 fuel-handling building. The pools were empty at the time of the March 28, 1979 accident at Unit 2 which generated most

of the water that has to be cleaned up. The SDS was approved by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission on June 18.

The auxiliary building water is comparable in intermediate radiation levels to the 500,000 gallons of auxiliary building water that have been processed by the EPICOR-2 treatment system. That cleaned-up water is being stored in tanks on Three Mile Island. The water treated in the SDS also will be stored on the island until a decision is made on its ultimate disposal.

Depending on the progress of the current testing, TMI engineers expect to start moving reactor building water through the SDS in August. Once that process begins, it probably will take eight to ten months to pump and clean all the high radioactive water from the reactor building. To be handled in "batches" of about 50,000 gallons each, the total inventory of contaminated water in the reactor building includes the 600,000 gallons

standing eight and a half feet deep on the basement floor and another 100,000 gallons in the Unit 2 reactor cooling system.

The basic technology of the SDS is the same as that in a home water-softening unit. The resins attract and store the fission products from the water. Except for tritium, all but trace amounts of the radioactive fission products in the water will be removed.

In concept, the SDS is a further application of the same ion-exchange technology that was employed in the successful processing, via EPICOR-2, of 500,000 gallons of contaminated water from the Unit 2 auxiliary building. The auxiliary building water being used in the tests has been collected in a holding tank from Unit 2 systems containing accident-related water.

The main differences between the SDS and EPICOR-2 are that the SDS will use primarily inorganic materials, called zeolites, rather than the typically organic resins that were used

in EPICOR-2, and the SDS will be operated under water to provide additional shielding for plant employees.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, June 29, 1981.

Another TMI possible, new NRC chief asserts

UNIVERSITY PARK (AP) — The incoming chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says the nation is "kidding" itself if it thinks a nuclear reactor accident like the one at Three Mile Island won't occur again.

But Nunzio Palladino says that, nevertheless, the nuclear industry is burdened with too many regulations and "not having nuclear power may be a bigger risk than having it."

"I don't think we ever believe that we're going to have an accident," said the former dean of engineering at the Pennsylvania State University. "Well, we're kidding ourselves. Even though the risks are low, accidents are not impossible. Nothing we do in this world is risk-free."

Palladino Wednesday will succeed NRC interim chairman Joseph Hendrie. His comments were made in an interview with The Daily Collegian, the student newspaper.

Nuclear power, Palladino said, "is a very intense power source like gasoline. We've learned to live with it (gasoline) safely. But you know it only takes but a match and you have an explosion."

Palladino said recent regulatory requirements have confused nuclear power plant operators and potential operators.

"I think the industry has grown heavy with regulations. Just the action plan from Three Mile Island Unit 2 is so extensive that it is pretty hard for the utilities to even know what satisfies the regulations," he said.

"One of the problems has been that the regulatory requirements have been changing frequently and they're not predictable. So if a person starts to build a power plant, he doesn't know when it's going to be finished or how much it's going to cost.

"And he doesn't know if he's going to be allowed to operate it at a rate of power."

STAFF THIS ISSUE

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Cathie Musser

Kay Pickering
TMA Office Staff

From 1

and left radioactive particles throughout the structure. The accident was the worst in U.S. commercial nuclear history.

Their job was to inspect the crane, considered crucial to the final stages of the \$1 billion, seven-year plant cleanup.

The crane, capable of lifting 500 tons, would be used to lift the reactor head and allow the mangled core of the reactor to be removed.

Fidler said the contamination was very minor.

"We're talking about something around two or three millirems," he said. "Two or three millirems is no where near our own limits or the NRC limits."

Monitoring by a whole-body counter showed no internal radio-

activity as a result of the contamination, plant officials said.

"Any time guys come out of a radioactive work area, they are frisked. That's how it was discovered," said Fidler.

The four climbed an enclosed stairway to the polar crane.

Then, attached to safety harnesses, they began an ascent by climbing between a wall and a girder "rubbing right against the contaminated surface," said Fidler.

The four workers had planned to perform the inspection last Thursday, but that attempt was scrubbed when a stuck door stopped them from getting into the containment building.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
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From 3

Thornburgh said the GPU contribution is directly tied to the future of TMI Unit 1. He said it has become increasingly clear that GPU is financially incapable of raising the money required without the productive use of Unit 1.

He said it would be "appropriate for the company and responsible regulatory authorities." in the meantime, "to place cleanup funding ahead of stockholder dividends or rate relief in managing GPU's financial resources."

The word "investment," Thornburgh said, was appropriate in suggesting a "fair share" for each party in the cleanup cost, because he believes all of the parties have a stake in removing the Unit 2 contamination as a threat to public

health and safety and the integrity of the surrounding environment.

"Those who would like to move on to economic considerations, those who would like to restore confidence in America's management of its nuclear resources, and those who would have us support the restart of reactor Unit 1 on Three Mile Island," he said, "must first accept a fair share of the burden for removing the legacy of contamination at its companion Unit 2."

Thornburgh said his proposal was also designed to address some of the nonfinancial problems raised by the Unit 2 contamination. For example, he said he is prepared to seek an "interstate compact" with other Northeastern states for low-level radioactive waste disposal.

While his proposal does not represent a "commitment" by any of the parties named, Thornburgh said "it grows out of countless discussions . . . with key representatives of the nuclear industry, the Reagan administration, the Congress, independent federal agencies, the financial community, other governors, the state of New Jersey, private citizens, our own General Assembly, and other relevant state and local agencies."

"If my proposal can serve as a blueprint for achieving cleanup, I will be gratified," he said. "If it can help facilitate a resolution of this critical problem, I will be satisfied."



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

Vol 2 No12

Sept. 1981

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, August 21, 1981

NRC sets stage to reopen TMI Unit 1 despite appeals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today set up complicated bureaucratic machinery that could allow reopening of the undamaged reactor at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant while appeals against its reopening continue.

The action, issued in an order today after a 3-2 vote in a closed meeting Thursday, could lead to a speedier reopening of the undamaged reactor at the Pennsylvania power plant where the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred in 1979.

The order creates a separate board to hear any appeals of an NRC licensing board's decision on reopening the reactor. At the same time, it says the commission will decide within 35 days of the licens-

ing board's final decision whether that decision should become effective while the appeals continue.

The action reverses a 1979 NRC order in which the commission said it would hear all appeals, a process that could delay commission action on the actual restart of the reactor.

Unit One at the plant near Harrisburg, although not damaged during the near-meltdown of the reactor core in Unit 2, was ordered not to operate since it is essentially the same as the damaged reactor. Modifications on it also were ordered.

GPU Nuclear Corp., which operates TMI, has pushed for the reopening of Unit 1 because it must now buy power from other utilities to make up for that which the reactor is not producing.

Two of the NRC commissioners, Peter Bradford and Victor Gil-

insky, issued a separate view saying they did not agree with the NRC action and that the commission should have stood by its 1979 decision to hear all appeals itself.

Gilinsky and Bradford have consistently urged caution in nuclear matters since the 1979 accident.

Voting on the other side were NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino and Commissioners John Ahearne and Thomas Roberts. Palladino and Roberts were appointed by President Reagan, who favors greater use of nuclear power. Ahearne has frequently argued for action to speed up licensing.

The order noted the licensing board is deciding two separate questions. One is on management competence and the second wraps up all other pending questions.

Friday, Aug. 28, 1981 Philadelphia Inquirer

The NRC must honor its TMI Unit 1 pledge

Shortly after the March 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission struck a bargain with angry and alarmed neighbors of the central Pennsylvania nuclear plant. When it came time to decide whether to restart Unit 1, the undamaged reactor that sits alongside the crippled Unit 2, the NRC pledged, the entire matter would be resolved by the five-member commission.

That policy represented a change in normal administrative procedure of the NRC, which does not hear appeals of its own decisions. This change, the commission members believed, was warranted due to the public uproar that followed the TMI accident. It also represented a commendable step on the part of the commission to accept full responsibility for its actions and to handle the entire TMI Unit 1 problem in a highly visible, public forum.

Last week, the NRC partially reneged on that promise. By a vote of 3-2 the commission decided that it would not hear any appeals of its decision on the fate of Unit 1. Those appeals would be treated like any other and adju-

cated by three members of the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Panel, which comprises nuclear experts appointed by the NRC. The NRC would decide if Unit 1 could be restored to operation and if it approved start-up, appeals of that decision would be resolved at a later date, after the plant was restored to service.

That action removes the NRC from the second half of the decision-making process involving Unit 1, which has been out of service since before the accident. The commission will base its decision on recommendations issued by an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, which has been conducting a public inquiry.

The commission will consider two issues in its review of the start-up. The first involves whether training of the operators of the TMI plant has been sufficiently upgraded to ensure that the mistakes that led to the accident will not be repeated. A recommendation from the Safety and Licensing Board to the NRC on that is due any day. The second phase of the decision is far more complex. It deals with matters of design changes and improved

emergency planning. The board's recommendation is not due until October. After that, the NRC has 35 days to decide whether to authorize the start-up of Unit 1.

In its decision last week, the commission majority voted to remove the NRC from the appeals process because, according to an order filed Aug. 20, it did not realize two years ago that the start-up question would "involve so many complex issues or result in the development of a record that exceeds 35,000 pages."

The NRC's action is troubling in a number of respects. First, it represents a broken promise to the people who live near the TMI plant, people who have every reason to be especially skeptical of the promises of the nuclear industry and the agency charged with guaranteeing that that industry operates in a safe, responsible manner.

Second, the mere fact that the start-up question does involve "so many complex issues" makes it mandatory that responsibility for that decision be assumed by the agency charged with

Financial commitment to TMI task eyed by utilities

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The first financial commitment for the cleanup at Three Mile Island could come from the nation's largest electric utility group when it meets Sept. 10 in Kansas City.

The directors and TMI-related task force of the Edison Electric Institute will discuss the method and amount of a "significant" industry cleanup contribution, according to EEI staff member Jack Kearney. If the task force recommends a financing method, the board of directors probably will vote on it the same day.

A large industry commitment would mark the first tangible outside aid to the mammoth \$1 billion decontamination project. Proposals for direct government aid have proven unpopular, but Congress has allowed in the fiscal 1982 budget resolution for a small \$30 million research and development grant.

Kearney wouldn't characterize it this way, but the industry's hastened willingness to consider cleanup aid was apparently spurred by Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh's July 9 proposal for a cost-sharing plan. At the time, EEI said the group "applauded" his action and "welcomed his leadership."

While questioning some of the numbers in the governor's plan, the

utilities' spokesmen said Thornburgh had provided a framework for an equitable sharing program.

Thornburgh urged that the federal government split half of the remaining \$760 million in cleanup costs, which is \$380 million, or \$190 million apiece. General Public Utilities, which has been unable to finance the project on its own, would supply one-third, or \$245 million.

Remaining private property insurance, plus state government contributions from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, would make up the rest.

In Washington, GPU consultant Thomas Ashley was cautiously optimistic over prospects of an EEI commitment.

"EEI action is a shot of adrenaline that will give it (cleanup financing) considerable momentum," said Ashley, who has spent most of the year seeking a consensus package to aid GPU.

"The company will clearly be very pleased with a successful Thornburgh option," Ashley said. "Whether it will be sufficient remains to be seen. It gets the most result with the least federal intervention."

Ashley, a former Ohio congressman, was to have completed his troubleshooting duties, but now looks forward to spending the rest of the year on the GPU cleanup fi-

nancing effort.

Rep. Allen Ertel, D-Montoursville, who is sponsoring a bill creating a new reactor-site insurance program that would retroactively assist the TMI cleanup, remained skeptical of both EEI assessments and the Thornburgh plan.

"If they can do it, fine. I just don't think they can," Ertel said of the potential EEI announcement.

Any utility assessment system, Ertel said, would be under attack from two sides. If a utility decided to pass a TMI cleanup assessment along to customers, he said consumer lawsuits would inevitably result. And that assumes the surcharge would be approved by the various state utility commissions.

On the other hand, if a utility decided to pay for the assessment out of profits, it would face the wrath of stockholders, Ertel said.

The Thornburgh plan, Ertel said, still includes \$190 million in federal assistance over six years to "offset" cleanup costs. However, the Reagan administration is seeking only \$75 million over three years.

Congress has approved about \$30 million in research and development grants at TMI. The money must still be appropriated and even Ashley estimates only one-fourth of it would truly offset cleanup spending.

Approval of TMI-1 license shift to GPU hailed by Arnold

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The president-designate of the new GPU Nuclear Corp. has expressed satisfaction with the federal regulatory decision approving the transfer of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 operating license from Metropolitan Edison Co. to the corporation.

Robert C. Arnold also said he is confident that federal officials will "conclude that GPU Nuclear has the management capability necessary to provide for the safe restart and operation" of Unit 1.

In authorizing the license transfer for Unit 1, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission also directed the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to consider GPU Nuclear's competence, instead of Met-Ed's, during its deliberations to determine if Unit 1 will be permitted to restart.

GPU Nuclear Group, forerunner of the corporation, has been directing operations at TMI, includ-

ing the massive cleanup operation at Unit 2, since early in 1980.

It has been approved by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the state Public Utility Commission and the federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities must act on the corporation before it can fully function.

Arnold said applications for amendments to transfer the licenses of TMI Unit 2 and the Oyster Creek station in New Jersey to

GPU Nuclear Corp. will be filed this week. GPU officials hope all the licenses will be transferred simultaneously this fall.

Approximately 2,200 persons are employed by GPU Nuclear. The corporation concentrates the GPU system's nuclear experience in a single organization, in keeping with recommendations made by the President's Commission on the Accident at TMI and an independent management study authorized by the PUC, Arnold said.

TMI phone service disrupted

Telephone service to and from Three Mile Island was interrupted for an undetermined period this morning.

Jim Smith, a spokesman for Bell of Pennsylvania, said a contractor accidentally dug up a phone cable.

Service was restored around 11:15 a.m., he said.

Officials at both the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency said they were unaware of the problem.

Two at TMI admit they cheated

KING OF PRUSSIA (AP) — Two shift supervisors at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant have acknowledged they cheated during operator licensing tests last April, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Thursday.

One of the operators has been fired and action on the second operator's employment is still being considered, the NRC said.

The NRC and General Public Utilities Corp., which owns TMI, have declined to identify the two supervisors except to say they were "long-term" employees. Both were on duty at various times during the several days in March 1979 when TMI's Unit 2 was involved in the nation's worst commercial accident, NRC official Dudley Thompson said from his Washing-

ton office.

The NRC found no evidence of any other cheating during the April testing, officials said.

Thompson described the two operators as "first-line supervisors" in charge of the staff operating the reactor during an eight-hour shift.

The investigation included interviews of 11 of those who took the exam, including all who failed, and reviews of all test papers, the NRC said.

The agency said it found indications that some sessions of the examinations "were essentially unproctored for extended periods of time," an NRC spokesman said.

However, the interviews indicated that during the sessions in which the detected cheating took place, there was "virtually 100 percent

convergence by NRC proctors," the agency said.

The NRC investigation found "no evidence the utility either knew of the cheating prior to the NRC becoming aware of it, or attempted in any way to facilitate cheating by any of its employees," Stello said.

The investigation was launched after marked similarities were found on answer sheets submitted by two of the 36 operators who would run the undamaged Unit 1 reactor. The operators, who took the reactor operator and senior reactor operator license tests, were reassigned after GPU confirmed reports of the cheating July 28.

The NRC said the operators have given sworn statements acknowledging the cheating took place.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, August 18, 1981

Ex-TMI operator feared tough test

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

One of two former Three Mile Island Unit 1 control room operators who cheated on federal examinations said he anticipated the tests would be difficult and "I wanted to pass them to hold my license."

He told U.S. investigators he expressed his concerns about passing the tests to his colleague prior to "mock" exams given about three weeks before the actual tests and was told, "Don't worry, we'll get by."

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Monday ordered retesting of the remaining 34 TMI operators who took the exams. Although an NRC probe detected no other "substantiated evidence" of cheating, the staff wants the retesting because "others who know or may become aware of the rumors of other cheating, may feel the cheating was being condoned, unless a re-examination is required for the entire group," said Harold Denton, director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

"It is imperative that the NRC, as well as the public, have complete

confidence in the senior reactor operators and reactor operators at TMI," he added.

A spokesman for the GPU Nuclear Group, TMI's operator, said the retest order "has cast a cloud over the integrity of all of the operators." Noting that no other evidence of cheating was found beyond the two operators who have resigned, GPU said it is "unfair to subject the operators and their families to this ordeal of suspicion."

Denton said the retest is tentatively scheduled for September.

The names of the two dismissed operators have not been revealed by the NRC, and all identifying references, including job description, ages and length of employment have been deleted in the official NRC report on the cheating incident.

For the purposes of this article, the operators will be identified as Smith and Doe, with Smith being the elder of the two and the one who admitted copying Doe's answers.

During separate NRC inter-

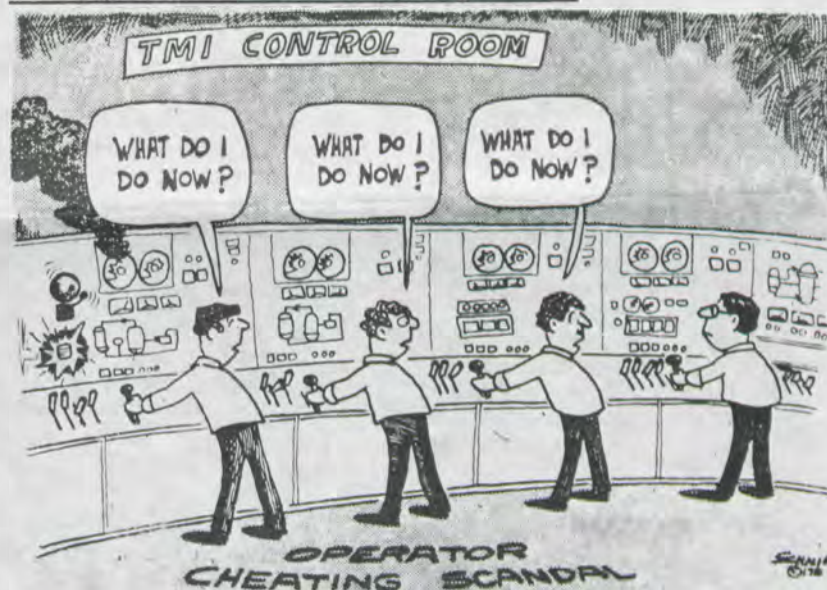
views on July 27 Smith and Doe insisted there was no cheating. Neither could offer any explanation for the nearly word-for-word answers, or the similarity of phrasing and sentence structure and misspellings on their answer sheets for the reactor operator and senior reactor operator tests they took on April 23 and 24, respectively.

On July 30 they were offered the opportunity to answer sample questions to discover if the similarity occurred again. They also were asked if they would submit to a polygraph test. Both offers were declined until the operators could confer with their lawyers.

On July 31 Smith admitted copying answers from Doe and slipping Doe a "piece of scrap paper" containing an answer. Smith also said he and Doe "gave each other answers orally."

Doe said he was aware that Smith was copying from him but contended he (Doe) never took answers from Smith. "I didn't say or do anything at the time (during the test)," Doe said in his sworn state-

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., August 23, 1981.



NRC balks at critical nuke report

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's nuclear reactors reported 3,804 incidents in 1980 when mechanical equipment or human operators failed to work as required, an anti-nuclear group affiliated with Ralph Nader reported Sunday.

The number of incidents — a 20 percent increase over 1979 — shows nuclear power plants "rely on a system fraught with frequent cases of human error and chronic defects in essential safety equipment," the report by Critical Mass charged.

However, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission called the study "seriously flawed by an inconsistent use of data." It attributed more than half the increase to the fact that four new plants, required to meet even tougher reporting requirements, were in operation.

The plant with the highest number of incidents was Sequoyah in Tennessee — 238, even though it was in operation only 11 percent of the year. Sequoyah was followed by Hatch II in Georgia with 157 incidents and Ohio's Davis Besse with 121 incidents.

According to the report, Peach Bottom II had 36 incidents; Peach Bottom III, 26; Three Mile Island I, 22; and Three Mile Island II, 51. All are in York County.

The report said 57 percent of all incidents were caused by equipment failure, 16 percent by design problems, 20 percent by human error and 7 percent by other factors.

The report was compiled from a review of licensee event reports, LERs, the NRC requires a utility to file any time equipment or personnel do not meet operating specifications.

NRC and industry officials said the number of LERs tells little about the safety of a particular plant because the reports cover both minor infractions and major incidents. The NRC said it will soon release its own report card for each reactor that will give a truer picture of performance because it will take into account not only the number of incidents reported but many other factors.

HARRISBURG (AP) — The Public Utility Commission voted down motions Friday that would have allowed two part-owners of the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear plant to collect \$30.2 million of a proposed rate increase.

The proposal, offered by the PUC staff, failed on a 2-2 vote.

However, the commission ordered an investigation into the full \$318.5 million rate request still pending from Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co.

The commission suspended the request for the full increase until the investigation is completed.

Met Ed on June 30 requested a two-stage rate increase worth a total of \$205.5 million and Penelec made a parallel bid for \$113.1 million more.

Both utilities say some of the money would be used for cleaning

She tried TMI, and liked it

HARRISBURG (AP) — The first woman inside the damaged Three Mile Island nuclear containment building since the 1979 accident said Thursday it was all in a long day's work and she would be willing to try it again.

Beverly Della Loggia joined eight male co-workers on the 14th entry into the radiation-coated building to perform a variety of cleanup-related chores.

"It was a fairly routine operation," said Mrs. Della Loggia, after emerging from her 40-minute assignment.

The only thing out of the ordinary was that one of the two radiation monitors she was to install failed to operate, but the problem was later cleared up, the radiological engi-

neer said.

Thursday marked the first anniversary of the first venture into the containment building, which is flooded with 700,000 gallons of highly radiated water and is covered with radioactive particles.

Like the more than 100 engineers and technicians who have gone inside the plant since last July, Mrs. Della Loggia, 26, donned bulky protective clothing for the trip.

Her attire included two pairs of cotton coveralls, rubber boots, plastic booties, rubber gloves, surgical gloves, a respirator and an air sampler.

Despite all the clothing, she said she felt cool inside the building and the whole experience seemed to fly right by.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, August 24, 1981

15th TMI entry planned

United Press International

Five teams of engineers and technicians will enter the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant's Unit 2 containment building late Wednesday, the 15th entry since the March 1979 accident at the plant, TMI officials said today.

The entry is expected to last seven hours, the officials said.

They said the 11-member team will perform maintenance on the closed circuit television monitoring system, take radiological sur-

veys and photographs, inspect the air collars, and remove some equipment.

About five curies of krypton 85 gas will be vented before and during the entry. That amount "has been certified as having no health effects for the public," a TMI spokesman said.

The gas has built up since the last entry, he said.

The Unit 2 reactor that was damaged in the March 1979 accident is inside the Unit 2 containment building.

YORK DAILY RECORD • SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1981

PUC orders investigation of huge Met Ed rate increase

up TMI, damaged March 28, 1979, in the nation's worst commercial nuclear power accident. The Unit 2 reactor core overheated and its containment building was flooded with 700,000 gallons of highly radioactive water.

"It is important to note ... today's action was not a denial of any portion of this rate request," read a statement issued by General Public Utilities Corp., parent company of Met Ed and Penelec, at its Parsippany, N.J., headquarters.

GPU spokesman Ken McKee said the statement was issued because GPU feared the financial community had misinterpreted the PUC action to mean the entire rate increase was denied.

GPU common stock opened trading at \$5 a share Friday and dropped to \$4.75 by midday.

The PUC staff had recommended the utilities, which share ownership of TMI with Jersey Central Power and Light Co., be offered the option of the \$30.2 million annual rate boost, effective Aug. 28.

Met Ed would have been given the option of a \$17.4 million dollar boost and Penelec, a \$12.8 million boost.

In return for the much smaller increase, the PUC would have begun investigating when the costs of the undamaged TMI Unit 1 reactor could be put back in the "rate base" and how much customers could be charged when and if it was.

Because of a vacancy on the PUC, there is was no tie-breaking vote on the panel. Motions die on tie votes.

Nobel laureate eyed for TMI health post

By JANIS L. WILSON
Staff Writer

Nobel Prize-winning medical researcher Dr. Baruch S. Blumberg will head a public health fund to be created if U.S. Middle District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo approves the proposed \$25 million settlement of the Three Mile Island class action, an attorney for the plaintiffs said.

David Berger of Philadelphia, who has overseen the damage suit against owners and operators of the nuclear plant, said Rambo will have to approve how the \$5 million designated for medical detection or related services will be spent.

Blumberg, of the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia, won the Nobel in 1976 for his discoveries research in hepatitis.

Under the proposed settlement, the public health fund can be used for a number of purposes, including buying equipment to monitor radiation releases or for funding programs and studies relating to the effects of the accident.

Petitions to fund studies would be funneled through Blumberg, who would serve as the scientific adviser. He would determine whether the proposed expenditures had "promise of producing scientifically reliable and valuable results," but if the studies later proved worthless or obsolete, the

plaintiffs could ask the judge to halt that funding.

Berger said a hearing on uses of the public health fund could be held in two or three months after the judge decides whether to approve the settlement.

In a public hearing on the settlement Monday, little opposition was expressed. Kay Pickering of Three Mile Island Alert said that rather than spending \$20 million on economic damages and \$5 million on the public health fund, \$25 million should go to reimburse economic losses.

An additional \$10 million should be provided to establish cancer research programs, a cancer detection center and to improve emergency planning, she said.

Joan Petrosky of 147 S. Front St., Steelton, objected to financing radiation monitoring and preparing an evacuation plan "because these services are the responsibility of the state and county health protection services." She also opposed financing research into the effects of radiation, saying such work is the obligation of the federal government.

Her husband, Dr. A.M. Petrosky, said the \$25 million is inadequate to "reimburse evacuation expenses of 100,000 people, plus

reimburse businesses." He also objected to paying attorneys' fees out of the settlement. Lawyers for the plaintiffs have requested \$4 million in legal fees.

The objectors followed a number of witnesses for the defendants and the plaintiffs who testified they favored the settlement. Among them was Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, who spoke in favor of creating the health fund.

Although Morgan believes the "levels of release and the related doses were greater than government estimates," of the emissions, the doses were "not so massive as to warrant mass medical tests of people in the area."

He said the accident "will result in some adverse health effects" but not enough to require individual testing.

In fact, he said such testing would require X-rays, which could result in greater doses than people received from the accident. The damage would not be known for 15 years, however.

Morgan called individual testing "imprudent, unreasonable and even counter-productive" and compared it to "looking for a needle in a haystack 10 years before you put the needle in the haystack."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, August 7, 1981

TMI testing the reactor of Unit 1

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

Technicians at Three Mile Island have begun "hot functional testing" of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor using non-nuclear heat, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear Group said today.

Douglas H. Bedell said the test sequence will result in tall plumes of water vapor rising from the two Unit 1 cooling towers on the north end of the island beginning Monday.

Permission to conduct the test was granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in March, he said. The test will continue through mid-September.

The purpose of the tests is to check the major components of Unit 1, except for the nuclear reactor and electrical generator. Unit 1 has been shutdown since February 1979 and was in the final stages of refueling when the Unit 2 accident occurred.

The test sequence was started

July 27, but the actual heat-up will not begin until Monday. The unit will be tested at close to operational temperatures and pressure using non-nuclear heat — generated by the operation of its four reactor coolant pumps.

The temperatures of the Unit 1 reactor coolant system will be brought to about 532 degrees Fahrenheit, slightly below its normal operating temperature of 580 degrees F.

The heat will be produced by energy consumed in passing large volumes of water through the four reactor pumps, each of which pumps 88,000 gallons a minute in full operation, Bedell said.

The plant's nuclear core will not be activated, Bedell said.

Officials plan to test the modifications made to Unit 1 from the "lessons learned" after the Unit 2 accident.

"The exercises will provide an opportunity for operator training and for verification of new and revised operating procedures,"

Bedell said.

The Unit 1 and Unit 2 systems have been separated from each other since the accident.

When the current testing is completed, Unit 1 will be returned to cold shutdown.

Whether Unit 1 will be permitted to begin generating commercial power will be in the hands of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which is awaiting a recommendation from its Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The board conducted eight months of hearings and is expected to make a recommendation in September. The NRC decision should follow within 35 days.

If restart is approved, another period of testing will be required before start-up, Bedell said. TMI officials have said Unit 1 could be back on-line commercially by December.

PLEDGE Fr 1

regulating nuclear power, not members of the NRC staff or an appointed board.

The decision typifies a growing tendency on the part of the NRC to resume its pre-TMI posture of removing itself from controversy and public accessibility. The commission is expected in the next few weeks to consider whether to remove itself entirely from the nuclear plant licensing process, and to turn over that critical decision-making function to the Safety and Licensing Board and members of the NRC staff whose actions take place out of sight of the public.

All these changes are being put forward under the rationale of speeding up the licensing process, but the result would be to again remove the whole process from public scrutiny.

The NRC decision not to hear appeals on the TMI Unit 1 start-up question appears to be irreversible. That makes it imperative that the commission's review of the findings of the

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board be conducted with intense caution, without undue haste and with additional study if there are any ambiguities.

The NRC made a promise to the neighbors of the Three Mile Island plant, and to all Americans, that Unit 1 would not be restored to operation until every effort had been expended to assure that it would be safe. The import of that decision was that the commission admitted it had been too lax in the past. The commission majority has backed away from that commitment on the matter of resolving appeals. It cannot escape responsibility.

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TOUGH TEST Fr 3

ment, "since I was afraid the proctor would have scooped up my tests and torn them up."

Smith told investigators that "a day or two prior" to the "mock examinations, I told (NRC deletion) that I did not think I would be able to pass these tests. He (Doe) replied to me in words to the effect, 'Don't worry, we'll get by, just sit next to me.'" Smith said.

"When I expressed my concerns to (NRC deletion) regarding (the) exams, I was not soliciting his assistance to help me pass the exams by cheating. However, I did not refuse his offer. I anticipated that the exams would be very difficult and I wanted to pass them to hold my license," Smith said.

Smith and Doe sat next to each other at eight-foot-long tables on both days. They were in the second

table from the front of the room. Smith said Doe "placed his answer sheets in close proximity to me face up and I was then able to copy from them from where they lay and also slide them over directly in front of me."

The tests were monitored by NRC proctors. Smith contended the exam was not well-monitored "since the proctor was not observing us closely. He was reading a paper and often turned his back to look out the windows." Other operators who took the tests told the NRC the exam was monitored adequately.

During this investigation, GPU Nuclear told the NRC of an incident which occurred in July 1979 involving the operator identified here as Doe. In that incident an unidentified employee, then assigned to TMI Unit 2, submitted as his own

work, answers to questions prepared by Doe. The questions were described as part of take-home examinations which the Unit 2 employee was required to complete as make-up assignments, the NRC said.

The Unit 2 employee turned in Doe's hand-written answers. Doe told investigators he "had no idea what the questions were for."

He added he was "not aware of the fact that he intended to submit my answers in place of work" he "was required to complete on his own."

The Unit 2 employee in question was transferred to non-licensed duties at TMI after the incident.



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

Vol 3 No 1

Oct. 1981

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., August 30, 1981

TMI Restart Opposed Despite Ruling

By The Associated Press

At least one local official thinks the reopening of the undamaged Three Mile Island reactor is a foregone conclusion, but anti-nuclear groups are refusing to surrender.

"We are going to fight this. We are not giving up," said Joanne Doroshow, vice-chairperson of Three Mile Island Alert (TMIA).

The anti-nuclear contingent suffered a setback Thursday when the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board ruled that the plant operator has met the basic management requirements needed to restart TMI's Unit 1 nuclear reactor.

The ruling was the first part of a two-tier decision due from the ASLB, appointed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to consider the restart issue.

Ms. Doroshow said her group would appeal the management findings.

"We're extremely disappointed in the decision although it was not unexpected. We thought the board totally ignored the management incompetence that was displayed in the TMI accident," she said.

The ASLB still must determine if the plant design and emergency procedures at Unit 1 meet NRC standards.

If the ruling, expected around Oct. 1, favors plant owner General Public Utilities Corp., there is yet another obstacle to be cleared: the NRC must rule within 35 days on whether to allow an restart or whether to wait until appeals of the ASLB's findings are complete.

Nevertheless, some people living near TMI think they know which way the wind is blowing.

"There's no doubt in my mind," said Middletown Mayor Robert Reid when asked if he believes the NRC will permit GPU to resume operation of Unit 1.

"I even have a bet that it would reopen by October. There's no doubt in my mind that that was their plan, even if the masses of people in this area would go against it."

Local anti-nuclear representatives said they are not optimistic that the ASLB will rule in their favor, but they are unwilling to say a

restart is inevitable.

"I don't feel it's anywhere near in the bag that Unit 1 is going to restart," said Steven Brooks, another nuclear opponent, from the TMI Public Interest Resource Center.

Even if the NRC leans toward a restart, there are other avenues for opponents to pursue, he said.

"One is the political arena . . . pressure on the governor and the president to bring the NRC around. It's clear that any decision made about TMI is going to be primarily a political decision." If all else fails, a court appeal is "a virtual certainty," said Brooks.

Robert Arnold, chief operating officer of GPU Nuclear Group, said the ASLB management findings left him "extremely gratified."

TMI spokesman John Fidler said that if both the ASLB and the NRC give the go-ahead, plant operations could begin.

"We could reach criticality, that is a sustained nuclear reaction in the core, sometime in the middle of November," said Fidler. With no hitches, the plant could produce power by January, he said.

YORK DAILY RECORD • SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 12, 1981

Hearings to reopen on TMI-1 restart

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Three Mile Island restart hearing have been ordered reopened because of cheating scandals involving TMI plant operators taking qualification tests.

Ivan Smith, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, issued the order Friday to reopen the unit 1 restart hearings, an NRC official said.

In a related matter, TMI officials reported a slight increase late Friday afternoon in the rate of leakage of water from the cooling system of the damaged TMI Unit 2 reactor.

However, there was no evidence of any release of radioactivity from the plant, a spokesman said.

The reopened unit 1 restart hearings will "consider the ramifications of the cheating incidents" that occurred during plant operator qualification exams this year and last year, said NRC spokesman Gary Sanborn.

Sanborn said the three-member board that presided over the original restart hearings has scheduled a pre-hearing conference for Oct. 2 in Harrisburg to decide on what is to be covered at the reopened hearings. The conference will be at 9 a.m. in the North West Office Building at Capital and Forster streets, he said.

Gary Milhollin, professor of law at the University of Wisconsin and part-time member of the NRC's licensing board, was appointed by the board and "will preside over much of the hearings," Sanborn said.

Milhollin, reached by telephone in Madison, Wis., said he was chosen from a panel of other judges to preside at the hearings. His title at the reopened hearings will be special master. He said he served on other panels dealing with reactor cases in the past.

Cont. pg. 6

Rambo gives formal approval on \$25 million TMI suit

By JANIS L. WILSON
Staff Writer

The \$25 million Three Mile Island class action negligence suit has received final approval by a federal judge, but much work remains to be done in the case.

U.S. Middle District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo gave formal approval Wednesday to the plan which will pay area residents and businesses for the losses they suffered as a result of the March 28, 1979, nuclear accident.

Rambo had given tentative approval in February to the plan which allocates \$20 million for damages and \$5 million for a public health fund.

People and businesses within 25 miles of the plant received notice of the proposed settlement by mail. To reach people who left the area before the plan was shaped, advertisements were placed in regional and national publications.

Rambo said few people removed themselves from the class action to file individual lawsuits. The small number of drop-outs and the few minor objections filed against the proposal "indicate a widespread reaction of acceptance," Rambo said.

The judge presided at a hearing on the proposal Aug. 24, when attorneys for the plaintiffs and the defense presented witnesses to prove that the proposed settlement was fair and would adequately compensate the classes for damages.

Claim forms will be mailed to 20,000 persons and businesses who requested them. Attorneys for both sides will review the alleged losses and the judge will have the final say on all claims.

In addition, Rambo will oversee the \$5 million public health fund. The money will not be distributed to individuals. Instead, it will be used "for various public health purposes, including improvements in radiation monitoring, studies into possible health-related effects on the population surrounding TMI, public education programs, concerning early detection of cancer, assistance in development of emergency evacuation plans in the area and general research into health effects on low-level radiation," Rambo said in an earlier report.

Rambo also will review requested attorneys' fees, which will be paid from the settlement. Plaintiffs' attorneys have asked for fees of more than \$4 million, but the judge is not obligated to authorize full payment.

The judge will turn her attention to personal injury cases, which she earlier determined were not sufficiently similar to be tried as a class. The individual personal injury claims were put on ice until she issued a ruling in the class action.

In approving the settlement, Rambo said she had considered "all matters raised, all exhibits and affidavits filed and all evidence received at the hearing, all memoranda of law, all other papers and documents comprising the record herein, and all oral arguments presented to the court."

The judge pointed out that she is "not required to determine with certainty the very factual and legal issues which are in dispute" but only whether the proposed settlement "should be approved as fair, reasonable and adequate as required" by law.

"The complexity, expense and likely duration of the litigation favor its settlement," Rambo said in her ruling. "There is little negative reaction of the members of the classes to the settlement and no adverse reaction to the settlement can reasonably be inferred from the fact that approximately two percent of the potential individual class members and less than one percent of the potential business and non-profit entities have excluded themselves; on the contrary, a more reasonable inference would be that such a relatively small percentage of exclusions, together with the very few objections to the settlement, in the context of such well-publicized litigation tends to indicate a widespread reaction of acceptance."

The judge also determined that the massive amount of information from the federal and state governments, plus attorneys for both sides, "is more than sufficient for informed assessment of the factual bases of the claims being settled and the risks and hazards of litigation."

In ruling that the settlement is fair and adequate, Rambo dismissed the complaint filed against the defendants — the owners, builders and operators of Three Mile Island. Rambo also overruled the few objections which were filed against the settlement.

Rambo said that in case there was an appeal of her ruling to the Third Circuit Court of Appeals, she would not be "obliged to consider the same issue a second time."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, September 3, 1981

A TMI study continues

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The third set of interviews in a major study to determine the mental health of residents 2½ years after the Three Mile Island accident will begin later this month, the project director said.

A core group of mothers with pre-school children at the time of the March 1979 accident and workers at the TMI plant will be re-interviewed, according to Dr. Evelyn Bromet, assistant professor of psychiatry and epidemiology at the University of Pittsburgh's Western Psychiatric Institute and Clinic.

Two similar groups will be re-interviewed in Beaver County, the site of the Shippingport-Beaver Valley reactors. New interview subjects will be added in both locations and a third test area — a coal-fired plant near Uniontown in Fayette County — will be introduced into the study this time, she said.

A total of 1,400 interviews will be conducted at the three locations by professional interviewers, she said.

The kinds of information the interviewers will seek is "very similar" to that gathered during two previous surveys conducted at the beginning of 1980 and at the first anniversary in March 1980.

"We want to know about people's well-being," Bromet said. "The issues are the same, mental health and social support from family friends." The original study found that social support was a factor in helping people cope after the accident.

Not included in this round of interviews, Bromet said, will be the 244 mental health clients polled for the original study. She said mental health clients are the most difficult to keep in touch with, and "we would probably have lost 40 percent" of the original subjects, making generalizations from the remaining group impossible.

Bromet said she doesn't expect any problem in locating the previously interviewed mothers and workers — the key groups needed to give continuity to the long-range study. The original study, re-

leased in October 1980, found that mothers of pre-school children suffered residual effects of depression and anxiety long after the accident.

Workers at TMI displayed more symptoms of distress and anxiety than their Beaver Valley counterparts, the study found, but these problems existed prior to the accident. This occurred because Beaver Valley workers with problems could transfer to a fossil-fuel plant without loss of seniority or pay — an option that did not exist for the TMI workers.

Bromet said residents near the Hatfield Power Plant, a coal-fired station, are being added to get comparison data on residents living near a non-nuclear plant.

Also new in this segment will be detailed questions on the physical and mental health of children born to mothers who were pregnant during the accident.

Unlike the previous two surveys, the persons interviewed this time will be paid \$15, Bromet said. "I think it's a sign of

Cont. pg. 6

Exclusive:

TMI-1 Is Candidate For Pressure Vessel Rupture

* * *

(Editor's Note): Larry Arnold is a local writer and researcher who has appeared on national TV, written articles for Science Digest (the latest in the September, 1981 issue of Science Digest), and has written many articles for the Paxton Herald. The following article was written by Mr. Arnold in June of this year and time has proven Mr. Arnold 100% correct! This article is, therefore, a critical piece of reading...a must article to be read by all Central Pennsylvania residents and their families!

—Annette A. Antoun, Publisher

by Larry E. Arnold

The "last line of defense" against a nuclear power plant spewing its radioactive guts onto the countryside and its inhabitants has problems. NRC officials are worried. And so should residents of southcentral Pennsylvania, because TMI-1 now is ranked one of the eleven most dangerous reactors in the U.S.A....in terms of 'new' problem.

The problem lies within the heart of the nuclear furnaces of pressurized water reactor (PWR) systems, the type found at Three Mile Island. And the problem is most prone to occur in Babcock & Wilcox manufactured reactors, again the type installed at TMI—one of which failed to operate as designed on March 28, 1979.

The problem is "embrittlement" compounded by "overcooling."

It can lead to rupture of the pressure vessel—the massive metal container in which the uranium fuel fissions to produce lethal radioisotopes. And while these isotopes have long been recognized as lethal to humans, the NRC is only now discovering just how lethal they are to the very metal in the vessel

**"I Would Think
We've Got A Year
...Before Any
Of The Most
Vulnerable
Reactors Would
Crack Up..."**

itself—and at a faster rate than anyone had anticipated!

Here's What Happens In "Embriement" Of Nuclear Facilities

What happens is this. At low temperatures metal becomes brittle and, when stressed, can crack or shatter like glass. The metal in a PWR vessel should be able to remain stable at temperatures as low as 0°. It does, when first installed. But under steady bombardment of neutron radiation the

metal in the pressure vessel's 8½" steel walls actually changes, becoming more and more brittle at even higher temperatures. And the longer the reactor fissions, the more brittle the metal becomes.

These two factors dangerously combine whenever the reactor vessel is subjected to sudden cooling—pressurized thermal shock—such as a SCRAM. (A scram is what happened at TMI in the early morning of March 28, 1979, for example.) When a reactor is shut down quickly—scrammed—emergency core cooling water floods the vessel and causes the metal on the inside of the vessel wall to contract. But the wall's still-warm outer side opposes that contraction. If the core remains highly pressurized, the resulting tensile stress combines with the already present thermal stress (a rapid cooling from the normal 579°F in the core of TMI-1, for example) to form cracks, or enlarge existing hairline fractures, that then radiate out through the vessel's wall. The speed at which this can occur is accelerated if pressure inside the vessel oscillates. (These very conditions were present in the early hours of TMI-2's Class 9 accident.)

The ramifications are serious and can be deadly like a hot glass dropped in cold water, as a result of the weakened structure in the PWR vessel's metal. Using an analogy, the effect is like dropping a warm sheet of glass into cold water: **it shatters.**

Whereas the huge concrete containment shell surrounding the pressure vessel is commonly thought of as a reactor's last line of defense against radiation leakage, NRC documents acknowledge that pieces from an exploding pressure vessel can punch holes through that concrete and release 1000s of rems of deadly radiation into the environment.

Thus, if the vessel can explode, then the probability of containment breach is high. And that means radiation into the atmosphere. Or worse, meltdown of the core itself.

For a new reactor, the metal hasn't had a chance to embrittle and therefore it will withstand the first few pressurized thermal shocks as it was designed to do throughout its 30-40 year lifetime. However, **with increasing age the safety margin for thermal/tensile stress becomes less and less, and overcooling becomes an increasing problem for the reactor's operators.**

Overcooling is most apt to occur when a nuclear plant's control room is already in an emergency situation.

Imagine. Confronted with an overheated or malfunctioning reactor, the operator activates the ECCS (emergency core cooling system) to rapidly lower the core's temperature inside the PWR vessel. Yet if the reactor has been operating for several years—or has experienced several rapid scrams—then

**Are You
Willing
To Take The
Chance????**

the reactor walls can become dangerously brittle at 200°F (rather than at 0-40°F as when new). In other words, the margin of safety—or window—has decreased markedly. A too-rapid injection of vital cooling water (about 40°F) could then be disastrous—literally a shattering experience!

On March 20, 1978—almost exactly one year before the TMI-2 calamity—the Rancho Seco PWR reactor in California underwent an emergency cooling of 300°F per hour. An Oak Ridge National Laboratory fracture-mechanics study recently concluded that had Rancho Seco been operating for ten years rather than its four full-power years, the probability of pressure vessel rupturing "would have been very high." And we could kiss west-central California goodbye.

The NRC now realizes Rancho Seco was lucky, as were Californians. They've said the same thing about TMI-2, and Pennsylvanians. Remember?

Rancho Seco's steam-supply system was designed by Babcock & Wilcox, the same company that built TMI Units 1 and 2. Since May 1973, 15 overcooling "transients" have occurred in B&W reactors, which, as noted, are considered prone to events that lead to overcooling—hence rupture of embrittled reactor vessels.

Nevertheless, Met-Ed appears unconcerned. Utility spokesman Doug Bedell, pointing out that Met-Ed and all other reactor operators had to submit information on embrittlement to the NRC in mid-May, commented that "the calculations from our reactor are that under the most vicious sorts of transients (that we on a conservative basis don't have a concern for) embrittlement in the Unit 1 reactor down the road in years it becomes more of a concern, but...it's just not anything that we feel—and I expect the NRC would feel—would interfere with the operation of the reactor at this point."

Yet the NRC has just listed, apparently based on the utilities' own data, the names of 14 nuclear power stations most apt to experience rupture embrittlement. Five are B&W systems. And TMI-1 is ranked 11th—right behind Indian Point Unit 2 in New York, a plant an NRC inspector called "an accident waiting to happen."

This places TMI-1 in the top one-sixth of the nation's nuclear plants rated most susceptible to overcooling ruptures of reactors, a fact that we pointed out seemed to contradict the Met-Ed position.

We've Got A Year Before...

"Well," replied Bedell, "all I can say is we've submitted a report on it to the NRC." He added that "all reactors have a potential problem as they age. However, our reactor—the Unit 1 reactor—is not considered to have any particular problem now or any time soon."

Again, an NRC safety official suggests otherwise. "I think we've got a year, most of the staff would probably say five," he confided to *Science News* (6/20/1981), before any of the most vulnerable reactors would crack-up in a Rancho Seco type transient. He added, **"We know (these plants) are not going to last their full design lifetimes."**

Meanwhile, Met-Ed wants to restart

**Embrittlement...
An Accident
Waiting to Happen!!!**

TMI-1...even though it is among the 16 percent of America's commercial nuclear plants identified by the NRC as most vulnerable to rupture of the pressure vessel due to embrittlement—a rupture that would easily threaten the structural integrity of the containment wall and cause a Class 9 accident...**FAR WORSE** than its sister reactor unleashed 27 months ago. Are you willing to risk your life?

Mr Bedell is quite right that TMI-1 has "no particular problems now"—but only because it is shutdown!

But what happens in the future if Unit 1 is restarted, as Met-Ed obviously wants to do?

Unit 1 has already lost more than 25 percent of its "overcooling window" due to embrittlement, according to calculations from NRC data.

Based on Met-Ed's previous track record at Unit 2, are you prepared to live with (or die from) that reduced margin of safety hanging over your head should TMI-1 start pouring its plumes of fission-heated steam into the air over Pennsylvania again?

Nuke University

No One Wants to Pay Tuition

GIVE Governor Thornburgh credit for fighting the good fight to win approval for his plan to raise money for the cleanup of the damaged Unit 2 reactor at Three Mile Island. But the reception the governor's proposal received this week from the federal House Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee indicates that if he intends to continue seeking support for his plan outside the borders of Pennsylvania, as apparently he does, he will soon earn a reputation as America's Don Quixote -- an admirable and worthy fellow, but tilting at windmills. The governor's tongue-in-cheek offering of TMI as "our national college of nuclear crisis" is rapidly turning into the Thornburgh college of hard knocks.

The governor's two-hour appearance before the House subcommittee made it pretty plain that congressional enthusiasm for even limited federal funding for the \$1 billion cleanup effort is close to non-existent. And if you listen to some of the arguments made by the dozen congressmen present, there should be no doubt in anyone's mind that the \$192 million pledged by the Edison Electric Institute as industry's share toward the cleanup was written in the sky and left to the winds.

What the congressmen object to is what the members of the public utility commissions in other states will object to if the proposal ever reaches them, which is that, as much as they'd like to help us out they can't be expected to give aid or raise rates for the benefit of customers of Metropolitan Edison and Pennsylvania Electric, TMI owners, when utility customers in their own states have to pay higher rates for electricity than they do. That may be a parochial and even selfish attitude on their part, but that is what almost any plan to salvage Unit 2 is up against.

To make matters worse, the Reagan administration has offered no visible assistance or support to the Thornburgh proposal and any hope

that they will go beyond what little financial help they have provided is just that, a hope. There was no mention of aiding the Three Mile Island cleanup in an administration policy paper pushing nuclear power development which reached print last week.

THE GOVERNOR may not have had much success selling his cleanup proposal, but there is a valid point in his message which those who oppose federal assistance ought to be made to eat for breakfast, lunch and dinner. It is a point we have stressed over and over again, but let the governor state it in his own words: "A (cleanup financing) plan should have been incumbent on the utility industry and the federal government and other interested parties who encouraged the (nuclear) phenomenon that went on the blink."

Yet, the fact is, the Reagan administration, with considerable congressional support and the whole-hearted endorsement of the nuclear industry, and contrary to the cuts being made in almost every other department of government, is preparing to increase funding for nuclear research and speed-up the licensing of nuclear plants. And they're doing it while we in Central Pennsylvania are pulling our hair trying to figure out how we are going to cope with the horrendous cost of decontaminating a nuclear plant after the crash.

The governor has tried to find a middle way through all of this and we commend him for it. But its time to take off the gloves. He should be the most visible man in America against this mad rush to build more radioactive disasters. An appearance at Diablo Canyon might help get across the message in Washington and elsewhere that before this nation builds another nuclear plant it better, it must, it cannot avoid, addressing the problems this semi-marvelous technology has laid upon the people of Pennsylvania. Tell them governor, what it's like to have to put the petals back together once they have fallen from the rose.

Jones' vote can ease TMI block

By SCOTT MACLEOD
United Press International

The seating of a new state utility regulator may break the impasse over financing the \$1 billion cleanup of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant accident.

The state Public Utility Commission, in a landmark 1980 decision, refused to allow ratepayers' funds to be used in the cleanup, but the expected seating of Clifford Jones on the five-member panel could provide the necessary vote.

Federal government and industry officials have repeatedly cited the PUC's 1980 ruling as a major reason for their refusal to ask the nation's taxpayers and ratepayers to help pay for the accident.

The Three Mile Island nuclear plant, where a radiation accident occurred March 28, 1979, is owned by General Public Utilities Corp., of Parsippany, N.J.

"I would guess there would be three votes there to put some of the costs of the cleanup on the (local) ratepayer," said PUC Chairman Susan Shanaman.

"Let's be honest. It becomes more and more difficult, obviously, if nobody's coming in and nobody's showing any kind of help, to just keep sitting here and saying, 'I'm going to be obstinate or stubborn,'" she said.

Ms. Shanaman is one of two commissioners who oppose using local ratepayers' funds for the cleanup.

Two others, James Cawley and Linda Taliaferro, have indicated they support it, and Jones' vote would be the deciding one.

"It's plain to me we've played this game of 'chicken' long enough. We (PUC commissioners) have got to bend a little bit," said Cawley.

On Sept. 10, the industry organization Edison Electric Institute voted unanimously to support Gov. Dick Thornburgh's proposal that the remaining \$760 million cost of the accident be shared.

Under the plan, GPU would pay \$245 million, and national ratepayers and the federal government taxpayers would pay \$190 million each. State aid and insurance would cover the rest.

Loring Mills, director of nuclear activities for EEI, said the industry would consider it a breakthrough if the PUC reversed its 1980 order that blocks GPU ratepayer funds.

Otherwise, Mills said, "It blows us out of the water."

Jones, current Environmental Resources director who was appointed to the PUC by Thornburgh, told his confirmation hearing this week he supported Thornburgh's cost-sharing plan, which indicates GPU ratepayers would pay \$245 million.

Jones, whose confirmation is expected Oct. 5, said he helped develop Thornburgh's cost-sharing plan as a member of the governor's cabinet prior to his appointment to the PUC.

Earlier test cheating at TMI said possible

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

GPU Nuclear Group today admitted that its monitoring procedures of examinations taken by control room operators has been deficient, and said it cannot rule out the possibility that cheating occurred on tests other than the April examination in which two shift supervisors confessed to sharing answers.

GPU said that a company review of its testing procedures "disclosed sufficient looseness in the administration of the examinations that the possibility of cheating could not be ruled out."

The company told the federal law panel which conducted the Unit 1 restart hearings that it may "wish to reopen the record on management issues for receipt of further evidence" on the testing procedures.

Although the company inquiry focused on Unit 1, the same examination procedures have been in effect for several years and the com-

pany said it could not rule out the possibility of improprieties on exams taken by other TMI personnel.

GPU Nuclear operates both the undamaged Unit 1 reactor and the sister Unit 2, crippled in the worst civilian nuclear accident in U.S. history. Unit 1 was shut down for refueling at the time of the Unit 2 accident.

GPU said it is implementing changes in its testing procedures and plans to retest employees who took examinations required by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

After the disclosure of cheating on the Unit 1 tests, GPU hired members of the faculty of Penn State-Capitol Campus for an independent review of test papers from the accelerated retraining program for licensed operators at Unit 1 and a special category "T" test on lessons-learned from the 1979 accident at Unit 2.

The company said the review of the examinations found no evidence of cheating. But, study of an-

swers on re-examinations taken by operators who failed the initial category "T" tests disclosed, in one case, indications of possible cheating, the company said. One of the individuals involved in this incident was also the one who admitted to copying answers from a colleague in the April NRC tests.

GPU told the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board the possibility of cheating could not be ruled out "on the basis of (the company's) supervision or proctoring" of examinations it had conducted.

GPU said it requiring all operators who took the category "T" re-examination to take a new test.

The company said its investigations thus far do not "provide a basis for taking additional individual disciplinary action, but clearly action to correct programmatic deficiencies is necessary." It said modification of procedures for the administration of exams, quizzes and exercises "is called for."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, September 25, 1981

TMI 'scrub down' mapped by GPU

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

GPU Nuclear Group hopes to begin a large-scale "scrub down" operation of walls and floors in the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building later this year — possibly as early as November.

Robert C. Arnold, chief operating officer, said today the wash downs would be an extension of a series of experiments conducted earlier this year using high- and low-pressure water sprays to determine the best method to clean contamination left from the March 1979 accident.

But an intensive "hands-on" decontamination of the containment building's interior surfaces probably won't be started until the highly radioactive water in the basement is removed, and the threat to health and safety of cleanup workers is significantly reduced, Arnold

told The Evening News after addressing a meeting of the Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Harrisburg Area at the Penn-Harris Motor Inn.

Arnold later told a press briefing in Middletown that the ion exchange system being used to clean the reactor building water is "working excellently and working as anticipated and its operation will not pose any hazards to workers and certainly not to any people outside."

The scrub down would be funded with U.S. Department of Energy research and development monies, Arnold said.

Because of the water in the basement, the wash-down operation would be conducted on surfaces from the operating deck — the so-called 347-level — and above, Arnold said. He said technicians are still analyzing what would be the best

sequence for the operation, i.e., in what order the floors, walls and ceilings will be cleansed.

The 347-level is about 55 feet above the radioactive water and workers would be separated from the water by two concrete floors.

Gale Hovey, Unit 2 director, said technicians expected to finish processing the first batch of containment building water this evening. He said the system was activated Wednesday at 5:48 p.m. and as of 10:30 a.m. today 12,000 gallons of the 15,000-gallon batch had been treated.

The water is being flushed through the SDS at five gallons a minute and is achieving its performance objective of 99 percent removal of the radioactive isotopes, primarily cesium and strontium.

HEARINGS from 1

John Fidler, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear, operator of TMI, said the company was aware the hearings might be reopened when it informed the NRC of past cheating on operator qualification tests it gave. He said the company is prepared to cooperate with the licensing board.

Cheating on an NRC operator qualification exam given in April call for a reopening of the restart hearing. Two operators resigned in September after admitting to cheating on the exams.

Regarding the leak at unit 2, Fidler said: "TMI officials believe the leak is internal to the plant, either into the containment building or into the auxiliary building."

The leak rate that has been about one-tenth of a gallon, less than a pint, of water per minute for the past two years increased to about six-tenths of a gallon, or a little more than a quart, per minute around 5 p.m. Friday.

Technicians at the Unit 2 reactor were working to find the source of

the leak, said Fidler. He said an "unusual event" — the lowest of four preparedness categories — was declared at the plant at 6:43 p.m.

Fidler said plant technicians could inject sufficient water to make up for the leak. "We will have no problem keeping the reactor coolant system full," he said.

The plant was damaged in March 1979 in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident.

Under plant specifications, operators must declare an unusual event when they find a leak rate of one gallon per minute or more. A notice was sent to the NRC, the state and local offices of Emergency Management.

John Comey, spokesman for the state emergency management office, said "unusual event" declarations at nuclear plants "are not common, but they do occur...." He could not say definitely whether this was the first at TMI since the accident, but said he thought there had been others.

After taking the call from TMI at 6:54 p.m., Comey notified Thomas Gerusky, director of the state's Bureau of Radiation Protection, who in turn called the TMI control room. Comey said Gerusky later called and said, "it was not a serious problem and there was no need for further action at the state or county levels at this time."

STUDY from 2

respect to show people we realize their time is valuable, too." She said the interviews usually last 1 1/2 hours.

Bromet said she wants the interviews completed by early November after which the correlation of the data will begin. The long-range study, which calls for a fourth set of interviews in the fall of 1982, is being funded by the National Institute of Mental Health.

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YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 18, 1981

TMI-2 leak totaled 500 gallons

About 500 gallons of water leaked into the basement of Three Mile Island Unit 2 as a result of a valve leak in the reactor coolant system.

The valve leak was identified and stopped Saturday, but officials at the plant have still not decided "if and when the valve is going to be repaired," said John Fidler, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear, operators of the plant.

"Fixing the valve is not high on our priority list," Fidler said. The valve is now closed, and can be operated remotely if samples from it are required, he said.

The leak rate of the reactor coolant system is again one-tenth of a gallon, Fidler said. When the leak occurred, the leak rate went to six-tenths of a gallon. There are 600,000 gallons of water in the basement of unit 2, he said. "Sometime next week the water will be processed by the Submerged Demineralizer System," Fidler said. The water is highly radioactive, he added.

He said the SDS would remove 99.9 percent of the radioactive material in the water. The water would then be processed by an EPICOR-2 system, which would remove all of the remaining radioactive material except tritium, he said.

The water would be stored at TMI, he said. The filters of the SDS would be taken by the Nuclear Regulatory Agency, which will conduct tests on them, he said.

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Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

Vol 3 No 2

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YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1981

Media blitz hits airways on TMI-1 restart prospects

A war of words, images under way

By JOHN DANISZEWSKI

Of the Associated Press

HARRISBURG — Pro- and anti-nukes are waging a war of words and images on York and regional television and radio, as the restart of the undamaged Three Mile Island reactor looms closer.

"A status report on Three Mile Island" begins the professionally made ads by GPU Nuclear Group, the plant operator, as heroic music plays in the background.

"For the past two years, over 1,400 people have been working on the cleanup of the undamaged plant, solving problems and assuring safety," the ads say.

"... When the government approves restart, we'll be ready to provide electricity dependably and reliably."

The question of when and if the plant may restart lies with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The NRC assigned a hearing board to look into the matter and it has released a partial report approving the plant management. Reports on plant design and emergency procedures are due next month.

Unit 1 has been kept idle since the accident at the damaged TMI Unit 2 reactor in March 1979.

The company fired the first volley in the battle of the airwaves Labor Day weekend when it kicked off its \$55,000 advertising push. The ads, showing scenes from meeting rooms and laboratories, were aimed at lessening public concern about the restart, the company said.

"We wanted to try to get the message across that our attention is on safety," said John Fidler, a GPU Nuclear spokesman.

"More than one says Unit 1 is the most closely scrutinized nuclear plant in the country, and, as a result will be safe to operate," he said.

Anti-nuclear activists answered the company's ads Sept. 21 by mounting a more modest radio and televi-

sion push, portraying a completely different point of view.

Linda Lotz, a spokeswoman for the Campaign to Stop the Restart, said the \$9,000 anti-nuclear media effort is aimed at getting local residents to contact the governor and urge him to stall the restart.

"Already we're getting calls from people who are delighted to see something counter to the (company) ads — something that doesn't insult their intelligence," said Ms. Lotz.

Fidler said he wasn't aware of any public response to GPU Nuclear's ads. He denied they were designed to create public support for the restart. Their purpose is to reassure those people who have unfounded fears, he said.

"Because we have found that safety is a concern, that's the message that we're trying to get across," Fidler said. "When someone says, 'We're concerned. Can you operate safely?' This is one way we can tell them, 'Yes, we can.'"

Both sides claim they already have the hearts and minds of the majority of local residents.

"We don't need to change people's minds," said Ms. Lotz. She estimated 60-70 percent of the people living near Three Mile Island oppose restarting Unit 1.

Fidler cited a 1980 Field Research poll, paid for by the company, saying restart was approved by 51 percent of people living within five miles of the plant, and by 55 percent of those within 25 miles.

Local surveys, however, have come up with conflicting results.

The ads are targeted to the central Pennsylvania cities near the plant: York, Harrisburg, Lancaster, Reading and Lebanon.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, October 7, 1981

GPU would drop reactor rather than shift to coal

United Press International

General Public Utilities Corp. would probably abandon its crippled Three Mile Island nuclear power reactor rather than convert it to a coal-fired generator, says a senior company official.

Robert Arnold, testifying at a Public Utility Commission hearing, said Tuesday an independent engineering study showed converting the Unit No. 2 reactor to a coal-fired plant would be far more costly than restoring the reactor to produce nuclear power.

"If TMI-2 could not be returned as a nuclear unit, GPU would probably abandon the unit and construct coal units of a standard design at other sites rather than attempt backfitting fossil-fired generation at the unit," he said.

Arnold said Unit No. 2 would be 40 percent less costly to operate than coal alternatives over the lifetime of the reactor.

He said the reactor, damaged in March 1979 in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident, is slated to be decontaminated of most of its radiation by the end of 1986 at a project cost of more than \$1 billion.

Arnold said GPU believed the damaged reactor could be restored and placed back into commercial operation by 1988 or 1989.

Arnold testified before a PUC administrative law judge that Metropolitan Edison Co., operators and half-owner of Three Mile Island, needs PUC approval of a \$205.5 million rate boost to meet increased operating costs.

The company also has asked the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission for approval of a \$6.5 million rate boost for power its sells to municipalities for resale.

Arnold said the higher costs would be incurred because the plant and its operators "will meet higher standards for all critical functions than previously imposed on the industry due to the lessons learned after the TMI-2 accident."

Met-Ed is seeking \$52.7 million of the rate increase to coincide with the return to operation of the undamaged Unit No. 1 reactor, which it hopes to restart in December.

The redt would include customers' share of the cost to clean Unit No. 2, which has been contested by consumer and environmental groups, and other increased costs.

Preliminary test of 'scrub-down' at TMI

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

GPU Nuclear Group said today it plans to launch a \$1 million federally funded program next week to test "scrub-down" techniques inside the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building.

Groundwork for the undertaking will begin during a manned entry Tuesday, the first of 17 to be held by GPU through the remainder of the year.

The accelerated entry program will provide the opportunities for "the government, GPU Nuclear and other nuclear utilities to monitor and assess the effectiveness of cleanup technology being tested by TMI personnel," David G. Osterhout, GPU Nuclear spokesman, said.

During the early entries in the stepped-up program, technicians will prepare for the washdown by bagging electrical equipment, doing radiation mapping, taking photographs and laying water supply lines and setting up equipment, Osterhout said.

The actual washdown, tentatively scheduled to begin in early December, will use water processed through the Epicor II system and the submerged demineralizer system, Osterhout said. Floors and sections of the walls on the entry level (305 level) and the operating deck (347 level) and portions of the polar crane will be cleansed using low-pressure hot water and high-pressure water.

The "dirty" water will be swept into the containment building sump where ultimately it will be processed through the SDS, Osterhout said.

Osterhout said GPU expects DOE to announce a funding commitment for the project in November. He said DOE already has set aside \$100,000 for planning purposes.

Meanwhile, temperatures inside the mangled nuclear core of the Unit 2 reactor jumped 12 degrees when water was drawn from the containment building for processing by the SDS, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported.

Lake H. Barrett, the NRC's chief official at TMI, said the NRC staff, which has been monitoring the core temperatures "very carefully," does not consider the increase a threat to the core's stability.

The higher temperatures were noted after the first 65,000 gallons of water was removed from the containment building basement in September. The hottest thermocouple in the center of the core measured 147 degrees, 12 degrees higher than the previous week's reading, Barrett said. The average reading among the 44 thermocouples was 116 degrees, up from 114 degrees recorded the week before, he added. A thermocouple is a device for measuring temperatures.

The latest reading — taken Friday — placed the maximum tem-

perature at 144 degrees and the average at 114 degrees. "We expected it (the temperature) to flatten out and it did," Barrett said.

John T. Fidler, another GPU Nuclear spokesman, said TMI recovery engineers believe "we've seen all the changes we're going to see (in the temperatures)." He said the initial increase was due to the drop in the water level and now that it's dropped, "we're not likely to see any additional change."

Fidler said GPU engineers are "continuing to monitor" the core temperatures, "but we see no reason for concern."

Since January the reactor has been cooling itself through a process called "loss-to-ambient," which means the containment building's environment acts as a heat absorber to remove decay heat from the reactor.

Prior to the startup of the SDS in September, the water in the containment building basement measured 8½ feet and came in contact with the lower dome of the reactor, thus acting as a cooling mechanism. When the water level was lowered below the reactor vessel, the cooling factor was lost and the temperatures increased, the NRC said.

GPU Nuclear said Wednesday 100,000 gallons of water have been processed through the SDS, and the water level in the basement lowered to approximately 6½ feet. Here are the weekly incore thermocouple readings beginning with Sept. 11: Maximum, 137 degrees, average, 116; Sept. 18, 136 maximum, 115 average; Sept. 25, 135 maximum, 114 average; Oct. 2, 147 maximum, 116 average; Oct. 9, 145 maximum, 114 average; Oct. 16, 144 maximum, 114 average. Engineers began moving water out of the reactor building Sept. 22 and the SDS was activated Sept. 23. The temperatures are subcritical and well below those the reactor reached when it overheated during the 1979 accident.

CONT P. 6

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, October 21, 1981

New TMI operator tests start

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

Retesting of control room operators at Three Mile Island Unit 1 was scheduled to begin today under beefed-up monitoring procedures imposed by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the wake of a cheating incident involving two former TMI shift supervisors during the initial tests in April.

"There has been quite a bit of change" in the NRC's testing procedures, said Lake H. Barrett, the top NRC official at TMI. The exams will be "much more regimented than in the past," he added.

The reactor operator tests were to be held today and Thursday, while the senior reactor operator exams are scheduled for next Wednesday and Thursday, according to John T. Fidler, a GPU Nuclear spokesman. Fidler said 30 Unit 1 operators would take the tests which are being given at GPU's new training center on Route 441.

Barrett said the NRC staff sent a letter to GPU Nuclear advising the company of "special precautions" it would have to take to prevent cheating. He said operators must be seated six feet apart, "one guy per table." During the April tests, the two shift supervisors who admitted cheating were sitting at the same eight-foot-long table and were able to slide their answer sheets back and forth between them.

Barrett said the examinees also will be required to turn their answer sheets face down. He said the NRC is supplying the paper for the answer sheets.

NRC staffers from Washington will monitor the tests, Barrett said. In addition, consultants from the Pennsylvania State University have been hired to serve

as "special proctors." Although Barrett did not know specifically how many proctors will supervise these tests, he said it was at least double the number of monitors who were on hand in April.

After the cheating incident was disclosed in July, the NRC conducted an in-depth review of its testing procedures. Barrett said the changes imposed on GPU Nuclear are "generic" and will be used at all nuclear plants. For many years, Barrett said, the NRC exams were administered with the examinees being "very much on your honor." Now, "we are going back to more basics."

Although the NRC probe of the cheating incident did not uncover any improprieties other than that involving the two operators, the NRC ordered all Unit 1 operators to retake the licensing exams. The tests are aimed at determining whether the operators are qualified to run the Unit 1 reactor, which is shut.

Federal restart hearings on Unit 1 were reopened earlier this month to take testimony concerning the cheating incident and GPU's testing procedures. But, the panel said the reopened probe would not delay its initial decision on the restart which is expected in November.

Barrett said the oral portion of the operator exams began last week and will continue for two weeks. This is a "one-on-one" test during which an NRC examiner takes an operator through the nuclear plant and evaluates his reaction to specific problems and irregularities that might occur when the plant is generating electricity.

Rate saving for TMI restart of Unit 1 reactor disputed

By DON SARVEY
Staff Writer

A group opposed to the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 today claimed that even if Metropolitan Edison Co. operates the nuclear reactor as efficiently as it says it will, utility ratepayers will save less than four cents on every dollar now charged.

The claim was contained in a study released at a noon press conference in the Capitol Annex by the Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center.

"Historically, TMI 1 has been an exceptionally efficient nuclear plant. But there is no guarantee that the plant would operate as well as it has in the past," the study says.

"Met-Ed claims that TMI 1 would operate at a capacity of 71 percent. If TMI 1 operated this well, the average homeowner would save less than four cents on every dollar of his or her electric bill.

"If TMI 1 operated at 55 percent, which is close to the national

average for nuclear plants, the homeowner would save nothing. And at less than 55 percent, restart would actually cost the average homeowner more money than keeping the plant closed."

The author of the study is Stephen Brooks, assistant director of the resource center and a former Harrisburg Magazine journalist. Brooks said he relied on public documents to prepare the study, which took seven months. He said he didn't have any previous training in utility economics.

Brooks said economics is only one reason that the resource center opposes restart. He said it questions Met-Ed's competence to operate the plant and believes it would be dangerous to have Unit 1 in operation while the cleanup of Unit 2 is still going on.

"An accident at TMI 1 could jeopardize the cleanup and an accident at TMI 2 vice-versa," he said.

Met-Ed is buying electricity from other utilities to replace the generating capacity of Units 1 and 2. At the time of the March 1979 accident in Unit 2, Unit 1 was shut

down for refueling and has been officially forbidden to reopen since then.

A panel of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission earlier this year took seven months of testimony to consider the possible Unit 1 restart, but the proceedings are due to be reopened Friday in the wake of allegations of cheating by TMI employees on operator-license examinations.

Meanwhile, treatment of highly radioactive water from the Unit 2 containment building has resumed, according to GPU Nuclear Group, owners of the plant.

The first batch of 15,000 gallons was treated last week in a "submerged demineralizer system" and GPU said 99 percent of the radioactive isotopes had been removed. Another 50,000 gallons were pumped out over the weekend.

The 8½ feet of contaminated water standing in the building's basement has been drawn down by eight inches, according to GPU.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, October 22, 1981

Congress expects users to share TMI cleanup cost

YORK (AP) — Congress will refuse to approve federal funds for the Three Mile Island cleanup, unless Pennsylvania utility customers chip in, the chairman of a citizens group says.

"If we expect any federal help for decontamination, then the ratepayers are going to have to pay some of the cost of the cleanup," said Dauphin County Commissioner John Minnich, who said he got the message at Congressional hearings Tuesday on financing the cleanup.

"We were told that unless there was a local commitment from the Public Utility Commission there will be no commitment from Washington," he said.

Minnich, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of Three Mile Island Unit 2, made the remarks at a panel meeting here Wednesday night.

The PUC steadfastly has refused to allow the utilities owning TMI to charge their customers for any portion of the cleanup of the plant damaged in March 1979 in the nation's worst commercial nuclear mishap.

Minnich said he was "lectured" by Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, that Congress would be watching the PUC "very closely."

The commissioner said lawmakers do not realize what risk delaying the cleanup poses. "Somehow or other no one has been able to articulate very clearly to the Congress that we soon will be having problems here," he said.

The panel at its next meeting will discuss whether to endorse "in principle" Thornburgh's cost-sharing plan to finance the cleanup, Minnich said.

The plan would require the federal and state governments, insurers, the utility industry, the company and the ratepayers to contribute \$760 million to the cleanup.

Sen. Michael O'Pake, D-Berks, attacked the plan as "a smoke and mirror game" by the Republican governor.

YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1981

Radiation detectors now in place

New radiation monitoring equipment installed by the operator of Three Mile Island will provide "instant information of radiation levels in communities" around the island, according to the utility.

TMI is still in the process of hooking up lines for the system's computer printout. Other than that, the system is in place and operating, according to Philip Fine, a spokesman for the utility.

TMI is one of the first nuclear utilities in the nation to install a Reuter-Stokes Sentri System, which can detect "extremely low levels of radiation — down to one-millionth of a rem per hour — in the unlikely event of a release," according to a company statement.

To date, 11 monitoring stations have been set up within four miles of TMI, the company said. By the end of October it expects to have 16 stations in place.

Local governments can contract with GPU Nuclear and receive printouts of the radiation monitoring being performed by the system, the company said.

However, York County's director of emergency management, Randy L. Curry, said he hasn't been informed by TMI of the system's installation nor of the county's option to receive information from the system, which would be purchased from the utility.

"It's obviously something I'd like to find out more about," Curry said.

'Actual' U.S. TMI aid: \$23 million

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Although the Reagan administration has made a \$123 million commitment to the Three Mile Island cleanup, only \$25 million may be available to offset the cost of the actual "hands-on" decontamination work, federal officials say.

Energy Secretary James B. Edwards told two Senate energy and environment committees Tuesday that the administration would urge that \$123 million be spent on TMI-related activities.

Edwards' explanation of the federal role came after Budget Director David Stockman, presidential counselor Edwin Meese III and President Reagan had assured Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh during the last three weeks that significant federal aid to TMI would be supported.

Nevertheless, long before television lights had dimmed, the crowded Senate hearing room had emptied and the long string of witnesses had been questioned, administration policy emerged as long on sympathy for cost-sharing and short on hard numbers.

E. Dexter Peach of the General Accounting Office testified Tuesday that of the \$123 million outlined by Edwards, it appeared \$25 million would actually offset cleanup costs TMI-owner General Public Utilities would otherwise have to bear.

The administration proposal came in two parts: \$75 million in Energy Department research and development funds to be spent over the next three years and \$48 million on a DOE data dissemination program (to other

utilities) started under the Carter administration. Peach said that, from "figures I've seen," only about one-third of the research funds — about \$25 million — would go toward cleanup spending. The data dissemination funds "bear no (direct) relation to the cleanup," Peach said, adding that \$12 million of the \$48 million has already been spent.

(Thus far, Congress has reserved up to \$37 million in the fiscal 1982 budget for TMI research and development. However, appropriating committees have yet to approve the spending.)

Edwards had left by the time Peach testified, but Shelby T. Brewer, assistant secretary for nuclear energy, later sought to "clarify" the administration position. Asked what fraction of the \$123 million would go to displace costs to be borne by GPU or others, Brewer said:

"I cannot answer that, senator. My pencil is not sharp enough to answer whether it's \$25 million, or \$50 million, or the full \$123 million."

U.S. Rep. Allen E. Ertel, D-Montoursville, who had previously backed an alternative proposal under which a national insurance fund of utilities would help finance the cleanup, claimed administration officials had "rejected the Thornburgh plan." The government had agreed to cost-sharing in principle, "but not to their part of the principles," Ertel said.

Tuesday's joint hearings of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources and the Environment and Public Works committees were called to consider the utility insurance bill, a version of which Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., has introduced.

YORK DAILY RECORD • THURSDAY, OCTOBER 8, 1981

Met-Ed request would hike bills 23 percent

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Of the Daily Record

Should Metropolitan Edison Co. get the \$205.5 million rate increase it requested from the Public Utilities Commission, electric bills would increase an average 22.7 percent for all of the company's customers, a Met-Ed official said.

The average residential customer, one that consumes 500 kilowatt hours of electricity a month, would see his current \$36.18 monthly payment jump to \$46.64 a month — an increase close to 23 percent, according to Herb Duscha, manager of consumer services for Met-Ed's York Division.

Commercial customers would see an increase of about 21.5 percent in their electric bills, and industrial users would pay 18.5 percent more for the electricity they buy from Met-Ed, Duscha said. The new rates would become effective by April 1982, he added.

Met-Ed, the company that owns 50 percent of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant, filed a "two-stage" request for rate increases Aug. 29, a PUC spokesman said.

Hearings on the request were opened Tuesday in Harrisburg before Administrative Law Judge Joseph Matuschak. The PUC has seven months to act on the Met-Ed request.

The utility seeks a \$50.5 million rate increase in the "first stage" of its request. In "stage one," the company wants to return TMI-1 to base rates in an attempt to recover money invested in the idled plant, Duscha said. Unit 1 was taken off the base rate in June 1979, the PUC's John Dial said.

The plant was not "used and useful," a condition it must meet in order to be included in base rate structures, Dial said. The base-rate structure allows utilities to charge a fee to consumers that will assure monetary income enough to cover all operational and capital costs, plus guarantee a profit of about 12 percent, he said.

If only "stage one" of the request is phased in, Met-Ed's Duscha said, customer bills would drop by an average 5.5 percent. This is because TMI-1 could generate enough electricity to substantially reduce the

amount of energy Met-Ed has to purchase from utilities in western Pennsylvania and the Midwest, thus lowering costs, he said. At maximum rates, the utility paid \$86.4 million in July buying power, he added.

Average residential customers would pay \$35.16 a month; commercial customers would see a 4.5 percent drop in monthly bills; and industrial consumers would pay 10 percent less if "stage one" were approved, Duscha said. Monthly payments of commercial and industrial customers vary too much for any average data to be calculated with any meaning, he said.

The state Consumer Advocate Office, however, contends the two-stage filing is illegal, and is urging Judge Matuschak to hear the rate increase case *in toto*, meaning as one filing. This would examine both stages one and two of Met-Ed's request together with no separation in filings.

Stage two of Met-Ed's filing amounts to a \$155 million rate increase request, Duscha said. This money, too, is to be collected from rate-payers in the form of higher utility bills.

About \$67 million of this money would be used to decontaminate TMI-2, Duscha said. It would be placed in an escrow account, along with any other monies collected — federal, state or utility industry contributions — for the decontamination of the highly radioactive, damaged unit-2 plant, he said.

"It is, in our opinion, essential we have a strong commitment from our customers to share in the decontamination costs," Duscha said. "This is necessary if we are to obtain any outside funding" for the clean-up.

Met-Ed is also trying to get unit 2 back on the base rate structure, the Consumer Advocate office said, even though GPU Nuclear President Robert Arnold said Tuesday the earliest the crippled plant could be on line would be 1989. GPU Nuclear operates TMI.

Met-Ed, in addition to seeking clean-up money in the stage two filing, is trying to recover interest and capital costs on the damaged unit 2 plant and generate a return on its investment, the Consumer Advocate office said.

"It is fair to say the Consumer Advocate office won't recommend a rate increase equal to the full amount requested by Met-Ed," an attorney for the office said.

TMI water work done without flaw

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Of the Daily Record

All 15,000 gallons of highly contaminated radioactive water were processed at Three Mile Island Unit 2 Friday without any trouble, utility officials said.

"Our experience to date shows the system is working excellently," said Robert Arnold, chief operating officer of GPU Nuclear, operator of TMI. "There hasn't been any trouble with the operation."

Technicians at unit 2 began processing a 15,000-gallon "test batch" of highly radioactive water from the basement of the containment building using the SDS Wednesday afternoon, said Gale Hovey, director of TMI-2.

More than 99 percent of the radioactivity in the water was removed by the SDS, Hovey said. "The removal rate is about what we expected," he said.

The successful handling of the highly contaminated water sets the stage for further processing of the remainder of the 600,000 gallons still in the basement. The addition cost of decontaminating this water will be between \$5 million and \$6 million, Arnold said.

Arnold said it will take nine to 12 months to process all of the contaminated water in the basement of the building. After that is done, the utility will have to wait until more money is secured to decontaminate the entire containment building.

"We have provided funds in our 1981 budget for the SDS operation," Arnold said. The processing is "the highest priority in our '82 budget. We don't anticipate funding difficulties."

"But we won't take any additional decontamination efforts until funding can be found," Arnold said. "Until funding is identified, we won't get to any other major cleanup, including removal of the fuel" in the crippled reactor.

Processing the contaminated water through the SDS removes the high concentrations of cesium-137, which accounts for 85 to 90 percent of the contamination, according to William Gifford, a spokesman for the utility.

The SDS also removes strontium-90, of great concern because the radioactive ions of this isotope attack bone marrow, causing cancer, Gifford said.

After the contaminated water is processed through the SDS it is run through the EPICOR-2 decontamination system to remove remaining radioactivity.

The water will then be stored in two 500,000 gallon holding tanks on the island. It will still be contaminated with radioactive tritium, or heavy water, Gifford said.

A press release issued by the utility said a recommendation on the disposal of the tritium-contaminated water will not be made before 1983.

For the 600,000 gallons to be completely neutralized, the water would have to sit in storage for 40 to 50 years, Hovey said. This is be-

cause tritium has a radioactive half-life of 12½ years; that is, it takes 12½ years for the tritium to lose half its radioactivity.

"No options for the disposal have been put forward by GPU," Gifford said. "1983 is a target date to consider what we will do with the water. If funding and resources are available, we will study the options."

The SDS operates in much the same way a home water softener does, according to the utility. It uses zeolite particles to catch cesium and strontium.

Canisters holding the zeolite filters will have to be changed after 100,000 gallons of water is processed, Hovey said. The SDS and the storage canisters are both kept under water to shield workers from radioactive contamination.

The Department of Energy has agreed to take the canisters, but a site for their storage hasn't been established, Hovey said. He expects the utility will begin shipping the canisters in January.

Arnold said the radiation intensity in the containment building is presently 460,000 curies. Most of the intensity comes from the contaminated water, he said. Radiation exposure levels range between 40 and 45 rems near the water's surface.

"The radiation exposure does imply some degree of risk to workers," Arnold said. "It's accurate to characterize SDS operations as typical of the kinds of activities having high radiation exposures."

NRC split

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Nuclear Regulatory Commission members clashed today over how harshly General Public Utilities officers should be questioned about their ability to safely restart Three Mile Island Unit 1.

Commissioner Victor Gilinsky opened a day-long hearing by challenging whether GPU personnel had learned anything from the TMI Unit 2 nuclear accident 2½ years ago. He said GPU officials have yet to clarify why state and federal officials were not promptly informed of abnormal Unit 2 conditions prior to the accident.

"Will they (GPU personnel), in the event of an accident, follow their natural instincts to play down that accident to the public?" Gilinsky asked.

Commissioner John F. Ahearne countered that numerous similar conclusions about GPU's inadequacies had been reached by several investigations. The NRC, he said, would be better off concentrating on specific, new management preparations made by GPU for the restart.

Ahearne also differed with Gilinsky's statement that the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board had concluded that GPU officials had intentionally withheld information before the accident.

The conflict was evident as the commission started final consideration of whether to allow restart of Unit 1 this year. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has recommended that GPU is competent to operate Unit 1.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, October 22, 1981

Letter to the editor

TMI refugees miss home

Editor:

We've all heard the lessons learned at Three Mile Island. But there have been many lessons learned off the island as well. Our family learned that, despite the assurances to the contrary, many thousands of people have become victims of the nuclear industry. We learned that during all those years that TMI was operating "normally" there were frequent releases of radiation. And we learned from the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that the decontamination of Unit 2 is like a "game of pick-up sticks." One step at a time, he said, with little if any idea what happens next. And he smiled at our young daughter as he said that; our young daughter whose life means nothing to this government official safely distant from TMI.

But our daughter's life is far more important than GPU's profits. She was part of the nuclear industry's bizarre experiment much too long. And so we moved — far from the gentle land we love. We are not alone. Say what they will, Met Ed and the local realtors are wrong. People have not been reassured and they are leaving the area. Naturally they don't advertise their reasons. Our family had to sell our home at a

considerable loss. We weren't about to scare off the few potential buyers by discussing our notorious neighbor, TMI.

Where to go? Our country is polluted with nuclear power plants, reprocessing facilities, and hazardous waste disposal sites. But Met Ed continues in its role of incompetent and the NRC continues to cater to the nuclear industry. We asked ourselves: How long before Unit 1 becomes another Unit 2? How many chances do we give Met Ed to play Russian roulette with us as the targets? We had no choice. We decided we couldn't trust them — again. We concluded 80 miles from another nuke was far better than four miles from TMI.

We miss our friends. We miss our home. We miss our piece of Pennsylvania. Met Ed stole all that from us. But nothing can replace the peace of mind we now have. We've moved; but only physically. Because the price of nuclear power in dollars and lives has already been astronomical, our family is still deeply committed to the struggle to eliminate nuclear power. Our country simply cannot afford it.

—William and Susan Shetrom,
Orlando, Fla.

Intervenor Fund Issue Is Back

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — When the NRC held a long hearing last week to decide whether its licensing board was right to recommend that Metropolitan Edison Co. had reorganized its management well enough to run Three Mile Island Unit 1 again, a testy issue reappeared.

Should a government agency, whose rules or companies it licenses are being challenged by citizens, be allowed to fund those citizens for legal and technical advice?

"Intervenor funding," as it is called, assumes that most citizens simply don't have resources of the companies that seek the weakest restrictions or of the government that will eventually rule on those restrictions.

Commercial use of nuclear energy during the last 25 years has highlighted the resource gap between citizens and those who serve them — the electric utilities and the NRC.

It turns out some of the citizens' fears about nuclear power were justified. Intervenor in NRC licensing hearings were unusual until the last decade. Now they are common. They remain outgunned. Federal records of legal fees paid by utilities in the many TMI proceedings through 1979-80, for example, indicated citizen intervenors were being outspent roughly 15- or 20-to-1.

The TMI Unit 1 restart licensing board was extremely critical of Pennsylvanians who tried to object to Met-Ed's competence. Intervenor were berated in the board's Aug. 27 decision, which endorsed the utility's management ability. Intervenor, the board said, made distorted claims, strayed from issues at hand and failed to follow procedures.

When NRC members reviewed the record Wednesday, a majority seemed nearly as skeptical as the licensing board had been. Respectful silence greeted Louise Bradford, however, when the Three Mile Is-

land Alert member described her plight. TMIA's attorney had to withdraw in the middle of the licensing board's restart hearings because the group could no longer pay.

Bradford was forced to sit in, equipped only with a few weeks of reading on a technical subject with which she was unfamiliar.

"It was an educational experience for me," Bradford told the commissioners. "At the end of the hearing process, I was ready to begin."

A 4-1 majority of NRC members have publicly endorsed intervenor funding, although that may be changing as Reagan administration appointees take over. Congress, imbued with anti-regulation fervor and fears that anti-nuclear radicals are needlessly stalling legitimate utility proposals, has refused to provide such funding in NRC cases.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
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The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, October 21, 1981



"The utilities want local residents to bear the costs of nuclear accidents. It's called the pay-as-you-glow plan."

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Editors:

Cathie Musser
Kathy Manfred

Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

From 2

Fidler said the water processing has been "put on hold" while tests are conducted on the shipping containers to be used to transfer the highly radioactive zeolite resins from the TMI site to a federal research facility. DOE plans to take responsibility for disposal of the SDS-generated waste.

In addition to the washdown, technicians plan to install a hoist device on the polar crane during the upcoming entries, Osterhout said. The device will allow workers to move more freely between the entry level and operating deck without using the highly contaminated stairwell.

Since July 1980 16 manned entries — about one a month — have been held. GPU hopes to schedule two a week under the accelerated program, Osterhout said.

Entry personnel will be using a new piece of clothing called an "ice vest" which was developed by Pennsylvania State University. The vest is made of insulating material and can be filled with ice to keep body temperatures lower. The vest has been shown to be a "pretty effective means of combatting the problem of heat stress," Osterhout said.



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
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Sunday Pennsylvanian, Lebanon, Pa., November 15, 1981

Cheating Testimony

TMI Operators Called Frustrated And Angry

By BARBARA FAHEY
Staff Writer

HIGHSPIRE — Three Mile Island operators were "frustrated and angry with the need for them to repeatedly take the NRC exams..." while others may have felt "driven" to cheat on licensing examinations, the top boss of General Public Utility's Unit 1 testified here over the weekend.

Vice President Henry Hukill's written testimony in the hearings before Administrative Judge Gary Mihollin, who is serving as master for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, said "other operators around the country were not subject to this requirement" of repeated testing.

Hukill's testimony notes operators, who were identified only as O and W to protect their confidentiality, felt "driven to cheat." He assumed personal responsibility for not ensuring that the individuals felt ready, both substantively and emotionally, to take the exams.

Hukill told Mihollin and lawyers representing five parties that management has tried to deal with morale problems that were plaguing the employees following the charges of cheating against O and W.

"Our operators felt down because they felt they were picked on" by having to repeat the exams, Hukill said. "They've been taking exams the last two years and the plant is not running." General Public Utilities Corp. is seeking the restart of the undamaged nuclear reactor which was closed for refueling when Unit 2 was damaged in March 1979.

The hearings are being conducted to determine the ability of GPU to run the undamaged reactor.

The licensing board, which completed eight months of hearings in July, ordered additional hearings after the suspected cheating was disclosed by the NRC.

The alleged cheating on tests administered in April caused them to be given again in October.

The company has been trying to "instill spirit and morale" following a discussion with senior personnel, Hukill said in response to a question from Louise Bradford from TMI Alert Inc.

The discussion of that meeting centered on what the company could do to "pep up" the operators, Hukill said. A bonus of approximately \$1,300 to \$1,350, was awarded to the operators in June, he said.

The bonus stemmed from discussion of how the people in the plant felt "after the blow of O and W passed over," the former Navy captain testified.

Hukill described the operators as being in a "down mode." He agreed during questioning from Bradford that the investigation had led to morale sinking further.

At the time before the investigation was begun, there were operators indicating that they might leave the plant, Hukill said.

Immediately after the investigation had begun, a number of operators said they might leave. Before the investigation, one or two operators said they would leave because the plant was not starting up.

There was a feeling of "uselessness" and that they were "not using their training."

Other operators whose identities were cloaked by designations of "V" and "X" were considering leaving, Hukill testified. Operator X has quit and Hukill expected V would leave this weekend.

In these cases, Hukill answered Mihollin, the allegations of cheating may have had some effect but he really didn't think so. "O and W had some impact," he said. The basic issue is that they "can't do their job," Hukill said. "They are frustrated that they can't do what they were trained to do."

Whether anyone left as a result of the cheating, Hukill could not say. He did note "increased attrition" since the cheating incident but added that no one said he left for that particular reason. Including O and W, seven operators have left. Those who left were identified as "SS, HH, X, O, NN, W and V."

O and W, one of whom was terminated and the other who had resigned, have admitted to cheating on their NRC examinations which were given in April, according to Hukill's written testimony. That testimony

says he and Robert C. Arnold, president of GPU Nuclear Corp., reviewed portions of exams shown by inspectors. At that time, the testimony says, "It was apparent to us that there may have been collusion between operators O and W on the exam."

Hukill's testimony also noted that he was caught by "surprise and shock" when he saw the exams contained "virtually identical answers." He notes in his written testimony that O and W had reputations as "highly competent senior reactor operators and as supervisors."

Another incident which Hukill described as cheating occurred between operator Henry Shipman and an unidentified person who had been taking the exam in April. According to Hukill's testimony, Shipman had gone out of the room where he had been taking his NRC test for a cup of coffee.

Cont. page 6

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TMIA has exhausted grant monies to print and mail ISLAND UPDATES.

Proposals have been mailed to possible funding sources.

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Send \$5.00 as a yearly contribution to defray printing and mailing costs. TMIA volunteers are committed to continuing the service if you have a need.

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NO NUKES!

TMI Puzzle

More Ideas for a Solution

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT, a local anti-nuclear group, has made an important contribution to the search for a financial solution to the cleanup of the damaged nuclear reactor sitting in the middle of the Susquehanna River, an accident waiting for another accident to happen.

The TMIA proposal appears to be a step-child of the Thornburgh TMI cleanup plan, with its mix of contributors from the federal government to the nuclear industry providing funds for the removal of Unit 2's radioactive hazards. But it does throw in two new ideas worth considering. One is a proposal for a 10 percent surcharge on the state gross receipts tax levied on all electric utility bills. A second is inclusion of Maryland in the list of contributors.

In response to Governor Thornburgh's pleas, the Reagan administration has pledged \$123 million in federal cleanup funds, though it isn't clear how much of it actually will be applied to the effort at TMI and what represents research funds not directly lessening the financial burden of decontamination. One estimate is that federal funding of the cleanup project will not exceed \$25 million, which is what the TMIA plan anticipates as the federal contribution. Because the federal share is going to be less than the \$190 million anticipated by the Thornburgh plan and in recognition that Pennsylvania's share has to be larger than the \$30 million proposed by the governor in order to attract outside participation, TMIA wants to raise \$288 million over seven years from a utility bill surcharge. Indeed, it looks more and more as if Pennsylvania will have to deal with the problem on the financial level, either through higher rates or taxes, to insure that the cleanup is completed. Ten percent may not be high enough, since the TMIA plan calls upon the nuclear utility industry to come up with \$450 million. Though pledged

to provide \$190 million at the urging of the governor, industry's participation is one of the more dubious parts of both the Thornburgh and TMIA plans.

Though Maryland probably is no more eager to provide funds for the cleanup than anyone else, our southern neighbor does have legitimate reasons to be concerned about the slow pace of decontamination. A major radioactive leak from TMI into the Susquehanna, which empties into Chesapeake Bay, could be disastrous for Maryland's famed oyster and fisheries industries. If they won't provide money directly, their Congressional delegation should be working toward approval of federal funding with our own delegation.

ANOTHER important point on the glacial progress of the cleanup was made this week by Dauphin County Commission Chairman John Minnich, who also heads the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Panel on the Decontamination of Three Mile Island. Minnich said the failure of the NRC to impress on Congress the urgency of cleaning up TMI was the chief stumbling block in obtaining federal funding. It was an accurate and insightful observation.

It is as sure as anything can be that if the worst happens at TMI while the rest of the country ignores our predicament the first group with its head on a plate is going to be the NRC, and deservedly so. Irrate congressmen will be jumping all over the NRC commissioners and top officials as they squirm under the lights of television cameras trying to explain why they had not informed Congress of the seriousness of potential hazards in dragging out the cleanup. The NRC has a moral obligation, if not a statutory one, to convey to Congress and the administration a full understanding of the danger that lurks in ignoring and delaying a resolution of this ongoing accident.

Radiation and TMI

Douglas H. Bedell, manager of media relations for Three Mile Island Nuclear Station, was attempting in his letter to paint a pretty picture of a technology that has never been mastered (except for its destructive powers).

Since Bedell professes to be interested in facts, he should be aware that the dispersion of radiation is not necessarily uniform due to many factors. Average radiation dosage means nothing. Radiation averaging is like putting one foot on a red hot stove, the other foot on a block of ice, and then taking your temperature.

I would like to set the matter straight once and for all. Neither Bedell nor anyone else knows how much radiation we received.

The following information was obtained from the NRC Investigative Report No. 50-320/79-10 (NUREG-0S00).

Page 15: "... Radiation levels in the vicinity of some makeup and purification system components exceeded the limits of the licensee's measurement capability (i.e., greater than 1000 R/hr). ... The particulate and iodine monitors were off-scale due to interference from the large amounts of radioactive noble gases."

Page 20: "... However, during a five and one-half hour period from 1700 hrs to 2238 hrs on March 28 and a two-hour period from 0340 to 0540 on March 29, no offsite surveys were performed in the plume. Both of these periods of time were within the interval when the majority of the noble gases were released and when a plume was well defined because of sufficient wind speed and almost constant direction."

There are many official documents citing the ineptness of Met-Ed (GPU) during and following the accident on March 28, 1979.

Apparently, after two and one-half years, Bedell still doesn't know what happened at Three Mile Island.

Alice Herman
York RD 5

YORK DAILY RECORD • MONDAY, NOVEMBER 16, 1981

What's 'excessive' to the PUC?

Met Ed keeps pushing for rate hikes. The PUC keeps granting rate hikes. The PUC is supposed to prevent utilities from receiving excessive rate hikes.

An example of excessive rate hikes: Sept., 1980, I used 1041 KWH at a cost of \$34.79; Sept., 1981, I used 1041 KWH at a cost of \$54.13. Simple math tells me that this is an increase of 64 percent from September to September. Both of the above figures are before the ripoffs have been added.

If the PUC does not think 64 percent is an excessive rate increase, I'd hate to get their rendition of excessive.

Gene Engles
Red Lion RD 1

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Minnich scores NRC 'attitude'

Urgency about TMI 'not publicized'

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Panel on the Decontamination of Three Mile Island says the chief stumbling block in getting federal funds for the cleanup has been the NRC's failure to stress the continuing hazardous situation at TMI.

"I've been appalled at the lack of understanding" in Congress "of the reality of what we have here" at TMI, said Dauphin County Commissioner John E. Minnich. Congressmen "treat it as a local issue only, with no importance to the rest of the country."

"I feel very strongly it's partly due to the failure of the NRC to impart to Congress clearly and articulately the real danger we face if Unit 2 is not cleaned up safely," Minnich told The Evening News.

Minnich has been chairman of the 12-member NRC advisory panel since its formation in October 1980. The group has made recommendations to the NRC on the technical aspects of several facets of the cleanup. In recent weeks, it has been wrestling with drafting a position on how the \$1 billion effort should be funded.

Minnich said the panel plans several more public meetings to obtain additional input before it makes a recommendation.

He said the advisory body has "authorized me" to write to the NRC to encourage the commissioners to "take action, whatever action is necessary to stress to Congress what the problems are at TMI. In my opinion, the NRC has not done that with TMI. Hence, some of the reluctance" regarding federal funding, he said.

The government's role in the funding is somewhat clouded. The Reagan administration pledged in October to seek \$123 million in cleanup funds, but congressional opponents contend that that money is included in two research and development programs already undertaken at TMI by the U.S. Department of Energy.

The advisory panel also voted to sever the restart of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor from any cost-sharing plan to pay for the cleanup of Unit 2. "We will not consider the restart of Unit 1 in conjunction with any funding plan," Minnich said.

In the cost-sharing blueprint proposed by Gov. Dick Thornburgh in July, the restart of Unit 1 was seen as a method of helping General Public Utilities Corp., TMI's owner, to raise \$245 million in cleanup funds. But the panel, Minnich said, believes restart should be considered solely on the health, safety and technical issues.

By adopting this position, "we affirmed the fact that TMI 1 is not our jurisdiction. Our job is the decontamination of TMI 2, period," Minnich said.

Meanwhile, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearings on the Unit 1 restart continue at the Harrisburg 2 Building. Gary P. Miller, director of Unit 1 startup and test, was cross-examined Tuesday about an incident involving a Unit 2 employee who submitted answers

prepared by a colleague on a make-up test.

Miller was station manager at TMI when the cheating incident was uncovered in July 1979. He said the Unit 2 employee turned in the other man's handwritten answers to complete make-up tests on exam questions he had failed in August 1977 and February 1978.

Miller said the employee's explanation was that he "was pressed for time" because he was going on vacation and that the employee believed that if he understood the material, he fulfilled the requirements of the training program. "He didn't consider the handwriting as significant," Miller commented.

The employee in question was demoted to non-licensed duties at TMI after the incident was uncovered, Miller said. His colleague who prepared the answers contended he'd not know they were going to be used for a make-up test, Miller said. No disciplinary action was taken against him, Miller said.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, Nov. 21, 1981

TMI Worker Is Exposed To Radiation

By The Associated Press

A technician working inside the radioactive Three Mile Island containment building Friday was exposed to a small amount of radiation when he became fatigued and had part of his protective clothing removed, a plant spokesman said.

The 32-year-old worker, who was not identified, ingested 51 nano curies of cesium 137, said TMI spokesman Doug Bedell. At 100 nano curies, an exposed worker must be taken to a hospital for examination, under Nuclear Regulatory Commission rules. A nano curie is a billionth of a curie.

The worker's internal exposure would equal a lifetime dose of 3 millirems, Bedell said. By comparison, workers inside the plant are routinely exposed to 250 to 350 millirems on their body surfaces.

The incident occurred toward the end of the 22nd entry into the building, which houses the damaged Unit 2 reactor, crippled in a March 1979 accident. The worker was a Bechtel Corp. employee under contract to TMI.

Met-Ed ouster sought

BOILING SPRINGS — The Boiling Springs Civic Association unanimously passed a resolution Wednesday asking South Middleton Twp. supervisors to investigate switching power service from Metropolitan Edison Co. to Pennsylvania Power & Light Co.

The resolution will be presented to the supervisors Nov. 19, according to James Barnes, association spokesman.

None of the supervisors were among the 40 people who attended the public session, but Ray E. Otto, vice chairman of the supervisors, previously said they would consider the group's request.

Still, both he and a spokesman for the state Public Utility Commission said chances of the PUC granting such a request are practically nil.

In light of that possibility, the association passed a second resolution calling for the supervisors to examine ways for the township to produce its own hydroelectric power using local water sources.

Met-Ed serves the bulk of South Middleton. PP&L has a few customers in the northern portion of the township.

Association officials have cited a report from the National Association of Regulatory Commissioners which shows that Met-Ed pay about 3 cents per kilowatt-hour more for power.

Among those who supported the association actions at the meeting were state Rep. Bruce Smith, R-Newberry Twp., who was "very encouraged," Barnes reported.

Harrisburg area anti-nuclear activist William Keisling also attended the session and urged the association to join his "Project David" program, which calls for Met-Ed customers to withhold their bills and put them in escrow.

"It's encouraging that the people in the community support this move, support it very strongly judging from the fact that there were no negative votes," Barnes said.

The Evening News Thursday, July 16, 1981

Quotes

"I'm trying not to be too scary and not to be too reassuring. It's not a long-term situation that we prepared to tolerate." — Nuclear Regulatory Commission Commissioner Peter Bradford on potential cracking in some older nuclear power plants.

Judge mulls stress factor in restart

WASHINGTON (AP) — A federal judge said Tuesday he was wary of ruling that the mental stress of residents around Three Mile Island should be considered before the nuclear plant restarts because it could set a precedent for all nuclear facilities.

Judge James Skelly Wright of the U.S. Court of Appeals, questioning whether the disabled nuclear plant is a special case, said people everywhere are worried about radiation.

"Based on this argument, you could close every nuclear plant in the country," said Wright, one of three judges on the District of Columbia circuit court asked to reconsider the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decision to disregard psychological stress in restart proceedings.

"We're being asked to make a novel ruling that may have impact across the United States," Wright added.

But attorney William S. Jordan III, representing a group called People Against Nuclear Energy, said

TMI has already been proven unsafe and is a cause of severe anxiety to nearby residents.

"These people have already been subjected to trauma, and startup action would make the trauma permanent," Jordan told the appeals court.

PANE took its case to the Court of Appeals after the NRC rejected its request last year to include consideration of psychological stress as a precondition of renewing operation of TMI's undamaged unit 1 reactor.

Unit 1 was shut down for refueling on March 28, 1978, when Unit 2 was damaged in the worst commercial nuclear accident in history. General Public Utilities Corp., owner of the plant, is trying to restart Unit 1 to reduce the loss suffered by the plant's shutdown.

NRC attorney Peter Crane said psychological stress is a subject properly set aside for local and state governments under federal atomic regulations.

"To include it in the end of the federal regulatory proceedings would mean a lot of speculation in quantifying stress. It's different from a safety issue and it can't be measured or dealt with by means of a safety device," Crane said.

When Judge Malcolm R. Wilkey asked for proof that anyone near TMI has suffered from nervous disorders as a result of the nuclear accident, Jordan admitted that no such evidence existed.

"You can't even say we have six or 10 cases of documented mental stress," Wilkey told Jordan.

But Judge Carl McGowan, who quoted from the Kemeny Commission report of 1980 that found "short-lived" mental stress around the plant, suggested that a new examination of the problem might be in order.

"It might produce valuable information. For instance, a person with an ulcer might not want to move near Three Mile Island after such a study is made," McGowan said.

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., October 25, 1981

Washington Watch

NRC Steers Clear of Nuclear-Utility Insurance Issue

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has shied from seeking legislation to force electric utilities to hold enough insurance to pay for future reactor accident damage and cleanup.

From a perfect hindsight point of view, the NRC could have spared owners and customers of Three Mile Island Unit 2 their current financial anguish if it had insisted that adequate insurance be in force.

Metropolitan Edison Co. held a \$300 million policy when Unit 2 went haywire. That's the maximum private insurance pools offered at the time and virtually everyone thought that was enough. Still, the TMI experience has not prompted the commission lobby to act.

As one NRC staffer put it, "I guess we're reluctant to get involved" since "the last time we got burned" by supporting the general view that \$300 million was enough coverage.

NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladi-

no did note last week that the NRC would be soon proposing a final rule requiring utilities to hold the maximum amount of private, on-site insurance available. Right now, one insurance pool offers \$450 million; another offers \$375 million — not enough by TMI standards.

Private insurers claim they may be able to get coverage up to \$1 billion by sometime next year. If they don't, Palladino told a Senate committee the NRC might support a federally mandated insurance plan being pushed by Rep. Allen Ertel, D-Montoursville. The Ertel bill would offer as much as \$2 billion in coverage.

Lending an ear — Sen. Arlen Specter made good on a campaign promise recently by installing a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) in his office.

The TDD allows deaf or hearing-impaired constituents with compatible equipment to call Specter's office, type messages on a screen, transmit them through the telephone and get answers back.

The special number is 202-224-9002. Several of Specter's aides have been shown how to run the TDD, but Michele Brown on his staff is the acknowledged expert.

Only a few of the TDD's were available through the Senate sergeant-at-arms office and Specter managed to snare one of them. One problem: the senator's staff has yet to get a call.

Tax discredit? — Northern-state senators are upset with the Reagan administration over its apparent intentions to repeal alternative energy tax credits from the federal budget.

Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., who, among others fought to enlarge the energy credits for individuals and businesses in last year's windfall profits tax bill, are asking that they be consulted by the administration before a decision is made.

As expanded in the windfall bill, some of the credits, which can be deducted directly from tax liability, are substantial.

Reagan not being honest on TMI funds, says Ertel

WASHINGTON (AP) — Rep. Allen Ertel, D-Pa., said Thursday that President Reagan is trying to trick people into believing he is committing federal money to decontaminate Three Mile Island.

The congressman, whose district includes the site of the damaged nuclear plant, said \$123 million the Reagan administration promised this week is already included in two research programs under way in the Department of Energy.

Echoing comments made Wednesday by state Sen. Michel O'Pake, Ertel said in a letter to Reagan that the funds represent "neither new money nor a new initiative." He added that the ad-

ministration's position is being misrepresented by Energy Secretary James Edwards, who announced the funding commitment at a Senate hearing earlier this week.

The congressman challenged Reagan to prove that his offer includes new spending initiatives.

Energy Department officials said Ertel's charges are inaccurate because Congress has approved almost none of the proposed funds.

"It's true that the projects themselves have been okayed, but only \$31 million of the money was actually appropriated so far," Energy Department spokesman Len Artz said after Edwards' testimony was challenged.

"The president has promised to push Congress for \$75 million for research and development through 1984 and another \$48 million in additional funds that haven't been earmarked," Artz said.

But Ertel said the Energy Department already asked for the entire \$123 million in previous budget requests. The congressman called the funding announcement "little more than a smoke and mirrors trick" that falsely buoys Gov. Dick Thornburgh's proposed TMI cleanup plan.

The governor's proposal calls for \$750 million in cleanup funds from the federal and state governments as well as the utility industry and ratepayers.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, November 17, 1981

10% utility-bill surcharge is urged

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A local anti-nuclear group has recommended that a 10 percent surcharge be added to the gross receipts tax on all electric utility bills in Pennsylvania for the next seven years to raise \$288 million toward the cleanup of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor.

The surcharge would raise the bill of an average customer about \$2.70 annually, Chris Sayer, a spokesman for Three Mile Island Alert Inc., said today. The funds would be earmarked for the state's share of cleaning up the crippled Unit 2 reactor under a \$1.3 billion cost-sharing cleanup plan drafted by TMIA.

The state's share in the TMIA plan is significantly greater than

the \$30 million allocated in Gov. Dick Thornburgh's cleanup blueprint because of the "growing recognition" that Pennsylvania's "share had to be larger" in order to get support for a cost-sharing concept, Sayer said.

TMIA's proposal, drafted by Sayer and TMIA member John Murdoch, was unveiled Monday night by TMIA Chairman Louise Bradford at a meeting of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Panel on the Decontamination of TMI. The panel is gathering data on the various proposals before making a recommendation to the NRC.

TMIA's plan called for these other contributions: \$450 million from the nuclear utility industry; \$100 million from nuclear manu-

facturers; \$15 million each from New Jersey and Maryland; \$107 million from General Public Utilities Corp.; \$25 million from the federal government and \$300 million insurance on TMI.

Meanwhile, in other developments:

—Workmen at TMI began an inspection of the polar crane at the top of the Unit 2 containment building today in preparation for installation of lifting equipment during a later entry, John C. Micka, a GPU Nuclear spokesman said.

Three of six teams participating in this, the 21st entry since July 1980, were scheduled to do the

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YORK DAILY RECORD • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 4, 1981

N.Y. utility to help TMI cleanup

From Staff and Wire Reports

The Rochester Gas & Electric Co. in Rochester, N.Y., will join with other utilities in helping Metropolitan Edison pay the cost of cleaning up the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, a company spokesman said Tuesday.

Richard Peck, an R.G. & E. spokesman, said the company plans contributing \$110,000 a year during the next six years for a total of \$660,000.

Peck said the Edison Electric Institute, an industry trade group, is asking its members to pay 25 percent of the cost of cleaning up the plant. It was crippled about 2½ years ago in the nation's worst commercial nuclear power accident.

The cleanup is expected to take six years and cost \$760 million.

Peck said that although R.G. &

E. hasn't yet received a formal request to donate toward the cleanup, it expects to shoulder part of the cost and said it would be passed along to R.G. & E. customers.

In other related news, GPU Nuclear, operator of the crippled plant, is proceeding with its decontamination experiment on TMI-2 Thursday. The utility had scheduled an entry for Tuesday but experienced difficulty with some of the equipment it planned to use, a spokesman for the utility said.

Technicians will gather data and prepare areas in the reactor building for a large-scale decontamination effort in December, according to a company statement. The utility plans to release up to three curies of Krypton 85 today prior to the entry, the spokesman said.

GPU hopes to have the estimated \$1 million cost of the decontamination experiment paid for by the U.S. Department of Energy. There will be 15 additional entries before the year ends, according to the company.

The spokesman also said the red dye flow test on the Susquehanna River was completed Tuesday, but the results of the test won't become known until January at the earliest. Collected data from the test will be sent to Sutron Corp., of Fairfax, Va., for analysis, the spokesman said.

In a related matter, the \$11 million Submerged Demineralizer System has processed 159,000 gallons of highly radioactive water from the basement of unit 2, according to the spokesman.

From 5 Surcharge

crane inspection. Eighteen technicians were to enter the domed structure with nine of them assigned to the crane project.

—About 200,000 gallons of highly radioactive water left from the March 1979 accident have been processed by the submerged demineralizer system. The water level inside the containment building has dropped from about 8½ feet to 5½ feet, according to John T. Fidler, also a GPU spokesman.

At the NRC advisory meeting in the Lebanon Municipal Building, a representative of the GPU stockholders said the 1979 accident has cost GPU shareholders more than \$1 billion in lost equity and dividends. Placing the burden of the expensive cleanup on the stockholders is "both legally and morally out of the question," said I. James Alligood, a director of the American Society of Utility Investors.

Sayer said the industry contribution in the TMIA plan also is higher than the \$190 million in Thornburgh's proposal. An assessment would be levied on utilities with operating nuclear plants as well as those with plants under construction to raise the money. He said \$100 million also should be sought from nuclear manufacturers. They have profited "more than any segment of the industry" because of the "retrofits" ordered since the accident.

Sayer said TMIA believes the burden on the ratepayer "should be as low as possible" initially because of the higher electric bills GPU customers already are paying and because "any cost overruns will be picked up by consumers."

Alligood said that GPU common stock has dropped \$12 a share of market value — about \$735 million — since the 1979 accident. "In all fairness, a part of this market loss has been due to excessively high interest rates. But it's reasonable to assume that at least \$600 million of this is attributable to the accident and the subsequent actions taken by the regulatory agencies.

"If you add this to the loss in market value of the subsidiary companies, bonds and preferred stocks, you will find the market value of all securities has decreased by over \$900 million dollars."

He noted that GPU shareholders also have lost \$257 million in dividends, which GPU stopped paying because of its shaky fiscal condition after the accident.

Joel Roth of Elizabethville, a panel member, said the panel will continue to gather data on the cleanup at its December and January meetings. He said the group also will act on suggestions from TMIA to obtain an independent analysis of GPU's fiscal condition and to discuss with the state of Maryland the possibility of contributing to the cleanup cost.

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From 1 Operators

At that time, an individual from another exam classroom asked him a question, which Shipman answered.

Hukill said he learned of that incident from Shipman during personal questioning of operators. He asked individuals if they had cheated in their exams or knew of anyone else who cheated. Shipman was the only exception to the answers of "no" given by other employees, Hukill testified.

According to Hukill, Shipman has not remembered the individual to whom he gave the answer. Hukill said he questioned Shipman two times, the second time more strongly than the first.

Hukill also noted during cross-examination that there were other rumors of cheating, but no information to trace.

Hukill also testified that he has since made clear to employees the standards of conduct he will expect.

He noted in testimony that honesty is a safety-related issue.

"Any form of dishonesty is unacceptable," Hukill said.

Hukill then sent the employees a letter that emphasized the operators' obligations to follow NRC requirements, based on a concern for safety.

He noted in written testimony that he emphasized that the examinations are a means by which the plant managers and NRC can ensure and verify that operators have a certain minimum knowledge. Finally, the testimony says, he reviewed with each candidate the personal responsibility of an operator for the health and safety of the public.

The parties involved in these hearings are TMI Alert Inc., the Aamodt family of Coatesville, the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, the NRC and GPU.