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Waidner-Spahr Library
Dickinson College
P.O. Box 1773
Carlisle, PA 17013

717-245-1399

archives@dickinson.edu



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

Vol 3 No 4

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Harrisburg, Pa., TUESDAY, December 22, 1981

Delay in Start of Unit 1 Seen at Least Till March

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Three Mile Island Unit 1 could not be expected to produce electricity before March 1982, even if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approves a fast restart schedule, the NRC staff said Monday.

Cause for the delay is an engineering problem — hundreds of tube leaks in the Unit 1 steam generator. The problem was discovered by GPU Nuclear in November.

The generator sits inside the reactor building next to the core and is responsible for pushing steam heated by the nuclear chain reaction toward the turbine, producing electricity.

If there are holes in the generator's 15,000 tubes, inadequate steam is produced.

Dominic DeLami, NRC licensing project manager for TMI, said GPU Nuclear is removing tubes from the generator for metallurgical testing and plugging of the holes, a process that could take two months or more.

In response to a question from Commissioner John Ahearne, DeLami said it was unclear whether the tube deterioration was caused by Unit 1's not operating for more than 2½ years since the Unit 2 accident.

NRC staff members said no other reactors designed by Babcock & Wilcox Co. have had "this problem at this magnitude." Pending results of the tests, they could give no explanation for the phenomenon.

The commission could make its final restart decision based on favorable recommendations made by an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board as early as January. GPU Nuclear estimated it could get Unit 1 operating 41 days after an NRC go-ahead.

Although the steam generator defects were not an issue considered during the licensing board's restart proceedings, the problem could delay restart if the NRC staff determines the generator still is subpar.

The meeting on the restart schedule was hamstrung by federal law preventing the commissioners

from publicly discussing the merits of any issue that was considered by the licensing board prior to a decision being reached.

That is, the NRC could publicly discuss the steam generator leaks, but could not talk about the pros and cons of new Unit 1 control room instruments that were considered by the licensing board.

The only exception, NRC general counsel Leonard Bickwit advised, would be if the NRC opened the meeting so all restart intervenors could comment.

Intervenors Louise Bradford of TMI Alert Inc., and the Union of Concerned Scientists sought a public meeting open for comment by all parties.

For the time being, the commission chose to limit public discussion on restart and meet privately on matters directly related to pending restart decisions.

WEDNESDAY, DECEMBER 16, 1981

Leaving TMI behind: homes, memories, pain

by Ken Dermota
Guide staff writer

After the March 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, a number of families — no one knows how small or large — began a quiet emigration away from the memories, the trauma and the risk of further radiation from the plant. They also left behind friends, jobs and sacrificed thousands of dollars on the sale of their homes.

Some were anti-nuclear fighters before the accident. Others have withdrawn from the area without comment. Some are vocal about their feelings. Others would only say, "the less I talk about it, the better."

What they all have in common is that they just call it "the accident." They can call it that because the meaning is obvious: "the accident" is the event after which things would not be the same.

Sue, Bill and Jennifer Shetrom left their Etters home which had overlooked TMI's cooling towers. This summer they moved to a home in Florida, surrounded by trees hung with Spanish

moss.

Their reason for leaving was their eight-year-old daughter, Jennifer. "The realization that whether or not they restarted Unit 1, we had to live with the decontamination [of Unit 2], and the thought that my child would be 16 or 17 when they finished up — I thought that was too much of a risk," Sue Shetrom said.

On top of the risk of radiation, Jennifer had already become "orphaned" to a mother who had joined the Campaign to Stop the Restart of Three Mile Island, which is fighting the re-opening of the undamaged reactor. Said Sue, "I became so involved that there wasn't time for my family. One night in particular made us leave. I was in a Middletown meeting and she got hysterical. 'Mommy, I can't stand it, I don't see you any more.'"

In ways, things are easier in Florida, but all is not smoothed over, said Mrs. Shetrom. There is the loss of credit references in a new town, and the loss of friends. There was job hunting from a thousand miles away. Sue has gotten

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NO NUKES!

Cont. p 4

Troubles hit EPA near TMI

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The Middletown office of the Environmental Protection Agency — the federal agency charged with monitoring the environment around Three Mile Island — has been beset with equipment breakdowns and delays in analyzing samples, its director said today.

But despite the problems, "I think what data that is produced is good data," Dr. William P. Kirk said. "Only, it has gaps in it from time to time as a piece of equipment dies and has to be taken out and repaired."

At this point in the Unit 2 cleanup, Kirk said delays in receiving sample analyses do not pose any hazard to public health and safety.

Kirk said he has asked for a \$760,000 budget to operate EPA's Middletown office for fiscal 1982 — \$440,000 of it for equipment replacement. He said he is going to Washington next week for budget talks with officials from EPA's Office of Radiation Program to fight "to get our share of the pie."

Kirk said the Middletown office has gotten "interim budget allotments in those areas where we have to spend now to keep on going," but the purchase of new equipment has been frozen and some staff has been eliminated.

One area where the belt-tightening has been noticed is the transportation of samples to EPA laboratories in Las Vegas for analyses for radioactive krypton-85 and tritium. Formerly, the samples were sent to Las Vegas weekly by airplane, but "it got to the point where we couldn't support \$60,000 for airfreight," Kirk said. Consequently, the samples now are shipped every two weeks to Las Vegas by truck, so "it is taking a couple of weeks from the time we send the sample out to get the answers back."

This method also has resulted in a shortage of sampling containers because they are tied up in travel much longer.

The gamma rate recorders — used to monitor gamma radiation — were not designed for continuous use in the "hostile" climate of northeastern United States. They were designed "for desert areas and to be used for short periods of time," Kirk said. "We've had these in this climate for 2½ years ... They should be replaced."

Another piece of equipment used to analyze data is nearly eight years old and has "major breakdowns and minor breakdowns," Kirk said. He has asked for a new "modest" one that costs about \$17,000. More sophisticated devices can cost \$50,000, he added.

The Unit 2 reactor has stabilized, and even with the processing of highly contaminated water in the Unit 2 basement, only background levels of radiation are being detected in the TMI area, according to the EPA weekly monitoring reports.

Protesters want NRC hearings on restart

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Members of a Harrisburg area anti-nuclear group demonstrated in front of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission over the noon hour today and asked the commissioners to hold an informal meeting with the public in central Pennsylvania before making a decision on the restart of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 nuclear plant.

About 25 persons held up posters of the anti-nuclear umbrella group, "Campaign to Stop the Restart at Three Mile Island. Joined by several members of the Potomac Alliance, a Washington, D.C., organization opposed to nuclear power, the group attempted later in the day to meet with NRC member Peter Bradford.

Linda Lotz, director of the Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center, delivered a letter to the commission. In it, she claimed restart proceedings held by an NRC-appointed Atomic Safety and Licensing Board have been "heavily weighted" toward Unit 1 owner General Public Utilities' point of view.

"... the discussion about res-

start has been primarily between lawyers," Lotz said in the letter. "We are concerned that you will make a decision that will very intimately affect our lives based only on documents which you will read in your offices in Washington, D.C."

In asking for a Harrisburg meeting, Lotz said, "We realize that this is an extraordinary request, but the TMI accident is extraordinary and requires equally extraordinary response from the commission."

NRC members, who were meeting in an extended session, could not be reached for comment on the invitation this afternoon.

The licensing board has recommended to the NRC that low power operation of Unit 1 is justified, based on two years' consideration of GPU management competence, plant design safety and evacuation plans. The board has yet to rule on the restart implications of a cheating incident involving two GPU senior reactor operators. The cheating recommendation isn't expected until March or April next year.

YORK DAILY RECORD • WEDNESDAY, NOVEMBER 25, 1981

LETTERS

Reports on TMI

Once again Douglas H. Bedell, media relations manager of GPU Nuclear, is citing reports that use calculations and estimations to arrive at a figure for the amount of radiation released during the accident at Three Mile Island. The knowledgeable people in this area know that radiation dosage is cumulative and that the ongoing cleanup is producing more radiation.

He mentions NUREG 0558, the Kemeny Commission report and the Rogovin report. These reports contain some interesting facts if you read them carefully. The following information was obtained from these reports.

"Population Dose and Nuclear Impact of the Accident at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station" (NUREG 0558), page 5: "... However, a single precise value for the collective does cannot be assigned because of the limited number of fixed ground level dosimeters deployed during the accident."

"Report of the President's Commission on the Accident at Three Mile Island," (Kemeny Commission) page 34: "... There were deficiencies in instrumentation for measuring the radioactivity released, particularly during the early stages of the accident."

"A Report to the Commissioners and to the Public," Volume II, Part 2, (Rogovin Special Inquiry Group) page 342. The paragraph following Bedell's quotation states: "At Three Mile Island Station, a conflict existed between operations and radiation protection due to management's motivation toward production. As a result, radiation protection was perceived as a 'necessary evil,' and considered secondary to production."

The media relations departments of the nuclear utilities have been misleading the public for too long. They interpret official findings in their favor in order to further their financial gain. These large and costly media relations departments are an extreme burden on the ratepayers.

Alice Herman
York RD 5

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Editors:

Cathie Musser
Kathy Manfred

Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

CHEAT from 3

served the cheating when he himself was taking a test to qualify for a radiation work permit.

"I noticed that a number of people were using crib sheets to help them on the test. I didn't try to count heads but the people I say were all using these crib sheets, including the man next to me," he said.

He admitted under questioning from a Met Ed lawyer that he knew no one else who could corroborate his account of the alleged cheating, that he had taken company documents from the plant without permission and that he is writing a book about Three Mile Island.

Williams said he found the documents on the floor of an office at the plant, absently-mindedly took the documents home and then kept them out of fear of being disciplined for the action.

TMI-1 restart pushed by panel

IF THE CALIBER of investigation, analysis and thought applied to a given problem could be measured by the time consumed in doing it and the weight of the final report, then the accomplishment of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board looking into the restart of the Unit 1 nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island merits a high ranking. After spending many months taking testimony on the fitness of the undamaged nuclear plant and the competency of the management of General Public Utilities to operate it, the three-member board has released its findings in an 800-page report. Its predictable conclusion: The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should grant GPU permission to commence operation of the reactor.

But if the licensing board was "exhaustive" in its inquiry it surely was not thorough; if it asked many questions, it failed to ask the right questions; if it looked at every screw, it could not grasp the entirety of the problem. It did, essentially, what a previous licensing board had done in certifying the safety and soundness of Unit 2, which, in a shorter time than it took to pass the NRC's rigorous review, became a world symbol of a technology that not only failed, but threatened the lives and fortunes of thousands of people.

It is possible to separate the technical connections between the two reactors at TMI -- as is being done -- but it is even beyond the power of the NRC to alter their physical proximity or to extinguish the trauma inflicted from there on a public trusting of the judgment, integrity and technical competence of the utility and its nuclear overseer. The licensing board could deal with the myriad of technical questions, it could not -- it would not -- address the psychological result when a nuclear accident ren-

dered volumes of self-assured technological reviews into gibberish and a reactor into radioactive mush. We have a right to ask why the licensing board's judgment will be right this time when it was wrong the last time.

THERE IS MORE to the issue of restarting Unit 1 than a technological evaluation made by a panel dedicated to isolating nuclear power decision-making from the influence of the host community. It is an indication of how devoid the process is of sensitivity to its mistakes and a measure of its lack of social accountability that the operation of Unit 1 can be considered while only yards away its sister plant sits in ruin, contaminated by radioactivity, an acknowledged health and safety hazard which continues unresolved.

The system has failed to come to grips with this nuclear stepchild. No one wants to admit paternity, so the easiest thing to do is to ignore it, let it sit there. The government licenses them, the utilities operate them and the Good Lord cleans them up. The system never was prepared to deal with a \$1 billion nuclear accident and it is no more prepared today, yet it proceeds with licensing of nuclear plants as if TMI never happened, as if it didn't exist, as if there wasn't an all too real risk of radioactive contamination of downstream community water systems and the irreplaceable Chesapeake Bay fishery.

Only a system that is morally bankrupt would carry on its ritual of attesting to the innocuousness of nuclear power plants across the ashes of one that says it isn't. The final decision on the recommendations of the licensing board rests with the full commission of the NRC and it will be less of a judgment on Unit 1 than it is a judgment on itself and the morality of the policies it pursues.

LETTERS

GPU's new construction project

The moderator on a call-in broadcast over one of our neighboring stations read some valuable information concerning a recent action taken by General Public Utilities and a Canadian power plant.

They have signed a letter of intent to build an underwater cable to Canada via Lake Erie, a cable which will be 62 miles in length and cost \$800 million. GPU's share of this cost will be \$326 million.

How can GPU or Metropolitan Edison, which is a subsidiary of GPU, afford to spend \$326 million on this project when they claim they are on the verge of bankruptcy when they are asked about paying for the cleanup of Unit 2 at Three Mile Island?

Someone must not be telling the truth, because if they were that near bankruptcy, I'm sure that even the banks would not loan them an additional \$326 million for the construction of this underground cable.

I would like some trusted officials of either Met-Ed or GPU to give us a logical explanation.

Robert H. Weaver
Manchester Township

YORK DAILY RECORD • SATURDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 1981

TMI cheat witness barred...

HARRISBURG (AP) — A hearing judge Friday barred a former Three Mile Island security guard from testifying about cheating on tests at the nuclear plant, saying he was not a credible witness.

Harry E. Williams Jr. had volunteered to testify for intervenors opposing the restart of TMI's undamaged Unit 1 nuclear reactor, in hearings on the testing procedures used to qualify plant operators.

Williams, employed at TMI from February 1979 to May 1979 by Gregg Security Services, had prepared testimony alleging he witnessed other workers at the plant copying answers from a "crib sheet" during a radiation work permit examination on April 28, 1979.

However, the hearing judge, special master Gary Mulhollin, said Williams appeared "totally incredible" in preliminary questions, so his testimony should not be considered.

The hearing judge also said the value of the testimony would be "slight" because it did not relate directly to test cheating by operators on training and qualifying exams.

The hearings are part of the ongoing Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigation into whether Unit 1 should be restarted.

Lengthy hearings on the proposed restart ended earlier this year, but were reopened after the NRC staff found evidence that two plant operators cheated on an NRC-administered qualifying exam. Met Ed later found at least one suspicious test result involving the same employee on a company-administered training test.

In his prepared testimony, which Mulhollin refused to make part of the record, Williams said he ob-

Cont. p. 2

LEAVING from a job as a teacher, and Bill is a hydraulic engineer.

The family was split up for a month while Bill stayed behind to sell the house — "at a huge loss," said Mrs. Shetrom, "but we took it so Bill could move down here, too."

The Shetroms settled on Orlando because of the availability of jobs and because it is more than 60 miles from a nuclear power plant. "We could have moved to northern Montana [to be further way from a nuclear power plant], but that was unacceptable."

It is "not knowing" that finally upset the family — not knowing how much radiation they had absorbed or what the consequences would be. "When we get a family doctor down here," said Sue, "he'll have to be aware of the possibilities."

Guilt and distrust

Ron and Stephanie Borruso wondered about their children's futures, too.

They were neighbors of the Shetroms in Etters and lived less than two miles from the plant.

The Borrusos spoke from extension phones in their Ballstrom home in upstate New York: Bill: "Thursday [after the accident], the kids were out all day because they [the authorities] said it was okay." Stephanie: "I still feel guilty." Ron: "We can't know until years in the future if it will be okay." Stephanie: "We were stupid enough to believe them." Ron: "I don't know who to believe or how much radiation is safe."

The possible damage to their children remains a possibility. But the damage to their faith in the authorities is real. "Big business has a big role in how the government is run," said Ron who is a computer salesman and a Re-

publican. "It's not what the people want — it's what big business is afraid to lose. If something happens at TMI and it's shut down, they're not so concerned about the number of lives concerned, but the amount of money lost."

But the moves that were made for the children were also hard on the children. Jennifer Shetrom broke out in hives on the trip to Florida. The Borruso's daughter Tricia loves school, but has few friends in New York. And her brother Antony's view of the world is a bit askew. "When he said 'Plants can hurt you,' I told him that wasn't so," Ron Borruso said. "But then Antony said, 'But the plants in Pennsylvania can hurt you,' meaning the radiation on the grass."

Parents can miss friends, too. Although the Borrusos said they took a

\$2,500 loss on their house, "the loss couldn't be counted in monetary terms," Stephanie explained. The Borrusos had a group of neighbors who all moved into the area at the same time, helped each other landscape their new homes and held neighborhood cookouts.

The neighborhood harmony just couldn't outweigh the danger to the children. Eventually, trying to stay in one place meant having to run, because Stephanie Borruso took the children to New York city each time TMI vented more of its radioactive gas. "I just couldn't take my kids and run any more," said Stephanie.

The stress of running took its toll on Stephanie, who said, "I'm not normally over-emotional, but I was at a point that we had to get out of here. Once, I was on my way to the grocery store and I just

Cont p. 6

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Dec. 30, 1981

Governor, 3 Groups Support New Met-Ed Rate Increase

By CARMEN BRUTTO
Staff Writer

The Public Utility Commission will consider on Jan. 8 a proposed \$128 million rate increase for users of electricity from Three Mile Island that has the support of Gov. Dick Thornburgh, the Consumer Advocate, General Public Utilities and Three Mile Island Alert.

PUC Administrative Law Judge Joseph P. Matuschak said Tuesday he will recommend to the commission adoption of the Metropolitan Edison-Pennsylvania Electric rate case settlement, which would add \$74 million to the bills of the former and \$54 million to the bills of the latter in the initial phase.

The increases would remain in effect until the undamaged Unit 1 is returned to service, when rates would decline. In addition, within a few months decreases in fuel costs are expected to wipe out most of the boosts when deferred energy and replacement power cost surcharges are eliminated.

The terms of the agreement, reached by the Consumer Advocate, GPU and the PUC trial staff, spell out the first firm commitment by any of the parties to Thornburgh's cost-sharing plan to clean up the damaged reactor. Also included in the settlement is a recommendation that would allow TMI's owners to begin collecting from ratepayers part of the costs for the TMI-2 cleanup.

The utilities had originally asked for a \$212 million increase for Met-Ed and \$124 million for Penelec. The agreement trimmed back the requests. The settlement includes commitments for TMI cleanup of \$25 million and \$12.5 million, respectively, from Met Ed

and Penelec customers. These payments will be made only if the undamaged unit is put into operation and the total of \$120 million in replacement power charges cease.

Thornburgh said the proposed settlement is "yet another positive step" in efforts to implement a broad-based sharing approach to the TMI cleanup. Last summer the governor outlined a plan that would share the cleanup costs among Met-Ed ratepayers, the state and federal governments, and the nuclear industry.

"While the ultimate decision rests with the federal government, I have made it equally clear that I cannot support restart of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor on TMI without assurances that this particular facility can be operated safely, and that a consensus for the cleanup of the damaged Unit 2 reactor has been developed," Thornburgh said.

"At the same time, I believe it is evident that various parties with an interest in the decontamination program are working responsibly, and in good faith, to help us put this difficult problem behind us," he added.

Consumer Advocate Walter W. Cohen said the agreement is a message that the ratepayers "are stepping out in front with this good-faith effort" to assist in the cleanup. The ratepayers, he said, are "putting their money on the table" in backing the Thornburgh plan.

"Now they are looking to see if their representatives in Washington, their president and the leadership in the public utility industry throughout the country will show similar good faith," Cohen said.

William G. Kuhns, president of GPU, the parent company of the two utilities, said the agreement should provide the impetus to the others to become involved in financial participation.

However, Kuhns said the increases are not adequate to restore the utilities to complete financial health, but that they are sufficient to deal with the needs of their current reduced levels of operation.

Joanne Doroshow, vice chairwoman of TMIA, in announcing support of the agreement, said much of the settlement terms match the cleanup proposals advanced by the group.

"Most importantly, this settlement now puts the responsibility on the other parties in a cost-sharing arrangement," Doroshow said.

She noted that as part of the agreement Met-Ed cannot enter into further rate proceedings until January 1983, keeping the rates stable at least until then.

"But they can, and will, go lower," she added. "This is not a perfect arrangement, but we did get a number of provisions that we felt were important. Everybody gave up something." TMIA, though, noted its opposition to the link between Unit 1 restart and the cleanup funds for Unit 2.

The monthly bill of an average Met Ed customer paying \$37.67 in January would increase to \$43.09 under the first step, followed by a reduction to \$39.85 when Unit 1 goes back on line and finally leveling at \$38.74 when the deferred energy charge expires in May.

The money collected for the cleanup would be placed in escrow and none would be used for restoration of the reactor, under the agreement.

TMI-area evacuation plan issued

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

In the event of a major accident at Three Mile Island, evacuating the 170,000 residents within a 10-mile radius of the plant would take between 8½ and 11½ hours, depending on the weather, according to the state's emergency plan for TMI.

Drafted by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency, the plan uses evacuation estimates prepared by a consulting firm for General Public Utilities Corp., TMI's owner. The "best estimate" for an evacuation on a "typical weekday" or during the night is 8½ hours, while "adverse weather" conditions would add three hours to that time.

Those estimates are based on the departure of 90 percent of the population with the remaining residents presumably being emergency personnel. The study notes an evacuation of this magnitude "may not be typical or prevail in the extreme" but it is being used to provide a planning margin "of conservatism which has historically prevailed PEMA's planning efforts."

The plan and those of the five counties in the 10-mile radius will be discussed at a public meeting Dec. 18 at 10 a.m. in the William Penn Memorial Museum. All the plans are on display at the

state Library. Although the state document includes sections on other nuclear plants in the state, only the portion relating to TMI will be reviewed at the meeting.

If a general evacuation were ordered by the governor, it would apply to the "full 360-degree plume exposure pathway," according to the PEMA plan. The "pathway" is the area potentially subject to any radiation emanating from the plant and is designated as falling within a 10-mile radius.

"While this policy (360-degree evacuation) is conservative, it is predicated on experience gained" during the March 1979 incident at Three Mile Island, the document states. "Wind direction is a varying factor and a 360-degree evacuation ensures that sudden wind changes will not endanger unsuspecting sections of the population."

The plan notes that the full 360-degree evacuation "also eliminates the confusion" that could be caused if a selective evacuation is ordered and subsequently expanded piecemeal or "by a spontaneous public evacuation."

The governor has the "sole authority and responsibility" for ordering an evacuation, and PEMA has the "primary responsibility for directing and control-

ling" an evacuation ordered by the governor, the plan notes.

The emergency blueprint, revised in November, outlines the duties of some 15 state departments and agencies which would respond in a nuclear emergency. PEMA is designated as the lead state agency to coordinate their efforts.

The plan provides that the public initially be notified of a nuclear emergency by sirens. When the sirens were activated, a message would be broadcast immediately over the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration weather radio system advising residents an incident had occurred at TMI and telling them to stay tuned to the NOAA station or turn to the emergency broadcast station in their area. (In Dauphin County the EBS is WHP AM and FM.)

The plan asserts this notification system would alert the residents in a five-mile radius of the plant within 15 minutes with the remaining residents in the plume exposure pathway being alerted within 45 minutes.

The plan also contains a map of highways to be designated emergency evacuation routes.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, December 15, 1981

Core samples of walls and floor to be taken during TMI-2 entry

Technicians planned to take core samples of the concrete walls and floor of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor building today, a GPU Nuclear spokesman announced.

John C. Micka said a hollow drill would be used to obtain the concrete samples from the operating deck (347 level). The job was one of several on tap during today's manned entry, the 25th since the March 1979 accident.

Samples also were to be obtained of the paint and steel surfaces. The samples will be analyzed to determine the most effective wash-down techniques to be used during a large-scale scrubbing of the entry level and operating deck next month.

Technicians also planned to evaluate a new two-way radio system and remove several radiation instruments previously installed in the building.

If any task is uncompleted today, another entry will be conduct-

ed Thursday, Micka said.

Meanwhile, in other TMI-related events:

—GPU was to begin final testing today of a \$2 million emergency warning system installed within a 10-mile radius of the plant. When testing is completed, the 79-siren system will be turned over the emergency management agencies in Dauphin, Cumberland, Lebanon, Lancaster and York counties for use during nuclear and non-nuclear emergencies.

—General Public Utilities Corp., TMI's owner, amended a lawsuit filed in March 1980 against Babcock and Wilcox Co., the supplier of the nuclear steam-generating equipment at TMI. GPU now seeks to recoup \$3.5 billion from B&W for damages suffered in the nuclear accident instead of the original \$500 million.

YORK DAILY RECORD DEC. 2, 1981

21 pass operators' tests;

HARRISBURG (AP) — The owners of the Three Mile Island nuclear plants said Tuesday that 21 of 31 reactor operators passed a new round of federal licensing tests held in the wake of a cheating scandal.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission tests were administered in October and are required before operators can be licensed.

Twenty-six of 36 operators passed the NRC tests in April, but the results were thrown out after the NRC discovered two cases of suspected cheating.

The NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has been hearing testimony on whether the scandal reflects on the ability of General Public Utilities Corp. to operate the undamaged Unit 1 reactor.

GPU said the October tests results assure that enough operators will have licenses to run the plant. The company intends to use five shifts of four licensed operators.

Unit 1 has been closed since the adjacent Unit 2 plant was crippled in the March 1979 accident. The NRC is expected to decide shortly whether GPU can reopen Unit 1.

LEAVING from 4 sat there and cried. I ended up under a doctor's care."

Stephanie is 29 and Ron is 31. The accident affirmed their decision to have no more children.

A physician worries

Doctor Michael Gluck of Carlisle is also worried about the effect of radiation of his children. His wife, Kay, who is also a physician, was six months pregnant at the time of the accident.

"We feel terrible," Michael confided, "But that's a burden we all have to carry."

The Glucks were living in Newberrytown at the time of the accident — less than five miles from the plant.

Since then, the Glucks

have moved as far upwind of the plant as they can while remaining within fifteen minute's drive of patients at Harrisburg's hospitals.

Michael Gluck has looked into radiation's effects on the body, and concludes, "I'm concerned that radiation does harm. There's a question of how much harm, but we should get as little as possible."

Dr. Gluck mentioned that some of his patients suffered stress as one consequence of the accident, as did his wife: "She was very, very upset [about the child], and still is."

Terry Roth is now an attorney for the Association for Retarded Citizens in Pittsburgh. She has no children yet, but she moved from Harrisburg so that she could begin her

family far away from Three Mile Island.

She fears that more radiation may be released during the decontamination of the plant. "It is an accident waiting to continue," said Ms. Roth. Radiation is also normally released from an operating plant, and Terry wanted to be out of the way of TMI Unit 1, which is scheduled to begin operating early next year.

Even the amount of radiation she has absorbed so far frightens her. "I'm not having a kid without chromosome testing," said Terry Roth, since radiation can affect the genetic code retained in the chromosomes. She already has the prescription for the test, "but I'm afraid to find out the results," she said.

As a professional, Ms. Roth is concerned about working people who are tied to their jobs. It is harder for them to move to a location that is safe for child rearing, she said.

Terry Roth said, "At first I wanted to make a public statement before I left about my reasons for leaving. But it occurred to me that it could further alarm other women who weren't as easily mobile as I am and I didn't want my personal statement to frighten them."

Others stay behind

One family that was restrained from leaving was the Streets of Middletown. "My home has become a house," said Pat Street. "It happened when we had to evacuate. Under normal circumstances you don't have to pack up and leave

without a thought of being able to return."

"A home implies security, a place to get away from it all," said Mrs. Street. But being near a nuclear power plant is a constant reminder of what could have happened two and a half years ago. "The cooling towers loom over like there's no tomorrow."

The Streets also feel that moving wouldn't do all that much good, because the country is full of nuclear power plants. "Where can you go that's safe?" asked Ms. Street. "I'd like to be at least 200 miles from a nuclear power plant, but I don't think there's a place in the country you can be 200 miles from a nuclear power plant," she said.

REJOICE!

As we go to print...
(SEE "UPDATES" DEC., 1981 p. 4)

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Pepper Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

NON-PROFIT ORG.
U.S. POSTAGE

PAID

Harrisburg, PA
Permit No. 807

Harrisburg, Pa., FRIDAY, January 8, 1982

Mental Role Ruled TMI-1 Restart Key

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Court of Appeals here ruled late Thursday that the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island cannot be restarted until the government weighs the possibility of adverse psychological effects upon people living near the central Pennsylvania nuclear plant.

The appellate panel, in a 2-1 decision, said the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission should make that assessment.

The decision was a long-awaited victory for People Against Nuclear Energy, a midstate Pennsylvania group opposed to restart, and appellant in the case.

"It's an important decision for us," said James Hurst, a PANE director. Hurst said PANE has been fighting to have the psychological

impact of restart considered since September 1979, when PANE became an intervenor in the restart hearings.

"We hope they (the NRC) use the best mental health experts" to perform the assessment of possible psychological impact, Hurst said. "Mental health is as much health as is physical health."

Hurst said PANE's appeal stemmed from a December 1980 statement by the NRC that psychological aspects of restart would not be considered.

General Public Utilities Corp., operator of the plant through GPU Nuclear, had no comment on the appeals court ruling Thursday night.

The ruling was issued too late for GPU to review Thursday, GPU spokesman Douglas H. Bedell said.

In Thursday's ruling, majority Judges J. Skelly Wright and Carl McGowan said that until the NRC complies on the psychological issue, "it shall not make a decision to restart TMI-1."

U.S. Circuit Judge Malcolm Richard Wilkey dissented, saying, "Whether designedly so or not, this order will bar the resumption of furnishing nuclear power from TMI-1, at which there has never been an accident, until such time as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission satisfies this court..."

"This delay is imposed because of the asserted impact 'on the psychological health of neighboring residents,' an impact which has never before been considered as covered by the National Environmental Policy Act," Wilkey said.



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

VOL. 3 NO. 5

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YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, JANUARY 29, 1982

TMI-1 deterioration appears extensive

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Of the Daily Record

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Corrosion and leaks in at least 4,000 tubes carrying radioactive water from the Three Mile Island unit 1 reactor are evidence of a problem more widespread than the operator of the plant led the public to believe.

Spokesmen for GPU Nuclear Corp., operator of the TMI nuclear complex, admitted Thursday that the problem of deterioration in the steam generator tube system of unit 1 was far more extensive than has been reported publicly.

The steam generator tubes carry hot, pressurized radioactive water from the unit 1 nuclear reactor. They are part of what is known as a "primary system" of unit 1.

The tubes, heated by the reactor water, in turn heat non-radioactive water surrounding them, producing steam.

The steam turns the turbine, spinning the unit 1 generator. This produces electricity.

"Preliminary tests show corrosion has started from the primary side," said Robert D. Pollard, nuclear safety engineer for the Union of Concerned Scientists in Washington.

"This is the main system," Pollard said. "(It) must stay intact if a coolant accident (in unit 1), like the one at unit 2, is to be avoided."

Unit 2 was damaged during the worst accident in the history of civilian nuclear power on March 28, 1979. A loss of reactor coolant led to an uncovering of the reactor core, and a partial nuclear fuel meltdown, the extent of which isn't yet known.

The state Public Utility Commission has approved a rate hike settlement that envisions the restart of unit 1. Ratepayers' dollars generated from the restart, if allowed, would be used to pay part of the cleanup costs of TMI-2.

The problem, Pollard said, is what caused the leaks and corrosion and any other corrosion in the primary system and whether GPU Nuclear can prevent it from happening again.

Given that, he said, "What very well might happen is unit 1 will have an accident. Then there would be two (reactor buildings) to clean up, and no source of funding for either."

For more than a month, the operator claimed some 124 unit 1 steam generator tubes leaked, and gave no indication of further widespread deterioration in the system.

In a Monday press release, GPU Nuclear said "the tube leaks have resulted in minor additions to the routine levels of radioactive releases from the plant," all "well within federal environmental technical specifications."

The operator also stated that repairs to the tubes "probably will result in at least a six month delay in the readiness of the reactor for restart."

However, Monday's statement contained no reference to the number of tubes affected by corrosion. In early December, the operator reported discovering the 124 leaks.

Also on Monday, representatives of GPU reportedly met with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff to discuss the problem of leaks and corrosion of the 4,000 tubes and possible solutions.

In a related matter, the Union of Concerned Scientists urged Gov. Dick Thornburgh to conduct an independent review of an NRC licensing board and staff findings regarding restart of unit 1.

The UCS charged the NRC staff was "deliberately deceptive" in its response to safety concerns outlined by Thornburgh in a letter to NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino.

The UCS charges "the (NRC) staff has attempted to create an impression more favorable to restart of TMI-1 than it knows is warranted."

The widespread nature of the deterioration of the steam generator tubes at unit 1 was first made public by *Inside NRC*, a biweekly trade newsletter published by McGraw-Hill Inc.

The article in the newsletter's Jan. 25 edition, entitled "Extent of TMI Steam Generator Corrosion Far Ex-

ceeds NRC's Expectation," was written by Anne Hyde, one of the newsletter's Washington editors, who received information on the leak and corrosion problem from an unnamed NRC staffer.

GPU Nuclear Corp. spokesmen confirmed the magnitude of the corrosion problem when asked for comment by the *Daily Record*.

The *Inside NRC* article states NRC staffers are perplexed by the speed with which the deterioration

Cont. pg. 6

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N-plant foes call ruling 'worth it'

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A legal fight to get federal regulators to consider the psychological stress on residents of restarting Three Mile Island Unit 1 may end up costing more than \$25,000, but Middletown anti-nuclear activists today said the investment was worth it.

"It's been very costly," said Jim Hurst, a director of People Against Nuclear Energy, the group which has waged a 16-month legal battle to have the psychological impact of the restart considered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

In a 2-1 ruling Thursday, the U.S. Court of Appeals ordered the NRC to prepare an environmental assessment regarding the effects of the proposed restart.

"The commission shall then determine, on the basis of this environmental assessment, whether the National Environmental Policy Act requires preparation of a full environmental impact statement," the court said.

Hurst said the legal fight thus far has cost PANE between \$20,000 and \$25,000 with about \$8,000 spent on its appeal of the NRC's December 1980 refusal to order an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to consider the stress issue in its deliberations on restart. Hurst said PANE has about \$9,000 in legal

bills still outstanding.

"We were just really convinced that the issue is so important," Hurst said, adding it was "very difficult" for board members to commit PANE to a costly fight and "run up debts." He said PANE's financial support came from the public and some grants from national foundations.

"I think a lot of people had a sense of frustration" over the NRC's position. "We tried to say justice would prevail . . . that the issue would be heard. It was a question of how much money we would have to spend and what level of the court would hear it," Hurst said.

Paula Kinney, also a PANE director, said the ruling is "a landmark decision." She believes it will have wide-reaching consequences because it will require regulators to consider the psychological impact of new nuclear plants on residents.

"We want to see that they (the NRC) bring in good experts for the environmental assessment," Kinney said. She said the assessment will prove "what we've been saying all along — there is definitely stress in the area."

Kinney added, "It's such a good feeling to see that a citizen's group

can win if you believe in something and you know you're right and keep on going."

Unit 1 was shut down for refueling at the time of the March 28, 1979, accident at its sister Unit 2, the worst in the history of commercial nuclear power.

In the majority ruling, Judges J. Skelly Wright and Carl McGowan also told the commission to explain its reasons for determining that psychological health would not be part of its consideration in restarting the reactor.

Judge Malcolm Richard Wilkey, the dissenter, said the order "will bar the resumption of furnishing nuclear power from TMI-1, at which there has never been an accident, until such time as the Nuclear Regulatory Commission satisfies this court

"This delay is imposed because of the asserted impact 'on the psychological health of neighboring residents,' an impact which has never before been considered as covered by the National Environmental Policy Act."

Wilkey said the court is concerned that the well-being of the TMI communities be assessed, "yet while this is taking place, for the communities near TMI-1, it will be a colder winter than predicted."

TMI rate OK highlighted by walkout

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The state Public Utility Commission today approved \$128 million in rate increases for Three Mile Island utilities, but one commissioner walked out of the session to protest Gov. Dick Thornburgh's public support of the settlement.

Commissioner Michael Johnson called Thornburgh's opinion on the increase "an unfortunate intrusion on the necessary separation of powers and independence which have characterized the relationship" of governors prior to Thornburgh and "the many commissioners who have served."

Johnson said, "I do know there will be those who believe and will charge that Gov. Thornburgh's well-publicized opinion in support of a specific solution does indeed cast a long shadow over the independence of the decision that will be made here, and I myself am concerned that the issuance by the governor of his statement may be regrettable, unwarranted and perhaps imprudent."

Thornburgh on Dec. 29 issued a statement supporting a proposed settlement of base-rate increases sought by Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co. The settlement approved by the remain-

ing four commissioners today will provide \$74 million for Met Ed and \$54 million for Penelec.

The increases will go into effect immediately as part of a complicated increase-decrease three-phase formula that also will allow the utilities to begin collecting revenues for the cleanup of TMI Unit 2. While Johnson was leaving the hearing room, Chairman Susan M. Shanaman read a statement supporting approval of the settlement. "To deny this settlement is to increase the probabilities of greater health and safety problems," Shanaman said.

"For the past three years, we have felt comfortable that some cleanup was proceeding at the island with the use of insurance monies. These monies will soon be exhausted. All cleanup activity would be halted. The danger to the public would be increased. This commission would be castigated for its failures."

"In doing its part, this commission is not spending its money. It is spending ratepayer dollars during hard economic times. It is that knowledge that makes this decision so difficult — balancing the public health and safety with its cost. We do not have the luxury of being wrong," Shanaman said.

Commissioner Clifford L. Jones called the settlement "complex and complicated," but noted "it does buy time, it does make the cleanup move and it does preserve the company."

Before the vote, a representative of the Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center distributed copies of a letter the center sent to Shanaman urging the commission to reject the proposed settlement. The letter said the anti-nuclear group objected to the linking of the beginning of the collection of cleanup funds to the restart of the Unit 1 reactor.

The settlement was signed by the utilities, the PUC trial staff, the consumer advocate and some industrial customers. All parties were participants in the PUC investigation of the base-rate requests filed in June in which Met-Ed sought \$212 million and Penelec \$125 million.

Administrative Law Judge Joseph P. Matuschak, who presided over the case, has recommended the commission approve it.

But the American Society of Utility Investors, also a party in the case, opposed the agreement and refused to sign it because the pact binds the two utilities from seeking

Cont. pg. 6

Perkins 'outraged' at exclusion from plan

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

City Councilwoman-elect Jane Perkins today said she was "shocked, appalled and outraged" to learn that 85 percent of Harrisburg residents have been ignored in evacuation plans developed by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency for Three Mile Island.

Perkins said the state, the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (which conducted restart hearings on TMI Unit 1) and the Reagan administration have "callously neglected the needs of our citizens in formulating and promoting this disgraceful, inadequate plan. In their desire to reopen Three Mile Island at any cost, they have tried to run roughshod over 85 percent of the citizens of Harrisburg."

"This sham cannot be allowed. The citizens of this city and their elected officials cannot sit by while their interests and needs are sacrificed in favor of corporate interests who seek to open TMI," Perkins told a news conference at the William Penn Memorial Museum.

Several feet away in the auditorium PEMA and representatives of emergency management agencies in Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster, York and Lebanon explained the evacuation plans to about 100 county and municipal and citizens.

Mayor-elect Stephen R. Reed released a statement in which he "strongly" recommended "the inclusion of the city in the TMI evacuation plan and will, as the city's new mayor, direct that appropriate civilian and city personnel undertake initial stages of evacuation planning."

More than 30 persons were expected to make statements on the plans at the hearing. The plans already have been sent to the Federal Emergency Management Agency for approval, according to DeWitt C. Smith Jr., director of the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

Smith said PEMA's plan and those of Dauphin, Cumberland, York, Lancaster and Lebanon "have received all but final approval."

However, Smith said, there always is room for improvement and if productive recommendations were made at today's session, the plans could be revised. "Plans are dynamic," Smith said, adding that "the worst thing that could happen (in any effort) is write a plan and put it on the shelf."

The PEMA plan, under revision since the March 1979 accident at TMI, outlines the duties of the 15 state agencies that would respond if a severe accident occurred at the nuclear plant resulting in off-site radiation releases. The plan provides for an evacuation of residents within the 10-mile radius of the plant. Only a small portion of the city falls within the 10-mile limit.

In an interview earlier this week, Smith said he was aware of the criticism concerning the exclusion of Harrisburg from the plan. "We developed on the best technical advice available an emergency planning zone of 10 miles from the plant." In formulating plans, "you have to start with the first priority."

Smith said "it is wrong to infer we or Dauphin County had not thought of Harrisburg," but the 10-mile zone is the "best estimate" of the geographic area that would be most affected by a radiation release.

YORK DAILY RECORD • SATURDAY, JANUARY 30, 1982

Deterioration wasn't on restart hearing board agenda

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Of the Daily Record

The possibility of widespread deterioration in the tubes that carry radioactive water in the Three Mile Island unit 1 steam generator was not an issue addressed by a federal licensing board during restart hearings ended late last year.

The issue was not examined by a Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing board because it was only authorized to inquire into issues that were related to the March 28, 1979, accident at unit 2 and the possible ramifications on unit 1.

"We were a special board, not appointed to inquire into the general safety of TMI-1," said Ivan Smith, chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. "We were only appointed to examine circumstances that had a reasonable relationship to the TMI-2 accident," and their possible effect on unit 1.

However, this does not preclude the possibility of a separate hearing on the integrity of the steam generator tubes at unit 1, some 4,000 of which suffer from corrosion and/or leaks. Such a hearing may again question whether unit 1 should be allowed to restart.

"The NRC could direct this (a special hearing), or someone could

request" a hearing, depending on the circumstances at the unit, according to Frank Ingram, an NRC spokesman. "It's a question of 'if.' It's very speculative at this time."

A spokesman for the operator of TMI, GPU Nuclear Corp., said evaluations are still being conducted to determine the extent of corrosion in the reactor cooling water system — the primary system. Spokesmen for the operator Thursday admitted the corrosion and leakage problem at unit 1 was more extensive than had been reported publicly for more than a month.

Until evaluations of the extent of deterioration at unit 1 are complete, there is no way of knowing how much it will cost to repair the primary system, said David Osterhout, GPU Nuclear spokesman.

The primary system must be intact if a loss of coolant accident, such as the one that occurred nearly three years ago at unit 2, is to be avoided.

There are several options open to the operator once the full extent of deterioration in the steam generator tubes is known. The operator can plug the leaking or severely corroded tubes, thus taking them out of service and reducing the amount of hot, radioactive, pressurized water

traveling through the primary system.

There is a limit as to how many of the tubes can be plugged and still allow the reactor to operate at full power. Technical specifications for a plant such as unit 1 allow plugging of between 10 and 20 percent of the tubes, according to Osterhout. Some 12 percent of the tubes — 4,000 out of 31,000 — are corroding and/or leaking at present.

The operator can also "sleeve" the leaking and corroding tubes, Osterhout said. This involves putting another smaller tube inside the deteriorating tube, thus maintaining the flow of radioactive water.

This technology is still relatively new and untested, according to Robert Pollard, nuclear safety engineer for the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists.

The tubes carry the hot water that heats non-radioactive water surrounding them, producing steam, then electricity.

The NRC is studying the problem of leaks and corrosion in a nuclear steam generator primary system that had to be replaced due to corrosion, according to John Kopeck, an NRC spokesman.

TMI Costs

Ratepayers Put on Notice

AS A MATTER of simple justice, the ratepayer-victims of the Three Mile Island accident should not have to pay one cent to clean up the debris of an event for which they are completely blameless. But as a practical matter, it has been clear for some time that it was inevitable and inescapable that the ratepayers of Metropolitan Edison and Pennsylvania Electric, part-owners of the crippled reactor, would not only be expected to pay something toward the expense of decontamination, but might well bear the brunt of the cost.

Recognizing the practical side, the state's Consumer Advocate, the trial staff of the Public Utility Commission, the utilities and a few industrial ratepayers have reached agreement on a rate increase which would for the first time since the accident nearly three years ago charge Met-Ed and Penelec customers for clean-up costs. The agreement is subject to PUC approval.

The agreement also has elements of wishful thinking. William G. Kuhns, chairman of the parent firm, General Public Utilities, told a news conference the agreement "should provide an important impetus to the other parties" involved in Governor Thornburgh's cost-sharing proposal for cleanup. Similar sentiments were expressed by Consumer Advocate Walter W. Cohen. The agreement, if accepted by the PUC, does strengthen the case for a larger federal commitment of funds toward cleanup. Unfortunately, there is precious little evidence that either the Reagan administration or Congress — especially without the united support of the Pennsylvania Congressional delegation — is willing to go beyond the \$127 million already committed, most of which may not directly offset decontamination costs.

There also was a bit of wishful thinking — and a hefty chunk of baloney — in Cohen's assertion that with

the agreement "the ratepayers are stepping out in front with this good-faith effort" to assist the cleanup. The ratepayers are being *pushed* out in front would be a more accurate description. Aside from a few industrial ratepayers and the support given the agreement by TMI Alert, there is little indication of any movement among Met-Ed's residential ratepayers to have their rates raised to send a message to Washington, as indicated by Cohen, or for any other purpose. If anything, the contrary is true.

IF WE are critical of the unreasonably high expectations accompanying the agreement and the erroneous notion that ratepayers have suddenly become advocates of higher rates, we have no argument with the basic thrust of the agreement, that is charging ratepayers for cleanup costs. It is an injustice to be sure, but a graver injustice would be to impede the progress of the cleanup effort. It is a chore that must be done to protect the safety and well-being of the people of the region. A more equitable financial arrangement must be sought, but the cleanup must continue.

Yet, the extraordinary nature of the entire Three Mile Island episode demands a more meaningful participation on the part of the ratepayer than simply extracting more money from him. He is being asked to pay for Met-Ed's mistakes, yet neither then nor now is he permitted to be involved in the corporate decisions that made the TMI accident possible and may lead to more mistakes and more demands on the ratepayer in the future. When the United Auto Workers agreed to make wage concessions to financially-troubled Chrysler, they demanded and received a seat on the company's board of directors. Those being asked to bail-out GPU and its subsidiaries are entitled to no less.

LETTERS

TMI was smuggled in here

We are all to know that GPU or any utility is private property and private business. Size is no matter. It is a private business. There is nothing public about it. The absolute fact is that no private business has any right or privilege to operate a dangerous contraption so as to endanger communities in such a way as to keep citizens in fear of being killed or injured or being forced to abandon their properties on short notice (such as TMI evacuation alerts) or any notice in any manner.

TMI was smuggled in here under the false pretense that it was safe and that it was impossible to have an accident, according to the NRC, nuclear promoters, GPU and that phony Rasmussen report. They vigorously argued that in February 1979. The accident happened as was predicted and now the red faces installed sirens around the area, thereby admitting *fatal* danger and have the wicked guts of telling all citizens to beat it if in their private business they would have another accident. (And there will be worse ones than the March 29, 1979 one). That is crooked thievery and unfair. Affected people in this area have been wickedly barred from proper testimony of any kind at their hearings. Be it that all judges, lawyers, lawmakers and law men shall hear this.

There is nothing in the constitutions, federal or state, that allows any private individuals or private businesses to do that. We can't as citizens help that the utilities of TMI went hogwild in the nuclear business, tried to spend themselves rich and are now being busted. And Thornburgh's PUC has no right to make us pay for that mistake. Furthermore, in the first place, they had no business to make a TMI here.

When Mt. St. Helens erupted, it blew and burned everything flat for 20 miles around. Evacuation was proper here because it was an act of God or nature. Not an act of a rich private man's catastrophe as in TMI.

However, after things cooled down at Mt. St. Helens, people came to the edge of the crater and there is no danger such as radioactivity. But when a nuke blows up such as TMI, many will be killed, hurt then and for future years, and those that will be lucky enough to run will never begin or be able to come back because it will be worse than "hell" for counties around and forever. All because GPU, a *private business*, was allowed to operate a dangerous contraption such as their nuclear plants. This, before God, cannot and must not be allowed.

They must clean up their mess at TMI even if their stockholders have to sell their shirts to do it, and get rid of the whole mess of TMI. However, TMI II will have to be entombed under a mountain of concrete because it is too dangerous to clean up as all men of nuclear knowledge know it is. And the Susquehanna must be kissed good-bye forever because it will be forever unsafe for anything. It's so serious that it boggles the mind.

Paul D. Holowka
York

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Editors:

Cathie Musser
Kathy Manfred

Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

Nuke mishap reminiscent of TMI-2

KING OF PRUSSIA, Pa. (AP) — What happened at New York's Ginna nuclear plant Monday was almost exactly what occurred three years ago at Three Mile Island — except there was no mistake and no near-disaster this time.

"Lessons on safety and caution, learned in training and inspection, paid off," said Dr. Charles Gallina, emergency preparedness coordinator for Region I of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, which supervises TMI and Ginna. The region also includes 23 other nuclear facilities in 11 Northeastern states.

"I feel good that things are going so well at Ginna," Gallina, a nuclear physicist, said at the incident response center here where NRC personnel monitored the situation at the plant owned by Rochester Gas & Electric Co.

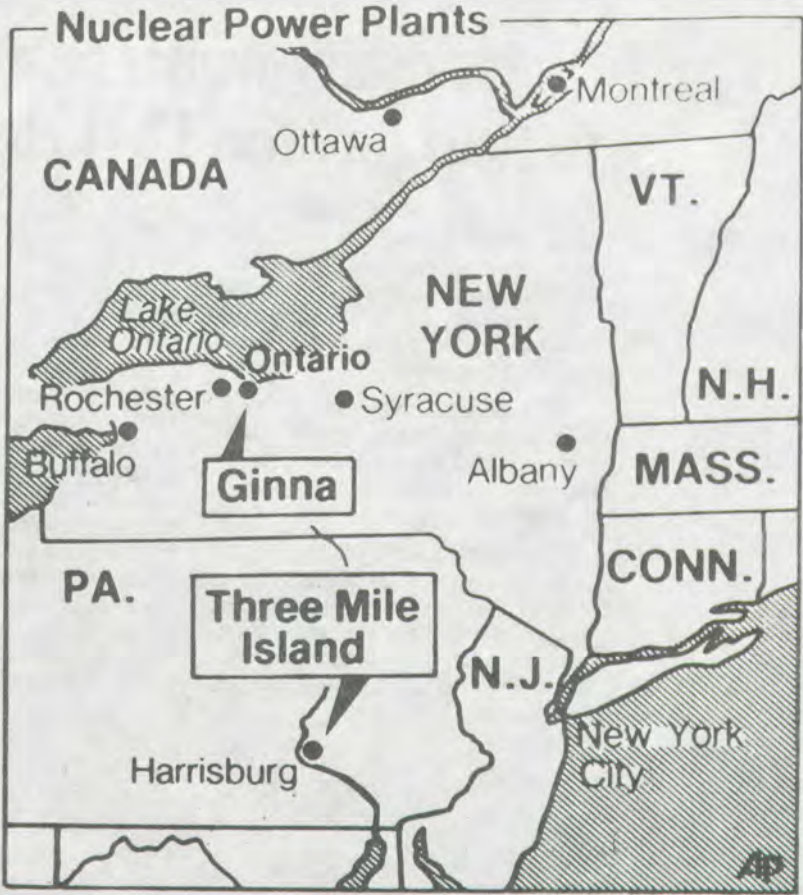
The nation's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred at Three Mile Island on March 28, 1979.

At TMI and at Ginna, 18 miles northeast of Rochester, pipes ruptured in the steam generator, which is part of the pressurized water reactor, releasing some radioactive steam and opening a valve that leaked water into the containment floor.

"At TMI, they didn't recognize they had a problem," Gallina said. "They didn't realize a valve was open and didn't close it until some time later."

Ebe McCabe, reactor projects section chief at the NRC office here, said "the safety system was triggered and it did operate at TMI and at Ginna. But the operator at TMI missed the warning signals that were present."

Gallina and McCabe said TMI



control-room employees had seen this happen before and didn't take the proper precautions.

"At TMI, they turned off the safety system, which was a big mistake," McCabe said. "And the lessons learned there helped keep Ginna a reasonably small incident, instead of a major nuclear accident."

M McCabe, asked what would have happened if Ginna employees hadn't detected the problem quickly, said the same damage that occurred to the nuclear core at TMI "would have happened here, too."

Nemen M. Terc, an NRC emergency preparedness analyst, pointed out that because of built-in safety precautions — along with inspections and training — there was no

fuel deterioration nor any damage to the reactor core at Ginna.

"When that goes bad, like it did at TMI, you get a lot of very hot radioactivity, which fortunately was hardly evident here," he said.

Terc said a recent appraisal at Ginna sped the response by the plant's control room staff. Terc headed a team of nine scientists that spent two weeks at Ginna conducting an in-depth inspection.

"As a result of that check, during December and January, the plant upgraded emergency procedures," Terc said. "We had a full-fledged exercise last Thursday to test the whole emergency response program and it worked well."

Paying for the TMI accident

I'm worried that I may get a summons any day in the mail because I caused that accident at Three Mile Island. I guess I did, because I'm made to pay for it.

My electric bill used to be about \$26 for two months. The last bill was \$46.60 for a month.

I don't know what they expect with so many people layed off from work.

John E. Schrum
Seven Valleys RD 2

TMI evacuation plan a 'farce'

A "Thorn" should be given concerning the TMI award of Dec. 26.

Any plan to evacuate is a farce. This is a non-insurable thing with a nuke disaster. When you leave your home, kiss it good-bye. No way will you be allowed back because of nuke contamination.

The government made sure that the nuke plants have insurance, but the people and property around them are figured on being disposable. It all smells of a government for the corporations, by the corporation and not for and by the people as it should be.

Michael J. Heidig
York Haven RD 2

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, February 2, 1982



N.M. utility wants customers to help pay for TMI cleanup

SANTA FE, N.M. (AP) — A move by the Public Service Co. of New Mexico to require customers to pay part of the clean-up costs at the damaged unit 2 reactor at Three Mile Island will be opposed by Atty. Gen. Jeff Bingaman.

On Monday, PNM filed a document with the Public Service Commission challenging the present method for calculating cost of service index adjustments.

The utility said a change in the cost of service index adjustment is needed "to enable PNM to accrue approximately \$200,000 over a six-year period in moneys to be dedicated to help defray clean-up charges

for the Three Mile Island Nuclear Unit No. 2."

"I cannot think PNM seriously believes New Mexico ratepayers should pay for the mistakes of a utility company in Pennsylvania," Bingaman said. "It is difficult to see how New Mexicans have ever benefited from the Three Mile Island nuclear generating station."

PNM gives several reasons for its requested change in the cost of service index adjustment.

It cites an article in the Sept. 17, 1981, issue of *Nucleonics Week* that says ultimately it is expected the electrical industry will contribute sums to assist Metropolitan Edison Co. in the clean-up charges at TMI.

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From 1 Deterioration

from corrosion developed. The problem appears to have developed between September and December.

According to GPU Nuclear, testing conducted during "late summer showed no evidence of the problem. It was not until a repressurization of the system in November that small leaks were discovered in the tubes in both unit 1 steam generators."

Knowledge of the extent of the leaking and corrosion evolved during the course of testing on the tubes begun in December, according to GPU Nuclear spokesman Doug Bedell.

According to the operator, there are some 31,000 tubes in unit 1, each 52 feet long and five-eighths of an inch in diameter. One spokesman characterized them as "paper-thin." The walls are three-hundredths of an inch thick. So far, 153 tubes have been found to have "definite physical leaks," the spokesman said.

From 2 TMI Rate

another rate increase until after Jan. 1, 1983. The group represents stockholders of General Public Utilities Corp., parent of the two utilities.

Two New York banks which serve as the agent and co-agent of a revolving-credit agreement lending money to the GPU companies expressed reservations about the settlement. Attorney Gerald Gornish, representing Citibank and Chemical Bank, told Matuschak the banks are concerned whether the agreement will provide adequate operating revenues for the utilities.



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

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Harrisburg Area

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Suspected gas buildup causes alert at TMI

From Staff and Wire Reports

A low-level alert was declared Friday at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant after technicians discovered a buildup of possible "combustible gas or gases" within the Unit 2 reactor building, plant officials said.

Officials made a "conservative assumption" that the gas was hydrogen and plant officials were working under the same assumption that the level was potentially combustible, TMI spokesman Doug Bedell said.

But officials later said initial readings were in error and that they could not determine if hydrogen was present. A faulty instrument had measured the same levels both inside and outside the plant, Bedell said.

He said officials did not know what gas or gases were present.

"There is no current danger from conditions at the plant," he said. "An initial check, which was found to be in error, indicated the combustible gas might be hydrogen. We still haven't identified what the gas is and whether or not it is combustible."

The reactor building was being purged early in the day in preparation for an entry into the building, which was canceled after the possible gas buildup was discovered, spokesman said.

Only one portable monitor registered the presence of a combustible gas or gases, but all subsequent samples showed no gases present, said Phil Grant, a Nuclear Regulatory official on site at TMI.

A possible reason for this, Grant said, is that there was a gap between the time the gas or gases were detected and the time samples of the air in the containment building were taken.

Because the building was being vented throughout the day, it's possible whatever gases may have been present were sucked out of the building between the time of discovery and sampling of the air in the containment building, Grant said.

"If it is a combustible gas, we are not concerned if there should be a burn or even an explosion that it would cause a problem that would lead to significant offsite releases," said Robert Arnold, president of the plant's operator, GPU Nuclear Corp.

Bedell said radiation levels inside unit 2 haven't increased and that the condition of the reactor and cooling system remain unchanged. The unit 2 reactor was damaged March 28,

Cont. p. 5

YORK DAILY RECORD • FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 12, 1982

Dauphin voters face ballot issue on unit 1 restart

From Staff and Wire Reports

Voters in Dauphin County will have a chance in the May primary to say whether they think the undamaged nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island should be restarted.

However, their vote will not be binding on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission when it decides if and when the unit 1 reactor should be put back on line.

Dauphin County Commissioners voted unanimously Thursday to put the following question on the ballot: "Do you favor the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1, which was not involved in the accident on March 28, 1979?"

"It's a non-binding referendum," said Commissioner John Minnich.

"Even if there were an overwhelming vote (that said) 'No, we don't want it restarted,' all we can do is forward it to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission."

The TMI Public Interest Resource Center, a local coalition of anti-nuclear citizen's groups, says it is supportive of the referendum.

"PIRC has advocated for a long time that the future of TMI should be decided by the people of central Pennsylvania, not by five men (NRC commissioners) in Washington, D.C.," a spokesman for the group said.

"We hope that the NRC and other bodies will listen to the voice of the people who have to live with TMI," he said.

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SUPPORT LETTERS AND MONEY requesting TMIA to continue ISLAND UPDATES as a news-clipping service have come from all over the world--- Germany, Australia, North Carolina, Maryland, California to name a few.

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Send a support letter and a yearly contribution (at least \$5) so this news-clipping service can continue.

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Heinz seeks disposal of TMI-2 core

U.S. Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., announced today he will introduce an amendment to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission funding bill, mandating that the NRC and U.S. Department of Energy dispose of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear core.

Heinz' amendment charges DOE with responsibility for removing and storing the damaged core if the NRC determines it poses a threat to public health and safety. The Reagan administration has pledged \$123 million toward the TMI cleanup, part of it for core removal.

John T. Fidler, a GPU Nuclear Corp. spokesman, said today the Unit 2 core is "in stable condition."

It is being cooled by "losses-to-ambient," a process wherein the core loses heat naturally to

the surrounding environment. Fidler said there are several backup cooling systems available, if needed.

Heinz said, "It has been 35 months since the TMI accident, and the resulting radioactivity from the damaged core remains at the facility site and still constitutes a potential threat to peoples' health and safety.

"The people in the area need reassurance that the core will be carefully and safely handled and disposed of as soon as necessary," Heinz told a press conference in the North Office Building.

GPU's blueprint for the TMI cleanup calls for core removal in mid-1985. Fidler said GPU Nuclear has been "pushing all along for the assembly of a shared funding package so we can get on with the cleanup."

February 23, 1982

Yet another 'event' at TMI

If anything else can go wrong at Three Mile Island, it probably will. The Unit 2 reactor was disabled on March 28, 1979, in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident. Ever since then, it seems, there has been one problem after another in that reactor and in the Unit 1 reactor, unused since the accident.

The latest problem was a buildup of potentially combustible gas or gases on Friday inside the radiation-contaminated Unit 2 building. IF that was the problem. We're not sure, because GPU Nuclear Corp., which operates TMI, isn't sure either.

If that wasn't the problem, then maybe, just maybe, there was a problem with two-way radios. Confusing, isn't it?

Anyway, there was a problem in Unit 2. We know that much because GPU Nuclear declared an "unusual event," the lowest alert in a four-step emergency scale.

What happened, GPU says, was that plant meters, and later meters held by technicians inside the Unit 2 building, detected lower-than-normal oxygen levels and the suspected buildup of gases.

An analysis of an air sample brought out by the technicians showed a concentration of hydrogen. Then that reading proved to be unreliable because the measuring device recorded the same level of hydrogen inside and outside the building.

Well, maybe, GPU says, radio signals may have interfered with the measuring instruments and caused them to register the presence of the combustible gases. Laboratory tests appeared to confirm that theory, GPU says.

But there are still other explanations.

An official of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stationed at TMI says that because the building was being vented, the gases may have been present and were sucked out between the time of discovery and sampling of the air.

Another NRC official says it was possible that an air pocket in the basement of the building contained leftover gas or gases and was uncovered when water from the basement was transferred out during the past week.

Whatever....

Something happened and nobody is sure of what did happen and why.

We're told no harm was done. This time.

Truly, isn't it time GPU, which was responsible for the accident that happened nearly three years ago, gets Unit 2 cleaned up — and decommissioned?

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL

Wednesday, February 10, 1982

PANE Hears Of Delay In Study

According to a spokesperson from P.A.N.E., it now appears the development of an environmental assessment that relates to the issue of stress and the restart of the TMI Unit-1 reactor will not begin for 3 to 6 months.

The local safe energy group reached this conclusion when several PANE members and PANE counsel William Jordan, III, attended a February 4 and 5 meeting regarding an environmental assessment (EA) in McLean, VA.

The meeting was also attended by eleven psychologists, sociologists, and psychiatrists, NRC officials and Met-Ed/GPU representatives.

The purpose of the meeting was to discuss available data on the psychological effects of nuclear power, causes and consequences of stress, evaluation of methods used to measure stress and is the information available on TMI #1 specific.

At the conclusion of the 2 day meeting it was felt that the assembled group of professionals will review TMI data for the next 3 to 6 months.

PANE's recent victory in the Washington, D.C. Court of Appeals requires the NRC to at least conduct an EA before any decision is reached on the possible operation, restart, of the Unit-1 reactor at Three Mile Island.

PANE will continue to monitor the progress of the NRC in developing a plan to conduct an EA and implement it in the TMI area.

Palladino: Delaying TMI cleanup is risky

'I'm confident the plant will be cleaned up. I'm not confident about the time scale'

NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Of the Daily Record

MIDDLETOWN — The cleanup of the damaged unit 2 reactor building at Three Mile Island is going slower than the chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would like to see, and prolonging it possibly could result in a safety hazard, he said.

Responding to a reporter's question, NRC Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino said Tuesday the chance of something else going wrong at unit 2 becomes greater the longer the cleanup is drawn out.

"That's my major concern," Palladino said at a press conference following a 2½-hour tour of the TMI complex. He said he would like to see such a risk reduced.

Palladino said the danger of another problem arising at the crippled unit "appears small...." Earlier, he said, "I'm confident the plant will be cleaned up. I'm not confident about the time scale."

He said steady progress is being made on parts of the cleanup, but "...the amount of effort going on in planning other activities is not going as quickly as I'd like."

Palladino said it was a lack of funds that was responsible for the slowdown in the cleanup, which is exacerbated by a lack of coordination among Pennsylvania's congressional delegation in Washington.

He said it's "going to take some real push that would get funds to clean up the plant."

Getting funds for the cleanup is a "politically difficult ballgame to play in," Palladino said. In addition, he said, there are no arrangements presently in place for removing the damaged unit 2 reactor core from the island.

Palladino said he has "been working personally with DOE (Department of Energy) leadership" on the matter of removing the unit 2 reactor core from the island, and is "getting positive indications" on that.

An aide to U.S. Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., said the way may be cleared in the near future for the NRC to act on the removal of the unit 2 reactor core.

Jason Hall, Heinz's legislative assistant, said the senator will likely present an amendment to the NRC's authorization bill in the near future that would allow DOE to remove and dispose of the unit 2 reactor core, if the NRC thinks it is necessary to protect public health.

Middletown Mayor Robert Reid suggested to Palladino at the press conference the federal government make a \$1 billion loan to General Public Utilities Corp., owner of TMI, to cover the cost of the cleanup.

But Palladino said President Reagan is "not anxious to bail out more and more organizations" that encounter financial problems.

March 2, 1982 Unit 2 washdown experiments begun

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

GPU Nuclear Corp. planned to initiate a series of washdown experiments in the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building today, beginning with a low-pressure hosing of sections of the entry level.

John T. Fidler, GPU Nuclear spokesman, said 23 technicians assembled into six teams were to participate in today's entry. The washdown is aimed at flushing contaminated material from the building surfaces and from equipment.

The start of the washdown culminates four months of preparatory work inside Unit 2, which included the construction of a power lift on the polar crane to move men and equipment.

Technicians planned to use water sprays with a pressure of 100 pounds a square inch in today's work, Fidler said. In later segments of the washdown, low pressure also will be used to cleanse the polar crane, the D-rings (concrete rings around components of the reactor coolant system), the refueling canal, the concrete shields above the reactor and the service structure (platform above the head of the reactor).

High pressure will be used later on the floors of the entry level and operating deck for a more thorough flushing. Fidler said the water hose was inserted through a penetration in the containment building wall. The penetration was tested to a pressure of 10,000 pounds a square, but Fidler said the maximum to be used for these experiments will be 6,000 psi.

Later this month, technicians will test several strippable coatings in the containment building. These coatings are applied in liquid form, allowed to solidify and then are peeled off.

The washdown program is expected to cost about \$2 million, with the U.S. Department of Energy picking up \$1.3 million, Fidler said. The remaining \$600,000 will be borne by GPU Nuclear, he added.

Since 1979 GPU Nuclear has spent \$215 million of the \$300 million insurance it held on Unit 2. About \$45 million is budgeted for the cleanup this year.

About 65,000 gallons of water will be needed for the washing experiments. To avoid contaminating clean water, technicians will use water left from the 1979 accident which has been processed by the Epicor 2 and the submerged demineralizer system.

The "dirty" water from the washdown will flow into the building's basement through the drain system. It will be reprocessed through the submerged demineralizer system.

Besides their anti-radiation clothing, workers participating in the washdown experiments are to be garbed in wet suits to keep them dry.

GPU expects the washdown will lower the dose readings inside Unit 2.

Officials plan a more intensive "hands-on" scrubbing and mopping of the containment building during a later phase of the decontamination.

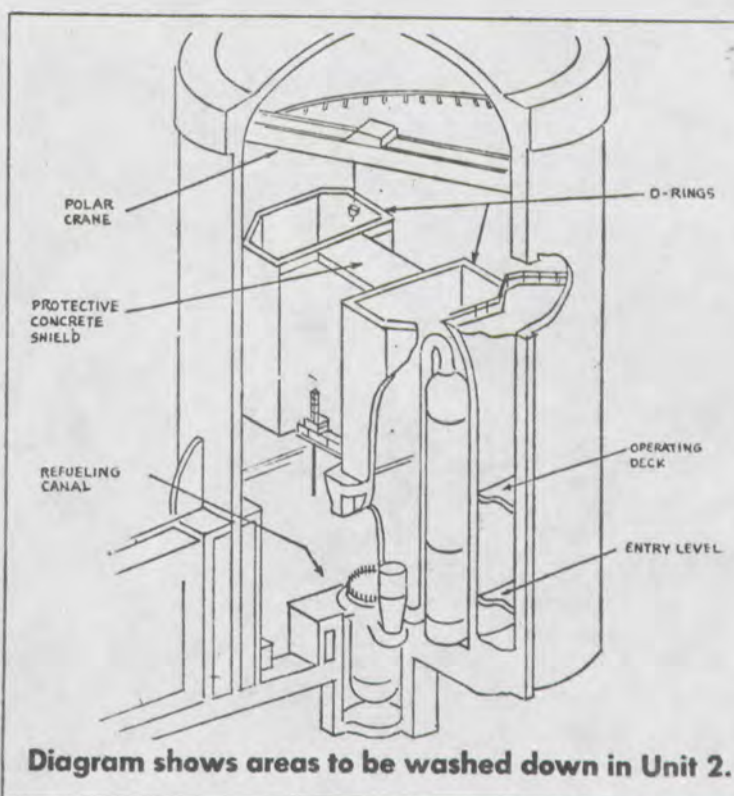


Diagram shows areas to be washed down in Unit 2.

Reagan says he's against TMI vote

From Daily Record wire services

President Reagan Friday criticized a non-binding referendum to be decided by Dauphin County voters in the May primary on whether the undamaged unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island should be restarted.

This week, Gov. Dick Thornburgh said he was against putting the restart question on the Dauphin County ballot, observing: "It's a terribly complicated question to place on the ballot."

Results of the ballot are nonbinding.

Reagan made his comments to a group of news executives visiting at the White House.

"I do believe in nuclear power," Reagan said. "The anti-nuclear forces in this country are basing their views on a lack of information. I'm not going to say they are ignorant, it's just that they know so many things that aren't true."

He said he did not feel qualified to answer a question about whether the reactor should be placed in operation, and would rely on others' advice. Likewise, he said he would oppose giving local voters such a referendum.

"I don't believe that an issue of this kind that they can have the information that is necessary to make that decision," Reagan said.

Unit 1 was damaged in 1979 in the worst accident in the nation's commercial nuclear industry.

The Evening News, Tuesday, March 2, 1982

Cumberland adds ballot on restart

CARLISLE — A referendum on the restart of the undamaged Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor will be on the ballot in the May primary election in Cumberland County.

Calling it an "extraordinary situation," county commissioners Monday unanimously approved placing the non-binding referendum on the May 18 ballot.

The referendum's results will have no legal significance, but Commission Chairman Jake Myers noted that Nunzio Palladino, Nuclear Regulatory Commission chairman, has said the outcome will have an impact on future NRC decisions.

Cumberland's referendum question will be identical to that already approved by Dauphin County commissioners: "Do you favor restarting TMI Unit 1, which was not involved in the accident on March 28, 1979?"

Myers said the results of the referendum will be sent to the NRC, Congress, the state Legislature, Gov. Dick Thornburgh, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and GPU Nuclear Corp., TMI's operator.

All county voters will be able to participate in the referendum even though the May balloting is a primary election.

Past practice in Cumberland has prohibited placing non-binding referendums on the ballot and Myers said that "general" policy still stands.

"I want it clear that I view this as an extraordinary situation and therefore am willing to put such a non-binding matter on the ballot," he said. Commissioners originally had balked on the referendum issue, but "overwhelming" public response and the Feb. 19 "unusual event" at TMI appear to have prompted them to take action.

York Daily Record • Monday, March 1, 1982

Mr. Reagan: You're wrong

So Mr. Reagan thinks "The anti-nuclear forces in this country are basing their views on a lack of information...not that they are ignorant, it's just that they know so many things that aren't true." Well, Mr. Reagan, my anti-nuclear views are based on things that I do know and feel.

Once again, Friday night, we were told of a low level radiation alert because of a gas build up in the damaged reactor. And once again it was the "officials" who did not know certain things about the problem but were working on it — and all my doubts about their "truths" returned.

It will be three years ago in March that I evacuated my home in Lancaster County because of the TMI accident. I was eight weeks pregnant and very afraid for my unborn child. Today I thank God for our healthy 2 1/2 year old son. And everytime I read news of T.M.I.'s restart or any other nuclear reactors' problems, I think of my son and what his future will hold.

It angers me when I see Met Ed's commercials on television trying to sell TMI's safety and inferring it will restart operations, as though there's no question about it.

And it angers me to see their newspaper advertisements telling people how much cheaper their bills will be with TMI's restart, as though we're being penalized monetarily for wanting to live in a safer environment.

I only hope an incident like Friday's refreshes people's concerns and wipes out Met Ed's propaganda efforts to restart TMI. And I hope that we can continue to be anti-nuclear forces because of what we do know to be true in our heads and in our hearts.

Christine M. Hess
York

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, Feb. 13, 1982.



STAFF THIS ISSUE

Editors:

Cathie Musser
Kathy Manfred

Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

\$100,000 in bills for Met-Ed protest collected

By JOEL MICHAEL
Of the Daily Record

Project David has collected some \$100,000 in Metropolitan Edison Co. bills for March from more than 500 families, according to one of the project coordinators.

About half the billings and 80 percent of the customers stem from the volunteer canvassing effort begun in York last weekend.

The core of the Project David group is working this week in Easton, Northampton County, where coordinator Bill Keisling of Emmaus said he collected \$7,500 in bills at one home where dozens of neighbors brought their stubs. Seven churches in Easton have also submitted their electric bills, he said.

Keisling said volunteers are still knocking on doors in the greater York area, asking Met-Ed customers to give their bills to the project in

support of opposition to Met-Ed electric rates.

Collection boxes to receive bills have been placed in numerous locations in the York area, he said. The project also will accept unpaid bills by mail at Project David, P.O. Box 388, Middletown, 17057.

The collection effort will move onto Reading, Berks County, next week. York, Easton, Reading and Lebanon, as the four largest cities in Met-Ed's service area, have been targeted by Project David, named from the Biblical story of young David slaying the giant, Goliath.

"We're doing really well," said Keisling. "We really didn't expect such a great response."

All of the bills collected from Met-Ed customers will be taken to the steps of the State Capitol as part of a Ratepayers' Congress to be held at noon on March 28 — the third

anniversary of the nuclear accident at Met-Ed's Three Mile Island facility.

Keisling said the congress will include a vote on whether to continue after March with the ratepayers' strike against the utility. He said he is working on setting up a task force to study citizen ownership of Met-Ed should the company go bankrupt. Plans are also being formulated to picket Met-Ed collection centers, Keisling said.

Met-Ed officials have advised electric company customers that they may be assessed a late-payment fee for unpaid bills. In addition, if the company needs to borrow money because of the strike, the cost of borrowing may be passed along to its 300,000 customers.

The total amount of bills includes the monthly charge for Boiling Springs and North Lebanon school districts, Keisling said.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, February 12, 1982

Met-Ed will dun bill-balking schools

GAS from 1

Metropolitan Edison Co. of Reading said it will enforce collection procedures against school districts that refuse to pay their electric bills to protest the Three Mile Island Unit 2 cleanup costs.

South Middleton Board of Education in Boiling Springs and Northern Lebanon Board of Education voted this week not to pay their March bills. The two school boards oppose the utility's plan to increase customers' rates to help pay the costs of decontaminating the Unit 2 reactor.

The state Public Utility Commission gave Met-Ed permission to begin charging customers for the cleanup when the undamaged Unit 1 reactor restarts.

But that may not occur for another six months to a year because of recently discovered problems in tubes in the two Unit 1 steam generators.

"We're always willing to talk to any of our customers," a Met-Ed spokesman said. "We will explain whatever we can, but I have no knowledge of any attempt on their (the school boards) part to set up a meeting with us to let us know exactly what they are protesting and what they would like us to do."

"In the meantime, we will follow our regular collection procedures, should these bills go unpaid." The Met-Ed spokesman said the school districts face late payment charges of 2 percent of their total bills if they do not pay their bills within 30 days.

South Middleton board, which voted 6-2 Wednesday night not to pay its March bill, sent a letter to 62 other school districts also served by Met-Ed, urging that they too, withhold payment.

1979, in the nation's worst explosive gases and brought out an air sample from the personnel hatch for laboratory analysis, Bedell said.

Plant officials speculated the gas was coming from organic material in the building's basement, which had been covered by 8½ feet of radioactive water following the accident. Most of that water has been purified, and about a foot remains.

It's also possible that an air pocket in the basement had some leftover gas or gases in it, and was uncovered when water from the basement was transferred out during the week, said Lake Barrett, senior NRC official on site at TMI.

During the purging of the containment building, technicians were "watching very closely" for any increases in radioactivity. He said there was no indication of any releases of radioactivity during the purging of the building.

The "unusual event" was declared at 5:26 p.m. after technicians discovered increased gas levels within the building housing the crippled reactor. An "unusual event" is the lowest of four emergency classifications used in the nuclear industry.

Grant said the NRC, Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and local emergency management agencies were all notified of the unusual event. He said additional samples taken from the building are being tested, and the results of this will determine if the "unusual event" status would continue.

Bedell said two technicians entered the building to take gas samples between 1:45 p.m. and 2:02 p.m. He said they found varying levels of the gas, including two spots with potentially combustible levels. The technicians were then ordered to leave the containment building.

They took measurements for the

He did not know the quantity of gases present in the building.

The problem was discovered about 9 a.m. when a technician took routine measurements within the building and found reduced levels of oxygen. An entry planned for Friday morning was then canceled.

Bedell said technicians were sampling the reactor building atmosphere Friday night to determine the extent of the problem and how to deal with it.

The sampling is being done using a remote testing system through penetrations in the reactor building.

In a related matter, NRC Chairman Dr. Nunzio Palladino will tour TMI Tuesday morning, and will then hold a press conference in Middletown, an NRC spokesman said.

Beyond the alert, fear of the known

I think the anti-nuclear forces in this country have been basing their views on a lack of information. I'm not going to say they are ignorant. It's that they know so many things that aren't true.
— President Reagan

ABOUT the same time Friday that President Reagan was making the above response to a question posed by the executive editor of this newspaper, Saul Kohler, GPU Nuclear officials at Three Mile Island were on the verge of declaring a low-level alert at the damaged Unit 2 reactor. The alert was called on the basis of instrument readings showing a

depletion of the normal levels of oxygen and the presence of combustible gases in the reactor building. Company officials now believe the readings were erroneous and were caused by radio interference

It appears that Friday's occurrence was a non-event, that nothing out of the ordinary took place in the containment building except a human failure to know that radio signals and instrument readings do not mix. Though on the surface it resulted in little more than some local commotion and national attention, it could not but cause some concern among local citizens as they waited to find

out the latest twist in the still unfolding drama at TMI.

In a sense we have become hostage to TMI. It sputters and the rest of us respond as if we were tied to same body. Are our concerns exaggerated? Have we become too concerned about every little thing that happens at TMI? Maybe so. But if there is nothing to be concerned about why is the area saturated with special sirens to blast our eardrums in the event of an emergency at the island? Why has so much time been spent by civil preparedness agencies to make evacuation plans to get the population away from TMI as rapidly as possible? Why are

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
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Harrisburg, PA 17102

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they making the same preparations at Pennsylvania Power and Light's Berwick plant — which is not yet in operation — and every other nuclear plant in the country? This evidence alone would suggest we have every reason to be concerned with every little thing that happens at TMI.

Nuclear power has become such an intrusion into the day-to-day life of people, with the potential to create monumental havoc, it is time to consider whether all of this is not too much a price to pay for nuclear power. No other source of power, indeed, no other human activity, requires the extraordinary safeguards and

precautions, the unrivaled demand on public patience, that are intrinsic to nuclear energy.

THESE unusual preparations have been made in response to the nature of the beast, not because anti-nukes have been talking through the top of their hats. Yet, from Reagan's comment it is hard to escape the conclusion that he blames misinformed anti-nukes for the troubled state of nuclear power. But if he would take the time to examine the TMI accident and Friday's incident he would discover that they were caused, not by the errors of the nuclear opposition, but by the errors of plant operators.

THREE MILE ISLAND ACCIDENT THIRD ANNIVERSARY March 28, 1982

Groups all over the country will be holding commemorative activities.

TMI NO NUKE ACTIVITIES

March 26th, Bluegrass Bands, 8p.m.
Fairview Township Community Bldg.
Tickets \$6, Refreshments.

March 27th, Citizen's Speakout & Chicken Corn Soup Supper sponsored by March 28th Coalition, afternoon gathering on Rt. 441 near TMI; Prayer vigil following.

March 28th, Electric utility bills will be burned on Capitol Steps. Met-Ed ratepayers action, noon.

SVA Church Service, 7:30p.m., 1850 Marietta Ave., Lancaster, Church of the Apostles--Interdenominational



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

VOL. 3 NO. 7

APRIL 1982

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., March 28, 1982

Anti-Nuclear Protesters Mark Anniversary of TMI Accident

By **MARY O. BRADLEY**
Staff Writer

Under the winking red lights of the Three Mile Island cooling towers and the cheshire-cat grin of a new moon, some 60 hardy anti-nuclear activists gathered Saturday night in 28-degree weather and a biting wind at the TMI North Gate to observe three minutes of silence — one for each year since the TMI accident.

The candlelight vigil was delayed several minutes when a Conrail freight train put in an unexpected appearance and blocked the protesters' view of the plant as the train headed south on the Columbia Branch, which bisects the entrance to the nuclear plant.

But when it cleared and the crossing gates rose, the protesters, holding red candles with paper cups serving as makeshift sconces, formed a semicircle facing Route 441 and bowed their heads.

Only the flapping of the American and Pennsylvania flags flying over the TMI guardshack and the click of news photographers' cameras broke the stillness.

Although GPU Nuclear Corp. officials said the March 28th Coalition, sponsors of the protest, did not have permission to gather on TMI property, there were no obvious extra security precautions taken. The chain-link gate to the plant was closed.

A flame from the vigil candles was used to light a lantern, which

was to be carried to the state Capitol steps by three relay runners, Mike Danilowicz of Middletown, Sarah Lawhorne of Harrisburg and Larry Kuntz of Campbelltown. It will be used to ignite a pyre to burn \$300,000 in unpaid electric utility bills after a Ratepayers' Congress on Sunday at noon in the Capitol Rotunda.

The vigil was preceded by a citizens' speak-out at a home on Route 441, three-tenths of a mile north of the plant. Wearing jeans, down-filled jackets and knit caps, the protesters, mostly in their 20s and 30s, listened as a half-dozen of their colleagues recounted what effects the March 28, 1979, accident has had on their lives and urged that efforts be continued to keep the plant closed.

Two anti-nuclear groups used the occasion to encourage the continued shutdown of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor and to announce plans for a possible lawsuit against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stemming from the venting in the summer of 1980 of krypton gas from the Unit 2 reactor building.

Members of the Campaign to Stop the Restart of Unit 1 sold lapel buttons encouraging a no vote on the upcoming referendums in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties May 18 concerning the restart of Unit 1.

Jeff Hunsicker, a campaign spokesman, said the lapel buttons and "Stop the Restart" bumper stickers were the hottest selling items at the citizens' speak-out.

The possible lawsuit against the NRC is being organized by Three Mile Island Alert Inc., the area's oldest anti-nuclear group. Fliers explaining the possible lawsuit were handed out at the rally.

Joanne Doroshov, a TMIA spokeswoman, said at least 100 participants would be necessary in order to file the lawsuit, which would seek damages for economic, psychological and physiological effects from the krypton venting.

TMIA contends that the NRC permitted the plant operators to vent the gas without holding a public hearing to determine if other ways of removing the radioactive material would be safer.

The protesters' candlelight procession along the west side of Route 441 to and from the North Gate was led by March 28th Coalition "marshals." Flares had been set up on the highway and state police were on hand to assist with traffic control.

At the Ratepayers' Congress, Metropolitan Edison Co.'s ratepayers will decide whether they want to extend the boycott, which was set to expire Wednesday. The \$300,000 in unpaid bills represent participation in the boycott by churches, school districts, labor unions, firehalls, businesses and more than 1,200 families in Met-Ed's service area. The Reading-based utility, half-owner of TMI, serves 360,000 customers in 14 eastern and south-central Pennsylvania counties.

Con't. pg. 6 PROTESTORS

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, March 6, 1982

GPU Officials Held Unfit to Run N-Plants

By **MICK ROOD**
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Nuclear Regulatory Commission Subcom-Gilinsky has told a House subcommittee that because Metropolitan Edison Co. officials withheld information from government officials early in the aftermath of the Three Mile Island accident, "this disquali-

fies that management from operating nuclear plants in the future."

In the most severe criticism made by an NRC official about Three Mile Island's management to date, Gilinsky said in letter Tuesday to Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., chairman of the House Interior Committee:

"I would not authorize GPU

(General Public Utilities Corp., Met-Ed's parent firm) to operate a nuclear power plant until important changes have been made at the top."

In the wake of the accident, GPU created a new management

Con't. pg. 4 GPU

Congressmen in Middletown Hit by Pro-, Anti-Nuke Forces

A Congressional delegation visiting Middletown Monday took a double-barreled shot of criticism from pro- and anti-nuclear activists concerned with the troubled Three Mile Island nuclear power plant.

Pro-nuclear forces told the congressmen to stop studying the problems at TMI and "get moving" with the cleanup of the plant's damaged Unit 2 reactor. Anti-nuclear forces criticized GPU Nuclear Corp.'s proposed restart of Unit 1 and called the federal hearings on the proposal a sham and an exercise in futility.

"If all the money that has gone into the investigation could have been put into the cleanup, (Unit 2) would have been cleaned up by now," members of the pro-nuclear Friends and Family of TMI told U.S. Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., chairman of the delegation. "Talk has gone on long enough and it has not been cheap. It is time for action."

Joanne Doroshow, a representative of the anti-nuclear Three Mile Island Alert organization, told the Congressmen that restarting Unit 1 should not hinge on a recent restart recommendation from the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board since TMI's owners "had all the resources and money . . . and the intervenors basically had nothing" during the two-year long restart proceedings.

GPU President Robert Arnold said the company hopes to restart Unit 1 before year's end after repairing 8,000-10,000 damaged steam generator tubes and conducting a government-ordered survey on the possible stress a restart could cause for area residents.

"Our purpose is to express to you our deep concern that if TMI is

permitted to reopen on the basis of the (ASLB) decision, the public's health and safety will be in serious jeopardy, and we fear that you, the Congress and other public officials — such as the governor of Pennsylvania — are being fooled into thinking that an NRC decision supporting restart means that the plant can be operated safely," Doroshow said.

Udall, chairman of the House Energy and Environment Subcommittee, said in an opening statement that "the problems we now confront result from a premature commitment to a dangerous technology."

" . . . TMI showed that neither federal nor state agencies were prepared to cope with a radiological emergency; fortunately, the radiological release at TMI was small," Udall said.

Udall said he learned nothing new during his visit to Middletown — his third since the accident — "It was just a matter of reinforcing old perceptions."

U.S. Rep. Allen Ertel, D-Montoursville, joined Udall in Middletown and used the opportunity to lobby for his TMI cleanup legislation, which would establish a government nuclear insurance corporation to help finance the cleanup.

"It is deplorable that even now not all of those fears (of three years ago) can be allayed, because the cleanup of radioactive spill has not taken place — in large part because the responsibility for cleanup costs has not been resolved," Ertel said.

Other Congressmen attending the hearing Monday were subcommittee members Bruce Vento, D-Minn., and Mickey Edwards, R-Okla.; and William Goodling, R-Jacobus. Rep. Robert Walker, D-Lancaster, toured the plant.

Nearly 100 people jammed into Middletown Borough Hall for the hearing, including members of the Union of Concerned Scientists and Dauphin County Commissioner John Minnich, chairman of the the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of Three Mile Island Unit 2.

Minnich focused his testimony on the financial problems confronting GPU, the plant's operator, telling the legislators "it is difficult to understand the hesitancy of Congress to cleanup (TMI) when Congress and the federal government poured millions into this energy source."

In addition, Minnich said, "If the utility can't afford to bear the cost (of an accident), perhaps that utility shouldn't be licensed to begin with."

Robert D. Pollard of the Union of Concerned Scientists said the "restart of TMI (Unit 1) in the condition proposed by General Public Utilities and the NRC staff would subject the residents of this area to an undue risk to their health and safety."

Pollard also suggested the NRC may be misrepresenting conditions at the plant.

"The NRC appears to be overstating the risk at TMI 2 in order to influence the sources of cleanup funding, and understating the risks of a TMI 2 restart for reasons also related to cleanup funding," Pollard said.

Thornburgh has suggested that the restart of Unit 1 — contingent upon a thorough investigation into the causes of the March 28, 1979, accident at Unit 2 and a commitment to its cleanup — could be used to generate funds for GPU to help finance the cleanup.

GPU Should Sell

EDITOR:

GPU has been dragging its feet on the cleanup, hoping that someone else will pick up the bill. I, for one, am getting damn tired of living near a time bomb. TMI 2 is sitting there, as live and dangerous as it was three years ago, and all we get is the poor mouth from GPU.

I feel GPU should sell whatever assets they have to raise the money for cleanup, then do it, close both plants or convert to coal. If the stockholders of GPU get hurt, I'm sorry, but the stock market is a gamble and they lose.

Why should we support GPU when they have lied and covered up their mistake while putting us in mortal danger? How much danger will exist 20 years down the road no one knows.

—R.L. Sutton,
Mechanicsburg

Met-Ed bills ablaze

From Staff and Wire Reports

HARRISBURG — A group protesting the financing of the Three Mile Island cleanup burned utility bills on the steps of the Capitol Sunday to mark the third anniversary of the nuclear accident.

Organizers of the Project David protest said they had collected about 1,200 bills from customers of Metropolitan Edison Co., which owns 50 percent of TMI. About 75 people stood in brisk temperatures to listen to speeches and watch the bills being burned on a charcoal grill.

About \$50,000 in Met Ed bills for March from an estimated 400 utility customers in York County were among

those incinerated over charcoal briquets.

"It's a moral type of thing. By going I feel very fulfilled," said Dr. Richard A. Orsi, 847 S. Beaver St.

Orsi, who stood on the Capitol steps with his wife, Laurie, and 4-month-old son Nathan, said people are increasingly upset with higher electric bills in the wake of the accident.

"The bottom line for me is to get it cleaned up and closed down," he said.

The York family helped canvass their neighborhood last month for customers' March Met-Ed bills. Orsi told the *Daily Record*. They volunteered for Project David because "we wanted to

Con't pg. 4 BILLS

TMI lesson hasn't been learned

By HARVEY WASSERMAN
and NORMAN SOLOMON

Los Angeles Times

THE ACCIDENT at Three Mile Island happened three years ago. But its single most important lesson is just now coming to light and could ultimately have more to do with nuclear war than power plants. It is the fact that radiation, even in minuscule doses, may be far more dangerous than any of us have imagined.

By coincidence, the TMI accident happened at the only U.S. reactor site where neighboring farmers were already systematically monitoring their animals for radiation effects. The survey was begun in 1976 by Jane Lee, a dairy farmer from the tiny nearby town of Etters. TMI Unit 1 had opened two years earlier and Lee suspected that radioactive emissions might be causing some of the "strange goings-on" widely reported by local animal owners: deformed chicks hatching, duck eggs not hatching at all, whole litters of still-born kittens, cows and goats with reproductive problems. Such things do happen on farms. But the people near TMI thought that the rate was abnormal, too high to be a mere quirk.

Then, on March 28, 1979, the accident occurred at the newly opened TMI-2. In the months that followed, there was an escalation of complaints from farmers, pet owners and veterinarians. They told Lee of goats and pigs requiring Caesarean sections, calves and colts born deformed, a dog born with no eyes, spontaneous abortions among cats, ducks refusing to brood and eggs failing to hatch, bark peeling off trees, gardens wilting and an unexplained disappearance of wildlife. Within a year Lee had a thick file of affidavits and photographs.

The utility, Metropolitan Edison, and the state of Pennsylvania both insisted that the amounts of radiation involved could not possibly have caused the damage. A later Nuclear Regulatory Commission study found "no basis" for the fear that animals' problems were related to TMI. Nuclear-energy proponents attacked the farmers, implying they had blamed the reactor for problems caused by their own, "mismanagement" — and that, at any rate, they were not scientists and could not know what radiation would or would not do to their animals.

But there were some nagging holes in the countercharges. The state and NRC studies were sketchy, self-contradictory and in many instances based on erroneous data. There was no reliable body of experimental data to define exactly how much contamination does what to which species of animals. And the actual quantity of radiation that escaped from the TMI accident to this day remains a topic of bitter dispute. In short, it may not have been good science to take the farmers' claims at face value — but it was also poor science to dismiss them out of hand.

HARVEY WASSERMAN and Norman Solomon are the co-authors, with Robert Alvarez and Eleanor Walters, of a new book, "Killing Our Own: The Disaster of America's Experience With Atomic Radiation."

With that in mind, the two of us and two co-researchers spent the next 18 months tracking down other instances of unmonitored radiation emissions in which people charged that their animals had been harmed. We found seven.

The first occurred in 1953 after the infamous "Dirty Harry" bomb test irradiated thousands of Nevada sheep, many of which died. The Atomic Energy Commission scoffed at the ranchers who made the charges but eventually did pay some damages. Since then, serious evidence has surfaced indicating that fallout from that "Dirty Harry" killed not just sheep but humans as well.

We also found three reactor sites where farm problems similar to those at TMI were reported. Near the Arkansas Nuclear 1 plant at Russellville, 70-year-old Herschel Bennett complained that a peach orchard he'd tended for 30 years withered in the wake of an NRC-recorded accidental release of radiation. Bennett, whose farm is a quarter-mile from the plant, also said that his cattle suffered from malformations he'd never seen before. In New Hampshire, farmers Annie Fostick and Mildred Zywna charged that the nearby Vermont Yankee reactor was responsible for damage to their trees and livestock. Near Oswego, N.Y., dairy farmer Nancy Weber told us that "monster calves" weighing 150 pounds, double their normal size, were born during a period of large emissions from a nearby reactor.

At West Valley, N.Y., two dairy farmers told us that their livestock's stillbirth and abortion rates soared while a nearby spent-fuel reprocessing center operated, then dropped dramatically when it shut.

In Colorado, ranchers said that exposure to plutonium from the Rocky Flats nuclear-weapons fac-

tory wreaked havoc with their livestock. Farmers in the Canon City area charged that radiation from a uranium tailings dump had seeped into the water table, causing reproductive problems among their cattle.

These charges by farmers, generally conservative and patriotic people who'd never before spoken out about anything, parallel growing concern about what radiation can do to human beings.

Angry debate still rages over statistics that indicate worsening infant-mortality rates in the vicinity of Arkansas Nuclear 1 and Three Mile Island. Evidence continues to mount indicating that GIs and civilians downwind from bomb tests in Nevada and the Pacific were seriously harmed despite government guarantees that they were exposed to "safe" levels of radiation. And in the course of our research, we found that medical X-rays and work in the nuclear industry are doing far more damage than generally believed.

It all adds up to a very substantial margin of error in a politically volatile gray area. To dismiss out of hand those farmers' findings would be to say that citizens are incapable of recognizing health problems in their own backyard. It would be to ignore the entire history of Love Canal and other environmental disaster areas where independent citizen surveys uncovered what proved to be devastating epidemics.

Today, the nuclear-energy issue is fading along with the industry itself. The issue in ascendancy is nuclear war. If the relatively tiny doses released at Three Mile Island harming people and animals and crops all over the globe.

Still, a lingering question remains three years after Three Mile Island: Why is there no integrated national system for monitoring health effects around nuclear power plants? Is it because farmers are not to be taken seriously? Or is it because the answer might be even more politically explosive than was the accident that put Harrisburg on the world's map?

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, March 30, 1982—23



Leak At TMI Mandated Emergency Status

Another unusual event was declared at the Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant on Monday, March 22. The 10:25 incident occurred in the Unit II system that provides makeup water to the damaged reactor's coolant system.

Initially, officials thought the incident occurred due to a leak in the coolant system itself. The real cause was discovered at 11:40 a.m.

The leak was in a valve to a filter in the makeup system, which is located in the basement of the Unit II auxiliary building. About 200

gallons of water leaked through the valve and out the filter housing and caused instruments to show a reactor coolant system leak rate of 2.2 gallons per minute.

Maintenance work on the filter began at approximately 10:00; the emergency was declared when the leak rate exceeded one gallon per minute.

Technicians closed other valves in the system which isolated the valve that leaked and the leak rate began to decrease. At 11:15 a.m. the rate was at .283

gallons per minute. During the next hour, the leak rate dropped to zero.

The water that leaked out of the system was collected into 55-gallon drums and was drained to the auxiliary building sump for processing.

An unusual event is the lowest of the four emergency classifications used in the nuclear power industry. GPU officials said the apparent leak did not represent an off-site hazard. The emergency was terminated at 12:18 p.m.

from 1 GPU

organization to operate Three Mile Island. That organization, called GPU Nuclear, includes many former Met-Ed personnel assigned to the plant.

A majority of the NRC disagrees, however, and even Gilinsky concedes the issue appears dead — either as civil enforcement action by the NRC or as a criminal matter before the Justice Department.

Various federal investigators have probed inconclusively into whether Met-Ed employees intentionally withheld evidence of high thermocouple temperatures in the reactor or indications of a "pressure spike" the day of the accident. At an NRC meeting last October, GPU President Herman Dieckamp said he and Met-Ed officials always reported plant conditions to the best of their understanding, although "errors of judgment" were made.

The issue of how accurately the utility reported TMI Unit 2 plant conditions on March 28, 1979, was revived by Udall Feb. 4 in a letter to NRC Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino.

Udall said his Energy and Environment Subcommittee would drop further investigation, "given the commission's apparent determination to avoid confronting the issue directly." Udall accused the NRC staff of making "tortured distinctions" between whether Met-Ed officials "knowingly" or "willfully" withheld information.

The House chairman said he was reacting with "deep dissatisfaction" to the NRC's most recent and inconclusive discussion of information flow on Dec. 21, 1981. At that meeting, Victor Stello, director of the NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement, agreed that information on the severity of the accident was withheld and that, "We (the NRC) were misled."

Stello conceded to Gilinsky that company officials had "knowingly" withheld information. But Stello said Met-Ed officials did not act "with willfulness, lying or maliciousness." The distinction visibly upset Gilinsky, who referred to the semantical distinctions this week as "an Alice-in-Wonderland departure from the dictionary meaning of words."

NRC Chairman Palladino took exception to Udall's assertion in the Tuesday letter that the agency's three investigations of TMI information flow had been inadequate. He also objected to Udall's description of NRC "inaction." He recounted that "extensive" funds, staff effort and commission time had been devoted to the controversy.

"We share your view that continuing dialogue on this matter no longer serves any useful purpose. We would rather turn our efforts toward implementing lessons learned from past experience to improve the flow of information," said Palladino, adding that new and tougher operating reports will be required soon of nuclear utilities.

Commissioners John F. Ahearne and Thomas N. Roberts supported Palladino in his letter to Udall, forming a 3-2 majority in favor of closing the subject. Roberts was silent on the subject, but as in the past, Ahearne differed sharply with Gilinsky in additional comments to Udall on Tuesday.

Ahearne said Met-Ed's reporting of accident conditions to state and federal officials has been "investigated and reinvestigated" with the same finding — that there was no "deliberate attempt to mislead" government officials.

Describing the NRC staff's position, Ahearne said:

"It is not Alice-in-Wonderland language. It is not obfuscatory language. It is clear: We did not conclude that the licensee personnel willfully misled the off-site people on the day of the accident. This is different from the conclusion of Commissioner Gilinsky and of the Udall staff. I regret that, but it is different."

In separate remarks to Udall, Commissioner Peter A. Bradford sided with Gilinsky's observations, but reluctantly concluded any enforcement action against Met-Ed officials would fail.

"The investigators and enforcers have no heart for it," Bradford said.

Bradford did insist "this subject is a legitimate area of concern" when the NRC eventually considers the restart of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island.

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Editors:

Cathie Musser
Kathy Manfred

Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

BILLS from 2

send a message to GPU and Met Ed to take heed, that we're not pleased with the cleanup and the proposal to start Unit 1 without showing more competence. They haven't measured up."

Project David founder William Keisling said the bills represented about \$350,000 owed this month to Met Ed, which has a total of about 320,000 customers. It was Keisling who estimated the total billing from York County customers.

But Orsi said the total dollar amount of bills could be much higher — perhaps as much as \$1 million — considering all the bills that are still expected to be sent to Project David.

"It's a symbol," said John Murdoch, a retired state employee after he placed his own utility bill on the smoking, flaming coals.

Although he is served by a different utility, Pennsylvania Power and Light Co., he said its own nuclear plant now under construction at Berwick, Pa., could be hit with the same kind of accident.

"I think it's a means for giving the public the opportunity to address their real feelings on TMI and nuclear power in general," he said, noting that it was the first time he had participated in a protest.

TMI's Unit 2 was damaged in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident on March 28, 1979. Since then, progress on the cleanup has slowed because Met Ed's parent, General Public Utilities Corp., says it doesn't have enough money to cover the estimated \$1 billion cost.

A number of protestors carried signs, including one proclaiming that Sunday was day 1,096 for the 578,000 people in the region held "hostage" by the plants. "Shut down TMI forever," read the sign.

Richard Orsi of York, who stood on the Capitol steps with his wife, Laurie, and 4-month-old son Nathan, said people are increasingly upset with higher electric bills in the wake of the accident.

"The bottom line for me is to get it cleaned up and closed down," he said.

In a speech, Keisling, a free lance writer, said the company should be forced into bankruptcy so the "community" can take over the plant and assure that ratepayers are not saddled with cleanup costs.

He urged that Met Ed customers continue withholding payments until they are guaranteed that they won't be charged for cleanup.

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission has approved \$37.5 million in higher rates to pay for cleanup. But the money can't be used until GPU's undamaged Unit 1 is returned to service, still at least six months to a year away. GPU customers are paying \$15 million a month for replacement power.

Keisling said current and proposed financial arrangements, including one proposed by Gov. Dick Thornburgh, let company shareholders escape their responsibility for paying cleanup costs.

"Shareholders didn't build it out of the goodness of their hearts," he said. "We want to send shareholders a message that if they are going to build these things, then they better build them right."

Senate panel OKs TMI cleanup fund

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A bill requiring nuclear utilities to pay one-fourth of the remaining Three Mile Island cleanup costs was approved today on a hard-won 12-7 bi-partisan majority of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee.

The first legislation passed by a congressional panel to dictate payment of any portion of the Unit 2 decontamination project was sponsored by Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and Bill Bradley, D-N.J.

The initial legislative step came three days after the third anniversary of the TMI Unit 2 accident that shook the nation's nuclear utilities and their customers.

Drafted largely by the Edison Electric Institute — the largest organization of investor-owned utilities — the bill imposes a surcharge on utilities based on their nuclear-generating capacity. Revenues from the surcharge would equal roughly \$32 million annually for six years. The total \$192 million raised would equal the industry's portion under Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh's cost-sharing plan.

"This is a major step for the peace of mind of residents in Central Pennsylvania," Heinz said after the committee meeting. "It helps us put in place another necessary piece of the plan to clean up the island."

Neither Heinz nor Bradley would predict when the bill would reach the Senate floor, but both hope it will be considered later this spring.

After a rocky meeting on the bill last Wednesday, Heinz, Bradley and EEI lobbyists were able to overcome several committee members' objections to the legislation.

Despite the committee approval, a stiff fight is expected on the Senate floor.

From conservative Sen. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H.:

"I believe EEI and other supporters of this bill are making an unfortunate mistake... when ratepayers across this country find out they're being forced to participate in a bailout of a private company... it will be one more grudge against nuclear power and more ammunition for the anti-nukes."

From liberal Sen. Paul Tsongas, D-Mass.:

"I'm going to be very active on this issue in opposition to the bill on the floor."

Even senators who voted for the Heinz-Bradley bill had reservations.

"I think we're setting a bad precedent here. I will vote for it because I don't want to see that 'soggy bottom' (TMI site) float down the (Susquehanna) river, down my way," said Kentucky Democrat Wendell Ford.

Meanwhile, Heinz withdrew an amendment from a Nuclear Regulatory Commission bill before it was passed by the Senate Tuesday that would have required the U.S.

Department of Energy to assume control of the Unit 2 core.

One factor that may have dissuaded Heinz is an imminent formal announcement by DOE and General Public Utilities officials that the government will acquire the Unit 2 core.

DOE press secretary Phil Garon said the announcement within a week or two would trigger months of negotiations on which non-research costs GPU would reimburse the government for. The GPU-DOE pact, however, does not deal with an accident or financial crisis postulated in Heinz's amendment. Garon noted that core removal isn't expected to take place for several years.

The bill Heinz had sought to amend authorizes the NRC to spend about \$1 billion during the next two years on regulation of nuclear utilities.

Another TMI-related amendment was withdrawn earlier for different reasons.

The Senate delayed action on an amendment last week that would have voided a court order forcing the NRC to consider psychological stress in nuclear plant license proceedings. Sen. James McClure, R-Idaho, had proposed the amendment to overturn the court order, which he said would unnecessarily delay approval of construction projects throughout the government.

Petitioned by Steven Sholly and People Against Nuclear Energy of Middletown, the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals ordered on Jan. 7 that the NRC consider psychological stress as a factor in the TMI-Unit 1 restart proceedings.

The commission had voted against considering mental health of TMI-area residents in the Unit 1 case.

The circuit court here ordered the NRC to conduct an environmental assessment on the subject, consider whether it should do a more complicated environmental impact statement, and renew licensing hearings based on those studies. If fully carried out, NRC officials estimate the requirements would delay the Unit 1 restart decision by more than one year.

McClure, who argued Congress never intended stress to be a federal project benchmark under the National Environmental Protection Act, reluctantly withdrew his amendment — but only temporarily.

He pulled back when Sen. Alan Simpson, R-Wyo., noted Congress could not fully respond to the circuit court order because the three judges involved have yet to issue an opinion explaining their legal reasoning. NRC and General Public Utilities officials have complained that a nearly three-month delay on the opinion has hamstrung their efforts to respond knowledgeably to the court order.

DOE now says it will dispose of TMI-2 core

HARRISBURG (AP) — The federal Department of Energy is working on a plan to dispose of the entire damaged reactor core at Three Mile Island, dropping its earlier opposition to taking full responsibility, Gov. Dick Thornburgh said Thursday.

Thornburgh said he was informed this week that DOE will go beyond its earlier statements that it would handle no more than 15 percent of the damaged core.

He called the move "an important first step in achieving a formal agreement to insure safe removal of the core."

For several months, the Energy Department has been negotiating with General Public Utilities Corp. on the issue. "We've been trying to get them to do more," said GPU spokesman Phil Fine. "... It's an important breakthrough."

Robert C. Arnold, president of GPU Nuclear Corp., the plant's operator, said the company had reached a "preliminary understanding, which should be able to form the basis for a contract. The company was very pleased with the department's assistance in the matter."

Fine said there are still considerable details to be worked out, including costs.

The TMI Unit 2 plant was damaged in a March 1979 accident considered the worst ever at a U.S. commercial nuclear plant. Technicians are still only in the preliminary stages of cleanup and don't expect to remove the core until 1985.

Thornburgh said he met with assistant Energy Secretary Shelby Brewer in Washington last month to urge that DOE assume full responsibility for the core "as a matter of health, safety and peace of mind for those who live within the shadow of this facility."

The governor said DOE indicated it expects to be reimbursed for any non-research and development expenses it incurs in connection with core removal.

In a related matter, an independent consultant is scheduled to test the complete 79-siren warning system in place around a 10-mile radius of the nuclear complex today.

The sounding will last 30 seconds. In the event of a real emergency, the sounding of the sirens means people living within the area are to tune to their emergency broadcast system for instructions on what is to be done.

The Evening News, Friday, March 19, 1982

New brief asked in TMI argument

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has asked a group trying to delay restart of the damaged Three Mile Island nuclear power plant to back their argument with more information by March 26.

After the opposing brief is filed by the Union of Concerned Scientists and Steven Sholly, who lives near TMI, the plant's operators and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff must respond by April 2, the board ruled Thursday.

The three-member board, an agency of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, will consider the briefs from both sides and decide whether to hold open the record on the restart case.

The scientists' union and Sholly are arguing that the record should be reopened to include a 1979 NRC report which recommended equipment changes at TMI before its damaged Unit 2 reactor is allowed to generate power again.

PROTESTORS from 1

"Project David" is a protest against rising utility bills since the TMI accident and against the rate settlement approved in January by state regulators for Met-Ed and its sister utility, Pennsylvania Electric Co. of Johnstown. That settlement provides that Met-Ed and Penelec can begin using ratepayer revenues for the cleanup of Unit 2 when the undamaged Unit 1 returns to commercial service.

However, restart has been delayed indefinitely by problems with tubes in the reactor's two steam generators and by rulings by federal regulators concerning the issue of psychological stress.

"Project David," which takes its name from the biblical tale of David and Goliath, began in February. Volunteers from sponsoring groups went door to door to encourage ratepayers to participate by withholding payment on their March bills. Met-Ed officials have said that the utility will follow its normal procedure of levying 1.25 percent interest on delinquent bills.

The third anniversary observance will end on a religious note

Sunday at 7:30 p.m. when an interfaith service will be held at the Church of the Apostles, 1850 Marietta Ave., Lancaster. The service, titled "Mother Earth, Brother Wind, Sister Water," will be led by clergy of several faiths and will include a performance by singers from Lancaster Catholic High School.

U.S. Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., chairman of the House Energy and Environment Subcommittee, four committee members, and two area congressmen will hold a hearing on TMI Monday at 9:30 a.m. in the Middletown Borough Building. Representatives of pro- and anti-nuclear groups, local residents and civic leaders are scheduled to testify.

Subcommittee members participating will be Reps. Thomas J. Huckaby, D-La.; James Weaver, D-Ore.; David O'B. Martin, R-N.Y.; and Bruce F. Vento, D-Minn. U.S. Reps. William F. Goodling, R-Jacobus, and Allen E. Ertel, D-Montoursville, also will attend.

The available witness time for oral testimony has been filled, according to a subcommittee staff member, but residents may attend the session and submit written

statements on the psychological and economic effects caused by the accident and the presence of the TMI plant.

After the public gathering, the congressmen will have a briefing by GPU Nuclear Corp. officials and tour the plant.

The TMI accident occurred at 36 seconds after 4 a.m. on March 28, 1979, when a combination of mechanical malfunctions and human errors caused the reactor to begin to lose vital cooling water, partially uncovering the superhot core. This resulted in melting of the some of the zircaloy fuel cladding, which released excessive radioactivity into the coolant and caused the accumulation in the reactor of hydrogen gas. Fears — later proven unfounded — arose over the formation of a "hydrogen bubble" inside the reactor that could cut off cooling water.

The 900-megawatt Unit 2 began commercial operation in December 1978, while the 800-megawatt Unit 1 went on line in September 1974. The units were built at a cost of \$1.1 billion. GPU estimates the cost of the Unit 2 cleanup will exceed \$1 billion.

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The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, March 18, 1982

Lebanon County OKs TMI vote

LEBANON — Lebanon County has become the third Three Mile Island county to approve a referendum on the restart of the undamaged TMI Unit 1 on the May 18 Primary Election ballot.

County commissioners approved the non-binding referendum Wednesday. The yes-no question will be worded the same as those in Dauphin and Cumberland

counties: "Do you favor restarting TMI Unit 1 which was not involved in the accident on March 28, 1979?"

All registered voters will be able to vote on the question in the primary.

Of five counties with residents within a 25-mile radius of the plant, only York and Lancaster have not approved a referendum.



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

VOL. 3 NO. 8

MAY 1982

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, May 6, 1982

TMI cheating was no game

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — At first glance, a federal investigative report describing cheating among Three Mile Island nuclear plant operators reminds the reader vaguely of the detective game, "Clue."

One title in the report reads, "Mr. Shipman at the coffee machine."

You keep waiting to see "Col. Mustard, in the conservatory, with the candlestick."

Forgetting for the moment the gravity of the rather astounding evidence gathered, the report also brings back memories of grade school. You conjure up recollections of seventh graders conniving to get a passing grade.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing board, now trying to decide whether General Public Utilities Nuclear Corp. officials should be allowed to run Unit 1 again, appointed Special Master Gary Milhollin to take a special look into cheating incidents going back three years. The board probably wanted a blunt and thorough probe, and it got one from Mr. Milhollin.

All of his conclusions, based on testimony from GPU employees, may not be on the mark but the overall picture is obvious. There are accusations — some of them well backed up — of crib sheets, whispering, absent proctors and even open discussion of the tests taken between those who had just taken them and those who were about to.

Unfortunately, the setting wasn't a grade school, it was TMI.

The report is astounding in that, here, you have the most scrutinized utility in the world, with all the motivation (or at least pressure) to shape up in the world. In that setting, some middle and upper management officials were scurrying around cheating.

It didn't end with the two shift supervisors who were fired or, in the case of one them, allowed to resign. Special Master Milhollin said at least four other employees cheated in some way. Worse, the atmosphere, as Milhollin tried to describe it based on lengthy testimony, was hardly encouraging.

TMI operators were "depressed and angry" at having to retake license examinations because of the Unit

2 accident. Management did not make sufficient effort to improve morale, according to Milhollin. The company's own cheating investigation didn't follow up obvious leads. When the investigations began last year, some employees were "flippant" or just plain uncooperative.

GPU seemed to have the right attitude at the top about how to respond to the cheating.

One employee quoted Robert C. Arnold, president of GPU Nuclear, as saying this when the operators were called together in August 1981 to discuss the situation:

"...we live constantly in the public eye and that if you cannot stand being watched, then maybe you are in the wrong business, that he (Arnold) in no way would tolerate cheating."

Milhollin said, in effect, that some of GPU actions simply didn't get close to that mark.

Despite all the new equipment, beefed-up staff and talk of good morale at TMI, the cheating episodes bring back the haunting terms of "lessons learned" and "mind-set" that became so popular during federal investigations of the TMI accident. The lessons may yet be unlearned and the minds don't seem to be set.

Milhollin seemed to sense that most of the cheating instances weren't taken seriously by some of the operations staff members.

The licensing board and, ultimately, the NRC, cannot ignore Milhollin's blunt conclusions. In August 1979, the NRC ordered GPU to improve its training program. Guidelines in the order were generally well understood.

But two and one-half years later, here's what Milhollin concluded about operator training at TMI:

"The licensee's training and testing program was poorly administered, weak in content, ineffective in its method of instruction, and not an adequate response to the (Nuclear Regulatory) Commission's order of August 9, 1979."

Unless Milhollin is way, way off base, it will be extremely hard for the licensing board and the NRC to decide GPU is ready to start running a nuclear power plant again.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, May 6, 1982

NRC board seeks to clear TMI official in test cheating

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A Nuclear Regulatory Commission Atomic Safety and Licensing Board is seeking to clear the highest ranking management official connected with test cheating last year by Three Mile Island Unit 1 operators.

The board, which is considering the restart of Unit 1, issued a special order Wednesday describing as "unfounded" charges that Michael J. Ross, manager of operations at the nuclear plant, had "bragged" about making licensing test answers simpler for his subordinates and keeping a proctor out of the

test room.

A special master appointed by the board to investigate test cheating incidents during the last three years at TMI, Gary Milhollin, issued a report last week saying Ross had not credibly denied accusations of a former TMI employee.

Milhollin concluded evidence suggested Ross had intentionally made two test answers easier in April 1981 while at the same time keeping a Nuclear Regulatory Commission proctor away so TMI operators could cheat. Elsewhere in his lengthy report, Milhollin said at least six Metropolitan Edison Co. operating personnel cheated or contributed to cheating on licens-

ing tests in the last three years.

The licensing board did not make its overall recommendation to the NRC on the cheating incidents' effect on the company's ability to operate Unit 1, which has been shut down since shortly before the Unit 2 nuclear accident three years ago. But it moved to exonerate Ross because, while his denials of wrongdoing were not totally convincing, the board believed they were not "untruthful."

Wednesday's tentative order noted several times that the board had found Ross to be a competent and forthcoming witness during previous restart hearings on other

CONT p. 4

GPU TO REPAIR UNIT 1 TUBES

Nearly 31,000 in steam generators corroded

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

GPU Nuclear Corp. said today it will repair nearly all 31,000 tubes in the Three Mile Island Unit 1 steam generators because of corrosion apparently caused by a species of sulfur.

Originally the company had expected the repair program to involve between 8,000 and 10,000 of the heat-exchange tubes.

Douglas H. Bedell, GPU spokesman, said the additional work will be performed as precaution. He said refined tests with specially designed instruments were conducted during the last several weeks and uncovered defects in the upper

quarter-inch of many of the tubes.

"Not all 31,000 tubes show indications of damage at the very top, but GPU Nuclear officials currently feel it will be more efficient to reseat most of them, whether or not defects were indicated" in the tests, he said.

He said between 500 and 700 tubes in the two generators are likely to be plugged and taken out of service.

GPU also has selected a new repair method, one that has been used in the industry since the late 1960s, Bedell said. The original plan was to reseat the tubes

by a mechanical rolling process. The new technique involves the use of controlled explosive charges to expand and reseat the upper 10-inches of the tubes.

In this operation, a 10-inch-long plastic cylinder is inserted into each tube. The cylinder contains a cord impregnated with grains of explosives. The charge is set off outside the generator. Bedell said the tubes can be expanded in groups of about 30 at one time said.

Bedell said the new repair method is considered economically efficient. He said the original estimate of \$25 million for the repair program is still valid and might even be reduced somewhat.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, May 7, 1982

Report upgrades size of TMI leak

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

An estimated 3,000 gallons of low-level radioactive water leaked from a storage tank at Three Mile Island in January when a pipe froze and cracked, rather than 50 gallons as earlier believed, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff reported.

The leak in a 3/8-inch pipe on the borated water storage tank apparently occurred over a longer period than the three-to-four hours initially reported by GPU Nuclear Corp., plant's operator.

The revised estimate was based on analyses of groundwater which seeped into underground structures near the tank, specifically the air intake tunnel and the tank's "pipe chase," an aperture containing numerous small pipes.

Lake H. Barrett, the top NRC official at TMI, said neither the volume of the water nor the minute amount of radioactive tritium it contains pose any threat to the health or safety of on-site employees, off-site residents or the plant's equipment or structures.

Barrett said the squat tank has a capacity of 400,000 gallons of water. It has a level indicator, but it was not sensitive enough to show the actual leakage. The gauge, he said, is divided into increments of a foot, measuring from zero to 52 feet. A foot equals 7,600 gallons of water.

Consequently, when technicians looked at the gauge in January they "didn't see any difference from the day before and the day after," Barrett said.

The calculation of 50 gallons was based on the time a heat trace was energized to thaw the frozen pipe. GPU officials believed the leakage occurred over three to four hours. But, Barrett said, it appears

the pipe may have gone through an extended freeze-thaw cycle, freezing during the night and thawing and leaking during the day.

"We didn't know this until the groundwater leaked into the underground tunnels" and it was analyzed by the NRC and the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, Barrett said. He said "3,000 gallons is our estimate. It might be 2,000 or 4,000."

John T. Fidler, a GPU spokesman, said the 50 gallons was "based on what we knew at the time." He said "extensive analysis" of the soil under the leaking pipe indicated the leakage was greater than 50 gallons. He said GPU engineers estimate it was between 1,500 and 2,000 gallons.

Fidler said plant engineers believe the leak rate was constant but the leak occurred "over a longer time than we originally thought." He said GPU is checking plant records to pinpoint the timeframe.

Barrett's estimate was based on the ratio of tritium to antimony (Sb-125) found in samples in the underground structures. Barrett said antimony was chosen as the comparative element because it is not filtered out by the soil, such as cesium is.

About 300,000 gallons of water are stored in the tank. This includes pre-accident water from Unit 2 and water transferred from Unit 1 on the day of the accident. It also contains water that was moderately contaminated in the accident and processed through the Epicor II. Epicor, however, does not remove radioactive tritium.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, April 19, 1982

Restart foes call on voters

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A committee organized to campaign against the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 will begin knocking on doors and telephoning voters in Dauphin and Cumberland Counties to encourage a "no" vote on the restart referendums in the May 18 Primary Election.

The Bi-Partisan Committee to Vote No on the Restart of TMI Unit 1 is coordinating its canvassing activities from a newly opened office in the People Place in the Feller Building, 301 Market St.

The canvassing project will rely heavily on volunteers, but Kathy McCaughin, committee chairperson, said the response thus far from persons offering their services has been "very good. I'm very optimistic."

In addition to a core group who have been active in the anti-nuclear fight since the March 1979 accident at TMI, "a new group of volunteers have surfaced . . . people who just called us cold" after the committee was formed in February "and said this is something I want to do."

McCaughin said she has noticed a philosophical difference between volunteers in this campaign and others in which she has been involved. "Anytime I've organized a political campaign, one of the things that almost always happens is when people volunteer to canvass, either by phone or door-to-door, more times than not, they do not wish to canvass in their own neighborhood."

"The exact opposite is happening here," McCaughin said, explaining that volunteers want to carry their anti-TMI message to their friends and neighbors. "I think that's coming from the deep concern they have about TMI. They want those who are most close to them to be concerned."

CONT p. 3

TMI WATER ISSUE TACKLED

Citizens group seeks data on disposal to offer to NRC

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

Although a decision on disposal of processed radioactive water at Three Mile Island Unit 2 may be a year away, a citizens panel has decided to tackle the thorny problem now, so it can gather adequate information before it makes a recommendation to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"We have no idea when a decision is going to be needed on this," said Joel Roth, vice chairman of the NRC Advisory Panel on the Decommissioning of TMI Unit 2, but "we consider this important... and we want to start dealing with it now so we have all the information."

Roth said the panel will begin its discussion at a meeting Thursday at 7

p.m. at Holiday Inn-Center City. Noting that the water disposal is a "fairly powerful issue" among residents, Roth said the panel is encouraging the public to attend this meeting or future meetings and to make recommendations on the disposal problem.

About 600,000 gallons of highly contaminated water were processed through the submerged demineralizer system and are being stored in tanks at TMI. TMI engineers expect to reactivate the SDS in mid-May to begin cleansing 100,000 gallons of water in the reactor coolant system.

The SDS recaptured 230,000 curies of radioactivity, principally cesium and strontium, from the 600,000 gallons of water. The SDS, however, does not remove tritium, a naturally occurring

isotope of hydrogen that cannot easily be extracted from water.

About 1,800 curies remain in the processed water.

A February 1980 agreement with the City of Lancaster prohibits any accident-generated water from being dumped in the Susquehanna River. GPU Nuclear Corp. does not expect a decision to be made on the water until next year.

Roth said the panel's recommendation to the NRC last year was that the water be stored until possible disposal methods could be analyzed.

"We thought we would rather start early on this than late. We want to give the public every opportunity to make comments," Roth said.

York Daily Record • Wednesday, April 28, 1982

TMI cleanup cost 96¢ to nation's utility customers

By the Associated Press

Average utility customers nationwide would pay no more than 96 cents for the cleanup of the damaged Three Mile Island nuclear plant under a funding plan under consideration in Congress, Pennsylvania state officials said Tuesday.

State Public Utility Commission Chairman Susan Shanaman and Consumer Advocate Walter Cohen told a House subcommittee that the plan, proposed by Gov. Dick Thornburgh, should be approved as soon as possible.

The proposal would divide the remaining \$1 billion cleanup cost among utilities, the federal government, the states of New Jersey and Pennsylvania, and the plant's owner — General Public Utilities Corp.

Despite warnings that the plant is a potential health hazard and that its owner is nearing bankruptcy, many congressmen have so far resisted the idea of spreading the decontamination costs to their constituents.

Ms. Shanaman and Cohen presented the projected individual consumer cost to demonstrate how inexpensive the cleanup would be if shared.

"The assessment formula adds

about a penny a month, or 72 cents over six years to each electric bill. And it contains a ceiling protecting companies heavily dependent on nuclear power by limiting total payment to not more than 96 cents per year," said Ms. Shanaman, who testified before the House Interior subcommittee on energy and environment.

Cohen said that because the individual cost is so small, he believed resistance to the cleanup proposal is based on political opposition to nuclear-generated energy.

"It is not appropriate for the 1.4 million GPU customers and thousands of Pennsylvanians who live near the plant to be held hostage to a national debate on nuclear power," Cohen said.

"If there are those who want to fix blame for the accident before cleanup money is allocated, I would suggest there is sufficient blame to be spread to all concerned — except for the ratepayers," he added.

Later in the hearing, Chemical Bank Vice President Robert Gillham said GPU will be able to borrow money only through 1982 because of its declining financial position.

RESTART FOES from 2

The ballot question will read: "Do you favor restarting TMI Unit 1 which was not involved in the accident on March 28, 1979?" Voters will respond by pulling "yes" or "no." The same question also will appear on the ballot in Lebanon County.

All persons, regardless of party affiliation, will be permitted to vote on the referendum. Although legally non-binding, the referendum will be the first grass-roots barometer of how residents feel about the TMI

plant.

McCaughin said the thrust of the canvassing will be more than just an information action. Volunteers will make "a concerted effort to get the person to vote no. We will clearly identify ourselves as the 'Committee to Vote No.' We have a position in this election and that's what we will be articulating."

York Daily Record • Thursday, April 15, 1982

Close look GPU lifts lid; begins to assess TMI-1 damage

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Daily Record staff writer

The operator of Three Mile Island said Wednesday it has started inspecting the unit 1 reactor core to see if the corrosive agent that attacked as many as 10,000 of the unit's steam generator tubes also acted on the core.

GPU Nuclear Corp., the TMI operator, said the 160-ton head of the unit 1 reactor was removed Tuesday, marking the beginning of the inspection process, which is expected to last up to four weeks.

Spokesmen for the operator said they don't expect to find any corrosion in the core, but are undertaking the inspection "as a precaution."

At an informal press conference Wednesday, GPU Nuclear officials couldn't give an exact cost for this operation, but said it was part of the \$25 million project recently undertaken to repair the corrosion-damaged steam generator tubes at unit 1.

If corrosion is found in the reactor core, the operator will evaluate its extent to determine if the affected part of the core can be replaced with parts from the manufacturer, Babcock & Wilcox, said Ralph Neidig, a technical adviser for the operator's communications department.

Any corroded parts in the core would take six months to a year to replace, Neidig said.

This is the first time since February 1979 that the core head has been removed, said Dan Shovlin, unit 1 plant maintenance manager.

Neidig said any repairs to the reactor vessel would be easier to accomplish than those being done on the steam generator tubes.

This is because the parts in the core are removable for inspections and are replaceable, he said.

As many as 10,000 of the two unit 1 steam generator tubes were cor-

76 percent of poll respondents say don't restart TMI-1

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Daily Record staff writer

More than three-fourths of the readers responding to a *Daily Record* poll said unit 1 at Three Mile Island should not be restarted.

Of the 1,109 respondents to the unscientific survey, 842, or 76 percent, said the unit should remain idle while 267 called for its restart.

York County Commissioners, unlike their counterparts in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties, refused to put the question on the May primary ballot.

"We ran this poll because we wanted to find out how our readers felt about a critically important issue," said Sam Fosdick, executive editor of the *Daily Record*.

Among the reasons cited by those opposed to the restart were opposition to nuclear power in general — TMI and General Public Utilities, owner of the complex, in particular — support of alternative energy sources and memories of the unit 2 accident three years ago.

"What kind of future do our children have after we have laid waste to our soil, air and water ...?" one person wrote.

Other comments accompanying the returns from people opposed to restart included:

□ "Even after three years, the fear of an evacuation is still in everyone's mind."

□ "Concrete it solid, and put a plaque on it commemorating it as a monument to stupidity."

□ "We are seriously considering selling our house and moving if it's restarted, after 35 years here."

Those in favor of restart cited reasons that include the inherent risk of all ventures, the need for nuclear power to reduce dependence on foreign energy supplies, the need to put the plant back on line to reduce energy costs and the safety of nuclear power.

"Unfortunately life is not without risks, and considering the alternative of being without energy at all, I prefer to take this risk, which is no worse than getting into my car," one respondent said.

Others favoring restart said:

□ "Yes: I'd like you to know I'm a mother with two children and I live within five miles" of TMI.

□ "Nuclear power is the *safest* source of energy we can have. It eventually will be the cheapest."

GPU had no comment on the poll. A spokesman said it was not scientific and therefore incapable of being analysed.

Gerald Snyder, executive secretary of the Manufacturers Association of York, said he included a copy of the restart questionnaire in the latest issue of the association's newsletter to allow members to respond.

He said the organization is in favor of restart because it would reduce the cost of energy to industry in the area.

The Three Mile Island Public Information Resource Center, an umbrella organization for local groups opposed to nuclear energy and unit 1 restart, was pleased with the results of the poll.

PIRC is hopeful "York County public officials will take note of their constituents' wishes and put pressure on GPU to stop spending money on restart," and redirect the funds to cleaning up unit 2, said Steve Brooks, assistant director of organization.

Dr. Andrew Kulley, chief statistician for the Gallup Organization Inc. of Princeton, N.J., said the result of the unscientific poll could not be taken to represent the views of the entire county, because it was not random or controlled or representative of the entire population.

"I have no comment on it whatsoever," McKinley said.

Commissioner Jay R. Bair said the decision not to place a TMI referendum on the ballot was based on practical rather than on emotional factors.

"We talked with our solicitor, and he wasn't so sure if we put it on a ballot we wouldn't be surcharged for it," Bair said, explaining if challenged in court, counties that are currently placing the referendum on a ballot at no charge may be forced to pay election costs later. "It really could have been a boondoggle down the road."

Bair said an economic case could be made against the vote. "I'm a Met-Ed customer, too. If it was on the ballot and Met-Ed comes down here to fight it, up go my rates again," he said.

Commissioners from counties that will have the restart question on the ballot, when contacted earlier, argued that the vote will have a moral impact on TMI decisions. They said they have received a large response from people in favor of the referendum.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, April 21, 1982

York Daily Record • Thursday, April 8, 1982

Drop in realty sales cited in the immediate area

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The housing market in the Greater Harrisburg area has been steady during the current slump despite a lingering dampening effect on property values in certain locations near Three Mile Island, according to the president of the Greater Harrisburg Board of Realtors.

Helping to offset the slump caused by generally high interest rates and a drop in sales of properties within sight of the TMI cooling towers has been the continued revitalization of homes in Harrisburg's historic districts, Don Paul Shearer said.

The board's report on 1981 sales is still being prepared, Shearer said, but preliminary findings indicate that transactions involving homes near TMI did not keep pace with other areas. He said the volume "increased but at a decreasing rate."

"Less people are buying in the immediate impact area where they can see the cooling towers," Shearer said.

The metropolitan area, however, "maintained an increase" in volume. The area did "very well" and held its own against competition from York and Lancaster, he said.

There was a "substantial increase" in sales in the city of Harrisburg "due to its historic areas," Shearer said. He said prices for city houses are up. That's a "good sign."

LETTERS

Restart at TMI

When Unit 2 at TMI went down, I was reading some old books and a caption caught my eye. It said, "Pressure Vessels May Come Unglued." Since TMI had a bubble in its pressure vessel at the time, I read the article to see if I could learn anything about it. Well, it seems that Babcox and Wilcox ran off a dozen bad pressure vessels. The problem was a lack of carbon in the metal they are made of and the welding material.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the people they were sold to were notified, but experts had determined through extensive testing (on paper) that the only problem the condition would cause is if the reactor were started too fast (which they do all the time to save money) or if it were shut down too fast. Because of a lack of carbon, the metal would not expand or contract properly, causing cracks.

Twelve guesses where the tenth or eleventh one they had listed was. If you guessed TMI, you are right. Do you want to let them restart Unit 1?

David Williams
Dallastown

NRC SEEKS from 1 issues.

Milhollin found it particularly troubling that Ross could not remember participating in a review of operator test questions and answers and making changes in some answers.

"Within our experiences," the board said in its order, "It is not an

uncommon phenomenon for truthful and credible witnesses, perhaps because of the fallibility of human perceptions and memories, to render some unbelievable testimony . . . we attribute the questioned testimony to confusion or to other unknown but honorable reasons."

"We are extremely gratified with the board's judgment," said Robert C. Arnold, of GPU Nuclear.

Chamber Asked to Rethink 'Yes' Support on TMI Vote

By RON JURY
Staff Writer

The Dauphin County commissioner who proposed the referendum on the restart of Unit 1 at Three Mile Island has asked the Chamber of Commerce of the Greater Harrisburg Area to "reconsider" its resolution urging its members to support a yes vote in the May 18 primary.

In a three-page letter to the chamber, Commissioner Lawrence J. Hochendoner said the commissioners have carefully avoided taking a position on the restart question, but adds, "I would feel irresponsible if I did not point out several items concerning the social and economic welfare of our citizens in Dauphin County relative to the potential effects of a yes vote."

Hochendoner said TMI has done nothing but cause an "economic downturn" in the local economy.

In a resolution dated April 13, the chamber board said the "full return to operation" of the undamaged unit "will benefit the social and economic welfare of millions of citizens in Southeastern and South Central Pennsylvania."

The resolution also noted that Nuclear Regulatory Commission officials have determined Unit 1 "can be returned to full operation without adversely affecting the safe and efficient cleanup" of Unit 2.

Hochendoner said, "I am certain I do not have to remind you of the real and potential negative economic impact that this accident (March 28, 1979, involving Unit 2) has had in Dauphin County."

"For example, our county bond rating dropped immediately after March 28, 1979; we have a higher than average relocation of small businesses out of our area. Should

any radioactivity be found within the ecosystem, particularly within the cow's milk, or any other part of our agricultural system, Pennsylvania's agri-business will suffer serious and substantial loss for years to come."

The commissioner said "there is little doubt" that one of the "greatest obstacles" in promoting Dauphin County for new businesses "is the uncertainty and continuous anxiety that is generated by a plant that has been highly contaminated for over three years."

Hochendoner said under a recent Public Utility Commission decision, the restart of Unit 1 is the trigger for gaining \$25 million in cleanup funds for Unit 2. He added that the Board of Commissioners and the TMI advisory panel are on record opposing Unit 1 restarting as a condition for Unit 2 to be cleaned up.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, April 28, 1982

Bill increases N-insurance requirements

Six Democratic representatives — among them Peter C. Wambach Jr., D-Harrisburg — today introduced a bill in the state House to require that no corporation could operate a nuclear generating plant unless the operator held \$1.5 billion in insurance "or some other form of equivalent protection" to cover decontamination in the event of an accident.

They noted that at the time of the Three Mile Island accident, nuclear generating utility companies were required to have only \$300,000 in insurance, while the TMI cleanup is expected to cost more than \$1 billion.

The proposed \$1.5 billion insurance, which would be made a requirement of the Public Utility Commission Code, conforms to similar legislation introduced on the federal level by U.S. Rep. Allen E. Ertel of Montoursville, a Democratic candidate for governor.

In a joint statement, the six representatives said:

"We do not believe it fair that ratepayers be forced to pay cleanup costs incurred in connection with nuclear accidents simply because they were customers of the wrong utility at the wrong time — when the TMI accident occurred more than three years ago."

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Editors:

Cathie Musser
Kathy Manfred

Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

York Daily Record • Friday, April 16, 1982

Wecht attacks GPU donation to Heinz

HARRISBURG (AP) — Democratic U.S. Senate hopeful Cyril Wecht said Thursday it was "indiscreet" of Republican Sen. John Heinz to accept a political contribution from the owners of Three Mile Island.

Wecht, seeking the Democratic nomination for the race against Heinz, said General Public Utilities Corp.'s political action committee donated \$700 to the incumbent senator in 1981.

"I think it simply was not a judicious idea," Wecht said at a press conference near the TMI plant. "It was very indiscreet of him."

Wecht said it "certainly was not wise" for Heinz to take the contribution while the issue of the TMI cleanup is unresolved.

Wecht also criticized Heinz for accepting \$30,000 in contributions last year from people connected with the oil and gas industry.

Heinz has refused in the past to respond to Wecht's campaign statements and an aide in the senator's office reiterated that policy Thursday.

of the TMI-1 reactor for testing" for corrosion damage. Included are a tubular gasket between the reactor vessel and the head, fuel assemblies and the end fittings on the control rod drive mechanisms.

A type of sulfur was cited as the active agent in the corrosion process in the steam generator tubes. Because the agent is believed to have acted in the radioactive water of the reactor's primary side, the core is being inspected to see if a similar reaction occurred.

The operator said the only likely site of corrosion is the upper part of the steam generator tubes, because they weren't covered with water while unit 1 was not operating.

The interaction between the sulfur agent and air is believed to have caused corrosion in the tubes, but the core was covered with water.

CLOSE LOOK from 3

roded by a process known as chemically assisted intergranular attack, where a type of sulfur is thought to be the active agent, the operator said.

The tubes — where radioactive water from the primary side of the reactor and nonradioactive water from the secondary side pass, producing steam then electricity — are expected to be repaired by late summer or early fall.

The reactor could be ready for service by the end of the year once the tubes are fixed, the operator said.

GPU Nuclear said it has "selected the most representative components

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WE HOPE YOU APPROVE, AND WILL CONTINUE TO FIND OUR SERVICE USEFUL!!

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Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

VOL. 3 NO. 9

JUNE 1982

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, May 19, 1982

Referendum margin is 2-1 against restart

TMI vote hailed as 'message'

By **MARY O. BRADLEY**
Staff Writer

The 2-to-1 vote against the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 should send a "message to the nuclear bureaucracy" that "it's just not business as usual anymore," the chairman of the Bi-Partisan Committee to Vote-No on the TMI Restart said today.

The results of the non-binding referendum put "the burden on public officials to take a long, hard look at how things have been done in the past," said Kathy McCaughin. She said Congress, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the nuclear utilities will have to reflect on the results.

But, the nuclear plant's operator, citing the light voter turnout combined with a large population of eligible but unregistered voters, questioned whether the results reflect actual public sentiment.

"The question might be asked that if the stress that people talk about is so prevalent, why did only 10 percent of those who had the ability to be heard, take the opportunity to be heard?" said John T. Fidler, spokesman for GOU Nuclear Corp.

McCaughin said she believes the NRC will consider the referendum in "its overall decision-making process . . . It's impossible to ignore the mandate" from the voters.

"This is the first time that people with a first-hand knowledge of what it's like to live with a damaged reactor have had an opportunity to speak."

With only one precinct unreported, voters in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties cast

40,588 no votes and 20,040 yes votes Tuesday. The breakdown by county is: Dauphin, 21,905 no, and 8,740 yes; Cumberland, 12,570 no and 6,748 yes; and Lebanon, 6,113 no and 4,552 yes.

Friends & Family of TMI doesn't view the referendum results as a loss, a spokeswoman said today. She said the group did not wage an extensive campaign and "actively seek 'yes' votes. We thought the opposition would be a lot stronger than it was."

She said, "Friends & Family still feels the issue (restart) should be decided on technical merits. We will continue to educate the public."

Robert C. Arnold, president of GPU Nuclear Corp., said "between the light turnout and the difficulty of addressing the complexity of this issue with a simple 'yes' or 'no,' we are reluctant to draw firm conclusions from the referendum vote."

"Safety continues to be the primary issue involved in the restart,"

Arnold said. GPU "continues to be committed to safety and we will be doing our best to demonstrate and communicate that commitment as we approach a decision on the restart of Unit 1."

Fidler said the "no" votes represent only about 10 percent of the total number of both registered voters and those persons over 18-years-old who are eligible to register but are not registered in the three counties.

"Do people then believe as we do that the real mechanism to address the complex safety issues — to address restart — belongs in the

forum of the (NRC) Atomic Safety and Licensing Board?" Fidler said. The board conducted nine months of hearings on the restart issue.

About 26 percent of registered voters cast ballots in Dauphin and Cumberland counties. McCaughin said the light turnout does not negate the results of the vote. "We elect presidents this way. This is a Primary Election, which is historically low . . . The low turnout has absolutely nothing to do with people's feelings on this issue."

McCaughin said "if we had 100 percent turnout, the difference would have been more dramatic than it was. I think more 'no' votes stayed home than 'yes' votes."

Calling the results, "marvelous" and "beyond our wildest dreams," McCaughin said the vote tally "is a clear example that corporations and government cannot override people's individual's rights to control their lives. The referendum became a vehicle for expressing that."

The Project David ratepayers' strike against Met-Ed sent a Mailgram to Nunzio J. Palladino, NRC chairman, late Tuesday, noting that "The spirit of American democracy demands that you obey this public mandate and order the permanent closing of Three Mile Island."

Vote-No advocates plan a victory celebration Thursday at 7:30 p.m. at Lakeside Lutheran Church, Green and Division streets. Court Dorsey, a member of Bright Morning Star, will perform. Tickets may be obtained at Three Mile Island Alert Inc., 315 Peffer St., sponsors of the event.

Denied ballot, Goldsboro puts Unit 1 down

GOLDSBORO — The highly publicized Three Mile Island referendum on Tuesday's ballot gave voters in Dauphin, Cumberland and

Lancaster counties a chance to speak their minds about the re-opening of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor.

Middletown, widely heralded as the town right next to the nuclear plant, had its say, but residents of little Goldsboro, just as close, but in York County across the Susquehanna River, got shut out of the action. Their county commissioners decided to omit the referen-

dum question.

But borough officials thought their residents' opinions on the restart issue were important, too, so they put a special ballot box outside the borough's polling place to let voters speak their piece about the island just across the way.

And voters here — 65 took the time to slip a slip into the ballot box — echoed what residents in the

Cant. pg. 5 DENIED

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, May 19, 1982

Wednesday, May 26, 1982

Two-to-one against restart

THE EFFORT to infer meaning from Tuesday's referendum on the restart of TMI Unit 1 will be an ongoing process with both sides of the issue reaching conclusions based on varying interpretations of the vote from Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties. Perhaps, the prevalent view among the pro-TMI movement, which was voiced well in advance of the actual balloting, is that the non-binding nature of the vote made its outcome inconsequential. Let us offer the following observations.

Nunzio J. Palladino, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has said the vote will be taken into consideration on whether the restart is authorized and certainly the 2-1 "no" vote provides some clue to the psychological stress incurred by area residents.

Staff Writer Mary Bradley spent a good share of Wednesday answering queries from news media, private interest groups and even a citizen from Connecticut who wanted the results. As we said Sunday, the referendum is significant because it provides a concrete measure of the willingness of a population to accept a nuclear power plant after an accident which gave residents a tremendous scare and, in some cases, caused tangible hardship.

THE REFERENDUM did do that and its conclusion is inescapable: Those citizens voting don't want TMI restarted. Despite, the \$275,000 spent by General Public Utilities Corp. on a public relations campaign, those voters apparently did not buy assurances concerning plant safety and the progress on cleaning up Unit 2.

Another argument al-

ready surfacing is that the low turnout is demonstrative of the public indifference to the issue. The referendum was not the big drawing card TMI opponents hoped for, which will work to the advantage of those favoring restart. Because the big source of speculation wasn't really the outcome, but how many would go to the polls to voice their concern.

However, it's also fair to point out that low-key primaries traditionally draw weak response and that marginal voter turnouts still elect presidents and, essentially, determine our form of government.

The pocketbook factor also may have had a bearing on the results. Lebanon County, Metropolitan Edison Company's biggest customer of the three counties, voted by only 57 percent against restart. GPU has argued that putting Unit 1 back on line will assist in recovering from the economic shock of the accident, such as the expensive purchase of replacement power.

BUT REGARDLESS of how the outcome is construed, nothing can alter the fact that the important concern remains the expeditious cleanup of Unit 2 and the safety considerations surrounding the restart of Unit 1. The restart referendum may not be binding but it should help keep the pressure on the NRC, Congress, and even the state and federal government to deal with TMI specifically and the ramifications of nuclear power generation in general. Those who voted may not have understood all the technological and legal jargon surrounding the cleanup and restart, but they did perceive a threat to their way of life. And that's what emerged Tuesday.

SOUND OFF

I'm making this call on May 14, 1982. The reason I'm mentioning the date is because I have been solicited by pro and anti-nuclear people with different kinds of propaganda for and against the restart of TMI Unit-1. I am definitely against restart of Unit-1, in fact I'm against the entire nuclear power industry as far as Middletown is concerned. Now I asked this one individual if nuclear power is so safe, why is it that it is necessary to have an evacuation plan? I almost fell over when this person implied that it wasn't necessary. Now how ridiculous can you be when the people who are vitally interested in this thing say that we have to have an evacuation plan and this individual in a counterargument says we don't have to have one? In so far as such a plan is concerned, it is the most ridiculous thing in the world. Can you imagine thousands of people on a highway trying to get to a certain evacuation point? I'll give you an example. What happens when you have heavy traffic down on the South Bridge in Harrisburg? It gets tied up for hours. Now in the event we do have an evacuation and get out and the all-clear siren is sounded, what do we have to come back to? Nothing because everything will have been contaminated. The idea of trying to force this nuclear power, TMI, down our throats is brazen, it is an outrage. I don't know how anyone in their right mind could advocate this sort of thing. Now as far as politicians are concerned they are at the same time both pro and con on the issue. If they feel they're representing the majority of people they'll say "no" to restart. If they're representing the utilities and big business they say "yes." I do hope that the people will come to their senses and say "NO!" I hope after the referendum people will see what is the situation and the politicians will abide by the wishes of the people. Put an end to this and stop abiding by the financial powers behind this thing.

STAFF THIS ISSUE

Editors:

Cathie Musser
Kathy Manfred

Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

To Check Possibility of Mob Involvement

NRC Reopening Probe Into TMI Workmanship

By ERIC EFFRON
States News Service

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is reopening a probe into charges of shoddy workmanship at three nuclear power plants, including Three Mile Island.

The investigation was prompted by testimony before a Senate Committee last week alleging organized crime involvement and other irregularities concerning welders who worked on the plants.

The NRC looked into the allegations in 1980, and concluded they were unfounded. But investigators said the probe was hampered by the absence of names of individuals who were alleged to have cheated on welding tests and to have illegally received union cards.

Sen. Orrin G. Hatch, R-Utah, said Friday those names now are available to the NRC, and an NRC spokesman said that with the names, "we will certainly do additional checking."

Interest in the three-year-old charges was rekindled last week when two welders from Indiana, Pa., testified before Hatch's Senate Labor and Human Resources Committee about alleged corrupt practices within the International Brotherhood of Boilermakers, Iron Shipbuilders, Blacksmiths, Forgers and Helpers.

Gary and Wayne Boring, who are brothers, repeated for senators charges they said they already had brought to the NRC, the Labor Department, the Justice Department and the FBI.

"My reason for filing with the NRC in 1979 was to point out the possibilities and probabilities of what could happen to the nuclear plants if I didn't come forward with what I knew was going on," testified Gary Boring, who described himself as a certified welder with 10 years' experience, including work at TMI.

According to Hatch, the Borings are willing to provide the names of 34 possible informants who are alleged to have participated in corrupt practices. Boring claimed that welding tests at plants often are faked, with some welders taking the exam for others.

He also said that union certification was sold or given out "with little or no regard for qualifications," and that known organized crime figures were involved.

A union spokesman flatly denied the charges.

According to Boring, the irregular practices result in "inconsistent workmanship that can lead to a problem anyplace, any time."

NRC spokesman Gary Sanborn said the Borings' charges were investigated in 1980 and "we were unable to substantiate any of them."

Sanborn said the investigation centered on welds at three nuclear plants: Three Mile Island units 1 and 2; Beaver Valley units 1 and 2, near Pittsburgh; and Limerick Generating Station units 1 and 2, near Pottstown, which is not on line.

"The people that made the charges never gave us any names," said Sanborn. "That hampered our ability to investigate."

According to Labor Committee investigator Jim Phillips, the Borings declined to provide the NRC with the names earlier, at the behest of the Labor Department, which also reportedly was investigating.

Hatch, in a letter to the NRC released late Friday, said "Since the Labor Department's case is now closed, there should be no obstacle to your getting this list of names from the Borings."

"It is vitally important that the NRC obtain the facts of this matter with respect to the labor force at nuclear plants."

The NRC indicated that with those names, another look into the charges would be in order. "If the NRC is provided with the names of individuals who are alleged to be unqualified welders," Sanborn said, "we will certainly do additional checking."

Sanborn said investigators will likely do a preliminary check, and will go forward with a full-scale probe only if there are indications unqualified welders worked in sensitive areas.

Hatch also sent letters to the FBI, the Justice Department, the Labor Department, and the attorney general, urging those agencies to reopen their probes.

Sanborn said that even without the names, the NRC probe was thorough. He said no evidence of faulty welds was uncovered and that testing procedures are ample in case a bad weld is produced.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, May 27, 1982

NRC questions TMI cleanup report

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has questioned an Energy Department report that says money is no problem for the Three Mile Island nuclear cleanup project.

NRC members who heard the report Wednesday said it could mislead the public and create unfounded optimism in Congress.

The Energy Department's presentation was made by Dr. Franklin E. Coffman, deputy assistant secretary for nuclear waste management. He told the commission that the TMI decontamination project is proceeding steadily with existing insurance money and \$123 million in federal funds authorized by the Reagan administration.

Coffman told the NRC that money was less important to the cleanup than "the resolve of the participants."

"All participants must pursue this project without waiting for more money. We got a lot done last year with less money than we expected," Coffman told the commission.

"We have to take caution that we don't get preoccupied over whether we have \$100 million or \$150 million to spend on cleanup," he said.

So far, the Reagan administration has agreed to spend \$123 million on research and development.

Some contaminants already have been removed from the plant's damaged Unit 2 reactor and trucked to the Hanford federal waste disposal site in Washington state.

The plant's owner, General Public Utilities Corp., has used nearly all of its \$300 million insurance fund for the cleanup, which is estimated to cost a total of \$1.3 billion.

While Congress considers a controversial bill to spread most of the remaining cleanup cost among the nation's utilities, the NRC asked the president for more cleanup money.

Coffman's report was a negative response to that NRC request, which was made in an April 2 letter.

"While progress to date has been slower than all of us would like, significant forward steps are now being taken," Coffman said.

"Progress on the most critical aspects of the TMI 2 cleanup, namely removal of radioactive waste and removal of the damaged core, is not being held back by insufficient funds," he added.

NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino warned that such an optimistic assessment of cleanup progress is probably misleading.

"I'm afraid everyone will sit back and say 'ah, it's resolved,' but it's not," said Palladino.

"If we leave the impression that funding is not a problem, then Congress and the public will be misinformed," the chairman said.

That opinion was supported by Bernard Snyder, director of the NRC's TMI program office. He said that with more money, more nuclear waste could have been removed from the plant by now.

Evacuation would affect 8,600 within 10 miles

Skeptics hit Cumberland's TMI plans

By MATT MILLER
Carlisle Bureau

CARLISLE — Skepticism was the main theme Thursday night at a sparsely attended public hearing on Cumberland County evacuation plans for an emergency at the Three Mile Island nuclear station.

Only about 30 people showed up for the hearing, far fewer than the 190 who signed petitions that prompted the county commissioners to schedule the session.

The county evacuation plan, now being reviewed by the state, was explained by Thomas Blosser, county director of emergency preparedness.

The plan calls for evacuation of people within a 10-mile radius of TMI in the event of the disaster. Cumberland County regions within that radius include New Cumberland and a small segment of Lower Allen Twp. About 8,600 people live in those areas.

The main evacuation routes would be Interstate 83, Route 11 and the Pennsylvania Turnpike. Most of the evacuees would be channeled to Big Spring School District facilities equipped as emergency centers.

Big Spring would be able to handle 50 percent of the evacuees. The rest, experience shows, would probably relocate with relatives or friends, Blosser said.

Fliers with information on evacuation procedures are expected to be distributed to people within the evacuation area this summer, he added.

John Murdoch, a 25-year resident of Lower Allen Twp., was first to criticize the plan, reminding his listeners that "we live in the lengthening shadow of a nuclear power plant which experienced the worst nuclear accident in history."

Murdoch cited problems with emergency evacuation plans — most of them in the event of nuclear war — in other parts of the county and complained of malfunctions in sirens designed to warn of an accident at TMI.

He also noted that countians have yet to receive any information on evacuation procedures.

A woman, who said she lives on a York County farm 3½ miles from TMI, warned, "A nuclear catastrophe will wipe out every single farm in that area."

Other speakers regarded the 10-mile evacuation radius as too small.

"Do I have a guarantee that radiation is going to automatically stop at the New Cumberland border?" asked Marge Clement of Lemoyne.

"If you live 10.1 miles away (from TMI) you're on shaky ground," another woman noted.

Countian Ed Charles said the plan should be expanded to include people outside the present evacuation area.

Charles also said he was worried that the state had based some of its judgment on TMI emergency planning on the Rasmussen Report, a document that was repudiated by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission after the 1979 accident at the nuclear station.

He complained that not enough local input was sought in the preparation of the plan. Too much emphasis was placed on federal and state information, he said.

Commissioner Jake Myers said he supports a 20-mile evacuation radius. But, he said, the 10-mile limit was imposed by state and federal planners and the county is obliged to abide by it "for the sake of consistency."

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL Wednesday, May 26, 1982

GPU Wants To Add To Reopen Unit 1 Hearing

GPU Nuclear Corporation officials have asked the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to reopen its Three Mile Island Unit 1 hearing record for further testimony.

The request was made in the form of a written motion filed April 30. It was prompted by a report two days earlier in which a special master, appointed by the board to investigate allegations of cheating by company personnel on a Nuclear Regulatory Commission licensing examination, criticized "an important member of Licensee's management."

In its motion, GPU Nuclear asked the licensing board to hear testimony from Michael Ross, manager of plant operations

at TMI-1. The utility pointed out that Friday's action does not rule out other company challenges of the special master's report.

The special master, Gary Milhollin, was appointed by the ASLB last year after the company dismissed two TMI-1 operators for cheating on an April, 1981 NRC licensing examination. The board had completed lengthy hearings on the overall issues of restarting TMI-1. (The unit was shut down for routine refueling when the March 28, 1979 accident damaged Unit 2. The NRC later decided to institute the safety hearings as a prerequisite to restart.)

The Milhollin hearings involved 39 witnesses over 18 days, ending last December 10. Concurrently, ASLB in a partial, initial decision issued on December 14, recommended to the NRC

commissioners that Unit 1 be allowed to restart, but limited to five percent of full power until the cheating issue was resolved.

The special master's report, which the ASLB must factor into its final recommendation on restart, failed to include a yes-or-no position on restart. It did, however, criticize Ross' demeanor and credibility, and charged that he improperly acted to expand the answer key to the April, 1981 NRC licensing exam.

GPU Nuclear said there were several reasons to reopen the hearings:

—Since Ross is an important member of management, Milhollin's criticism runs directly to a central issue in the restart pro-

ceeding: management qualification.

—The company takes strong exception to the special master's opinion of Ross' demeanor and credibility.

—During the hearings, certain allegations found later in the Milhollin report were kept from Ross and he was without an opportunity to account for his actions.

In its motion, GPU Nuclear attorneys noted that the ASLB left open the possibility that it might later take testimony. The company believes further testimony is critical and that "a result different from the special master's conclusions may hinge on the board's hearing directly from Mr. Ross."

Dauphin official asks fed cleanup appointee

HARRISBURG (AP) — A Dauphin County commissioner has called on the White House to appoint a special assistant to coordinate and supervise the cleanup at Three Mile Island.

In a letter to President Reagan, Commissioner Lawrence J. Hochendoner said appointment of a supervisor supported by "the full weight of the office of the presidency" would expedite the process.

"I believe it would enhance your policy on nuclear energy and encourage the nuclear industry. It certainly would improve our lives in central Pennsylvania," said Hochendoner, a Democratic candidate for Congress.

Meanwhile, the *Harrisburg Patriot* reported Friday that a three-county delegation of commissioners may go to Washington to present results of a TMI referendum.

In the balloting last week, residents of Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties voted better than 2-1 against restart of the undamaged reactor at the crippled nuclear power plant.

York County commissioners declined to place the referendum on the York County primary ballot.

The chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has said the panel would give serious consideration to the results of the May 18 referendum.

Hochendoner, an aide in the administration of former Gov. Milton Shapp, said he believed the vote reflected "the stress people feel about TMI unit 2. We

live not just with radiation, but with gripping uncertainty because no one — neither citizens nor industry nor government — has taken control," he said in the letter to Reagan.

A U.S. Court of Appeals has ruled the psychological health of citizens near the damaged plant must be considered before TMI unit 1 is put back into service.

In a motion filed Thursday, GPU Nuclear Corp., the operator of Three Mile Island, urged the NRC to give "highest priority" to the court's decision.

The company asked the NRC to determine whether any significant new circumstances will require more study and suggested a June 15 deadline.

In Washington Thursday, state Sen. George W. Gekas, R-Dauphin, asked the NRC to delay restart of unit 1 until the cleanup of unit 2 is completed, which could take up to 10 years.

Gekas, a Republican who will oppose Hochendoner in the fall election, said funds dedicated to a restart "would in effect divert funds from the immediate issue of cleanup, and thus delay cleanup even further."

The state Public Utility Commission in January approved a plan that committed customer payments to cleanup. The \$37.5 million contribution is contingent on unit 1's return to service, according to terms of the settlement.

York Daily Record • Monday, May 17, 1982

Immediate TMI restart opposed by frontrunners

SCRANTON, Pa. (AP) — Gov. Dick Thornburgh and his probable Democratic gubernatorial opponent, Rep. Allen Ertel, both oppose an immediate restart of the undamaged Unit 1 nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island.

The governor, in an appearance before the annual convention of the Pennsylvania Associated Press Broadcasters annual meeting near here, Thursday, said he could not rule out his approval of a restart at some time in the future.

But when asked if he would give his approval immediately, Thornburgh responded:

"I'd give a clear and resounding 'no' answer. Leaky pipes, unresolved questions about operator capability, a failure on the part of Congress to face up to their responsibility to provide a federal share of cost-sharing — absolutely not."

Ertel, giving the luncheon address at the meeting, said he, too, opposed the restart.

However, the governor indicated he wasn't convinced that Tuesday's referendum in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties to oppose a restart is the proper way to address the issue.

"That's the dilemma voters find themselves in, in being asked to give a response to what is an overly simplistic approach to the problem," he said.

Unit 1 was closed for refueling when Unit 2 was damaged in the March 1979 accident, worst at a U.S. commercial nuclear plant. It has not been re-started since.

DENIED from 1

other three counties said and by a similar margin. By a more than a 3-1 margin — 50 of 65 votes — they said they didn't want the plant operating again.

There was one vote for "let it up to the government," which is what's going to happen anyway: The questions were non-binding.

Nearby in the third district of Fairview Twp., an informal verbal poll produced similar results: 129 against, 29 for.

The unscientific, random poll of voters was conducted by a woman who was working the precinct for a candidate.

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., April 25, 1982



'Imagine, here I spent all day digging a shelter and she wants me to sign an anti-nuke petition!'

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The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, July 2, 1982

GPU appeals TMI ruling

*Utility owner asks high court to reverse
finding on psychological stress*

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Contending that the issue of psychological stress could paralyze future construction of vital federal projects, the owners of Three Mile Island have asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse a lower court decision ordering the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to consider the psychological well-being of residents near nuclear power plants.

General Public Utilities Corp. of Parsippany, N.J., said the lower court decision was "an unprecedented and unwarranted extension" of federal environmental laws. The ruling would first apply to TMI Unit 1, the undamaged plant for which GPU has been seeking restart approval since the Unit 2 accident in March 1979.

GPU said in a statement Thursday that if the District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals' ruling were allowed to stand, "psychological stress contentions could be raised — and could serve to de-

lay — all NRC licensing activities." Stress contentions already have been raised in seven other NRC nuclear plant licensing cases, GPU said.

Raising the specter of a needless blockade of much more than the nuclear industry, GPU said, "... all federal actions subject to the National Environmental Policy Act, such as the construction of dams, military installations, and highways, could be challenged on the grounds that potential negative psychological health impacts must be evaluated ..."

People Against Nuclear Energy, a group of Middletown residents, won the favorable appeals court ruling in January, which forces the NRC to consider restart of TMI-Unit 1 only after stress is considered.

William Jordan III, an attorney representing PANE, then hailed the lower court decision as the first time federal environmental laws were held to specifically protect mental health of residents

near nuclear plants or any other federally funded or licensed project.

GPU contends that "real safety issues" already are being thoroughly addressed by an NRC-appointed atomic safety and licensing board now considering the restart. The board has issued preliminary recommendations to the NRC on most safety issues but has yet to announce final opinions for the commission's consideration.

PANE anticipated the appeal. Jordan said in a paper reprinted in part by the group's newsletter that he feared the minority opinion filed in the 2-1 circuit court opinion by Judge Malcolm Richard Wilkey may induce the Supreme Court to overturn the stress decision.

NRC officials have been at work since January on the need and nature of an environmental assessment evaluating psychological stress the restart of TMI Unit 1 might have on area residents. It was unclear what effect, if any, the GPU appeal would have on the NRC's work.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, June 22, 1982

Nuke foes file lawsuit for venting

By JANIS L. WILSON
Staff Writer

"Potentially fatal amounts of radiation" were emitted during the venting of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building, according to a lawsuit filed in U.S. Middle District Court today by Three Mile Island Alert and about 140 individuals.

The suit was filed as a class action on behalf of "several thousands" of people "who were exposed to damaging radiation intentionally released from TMI-2," or who incurred expenses in leaving the area or whose property may have been contaminated.

The suit, which charges that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission illegally authorized the venting without a hearing, seeks unspecified damages be paid into a trust fund to help people who may suffer "deaths, cancer and crippling injuries" because of the radiation.

Defendants are the NRC members at the time of the venting, Joseph M. Hendrie, Richard T. Kennedy, John Ahearne, Victor Gilinsky and Peter A. Bradford; Metropolitan Edison Co.; its parent company,

General Public Utilities Corp.; Robert Arnold, who was senior vice president at the time of the venting; GPU President Herman Dieckamp and John Herbein, Met Ed's vice president of nuclear operations.

The basis of the suit is a 1980 declaratory judgment by the U.S. Court of Appeals in Washington which, according to the complaint, required that the NRC conduct a public hearing before any radiation was vented.

The appeals court ruled that the venting "prior to holding a hearing violated the procedural rights of plaintiffs' representatives," the lawsuit claims.

On June 27, 1980, Steven C. Sholly of Mechanicsburg filed with the NRC a formal demand for a hearing before the venting but the NRC refused to conduct a hearing, according to the lawsuit.

However, the suit charges, the NRC refused to order one and the venting took place from June 28 to July 11, 1980.

Following the March 28, 1979, accident, the corporate defendants "determined to take the cheapest and fastest first step in returning

TMI-2 to operation, which was the venting of the airborne radioactive materials," the lawsuit states.

TMI Alert charges that the radioactive materials have "caused fetal deaths and cancers and genetic deformations which will result in death in a number of them and their descendants." Plaintiffs also suffered "mental and emotional stress, as well as the expense and infringement upon the liberty of movement of those who took protective measure for themselves and their families to escape injury," the lawsuit alleges.

The plaintiffs point out that the NRC's own regulations require them to "keep releases of radiation as low as is reasonably achievable." Defendants had several practical alternatives for removing the airborne radioactive waste materials "in ways that 'would have avoided causing death and injury,' the lawsuit states.

If a hearing had been held, the defendants' plan for venting would have been reviewed by the appeals court, which probably "would have foreclosed venting — the cheapest and most dangerous means of decontaminating TMI-2."

TMI resolution draws mixed clergy reaction

By SUSAN COLLINS
Daily Record staff writer

A resolution passed by the Eastern Pennsylvania Conference of the United Methodist Church opposing the reopening of Three Mile Island unit one drew a mixed response from local Methodist ministers who were just returning from a central Pennsylvania conference Thursday evening.

The resolution, which was approved by a show of hands, committed the conference to oppose the restarting of the undamaged reactor at the TMI nuclear power plant "until such time as all safety concerns are properly resolved."

TMI Unit 1 was shut down for refueling in March 1978, when its companion reactor, Unit 2, overheated and released radiation in the worst accident in the history of commercial nuclear power in the United States.

"I'm in accord with resolution," said the Rev. Dr. Paul E. Stambach of Asbury United Methodist Church, adding that no such resolution was introduced at the central state conference. "If I were asked to vote on it, I would vote in favor of it. I don't know whether or not it will have an impact on those who make the decisions, but the church body has the right to express its views."

The Rev. Edward E. Zigler of Zion United Methodist Church agreed with the ideas expressed by the resolution, but was not sure he would have voted for it. "I have doubts about whether we are ready to handle that kind of energy," he said. "But I'm not here for social action that much."

The resolution is part of the Methodist Church's "history of enlightened politics," said the Rev. Alyce M. McKenzie of Aldersgate United Methodist Church.

"We've always opposed nuclear power and we are strongly in favor of world peace."

She said she neither approved nor disapproved of the resolution, but cautioned that the other ministers "must weigh the short-range benefits against the long-term dangers. I realize why they would be opposing (restarting the plant)," she added, "but there is still the energy question to be solved."

The Rev. Bradley Brown, Associate of Asbury United Methodist Church, was not only in favor of the resolution, he felt it was part of the church's responsibility to pass it.

"No one speaks for the church," he said. "It just makes the topic alive and aware for the churches to discuss it. I think it's important that the conference keep that kind of issue before the people."

The resolution also called on Gov. Thornburgh to "take a stronger advocacy position in representing the people of the Three Mile Island area," said Nancy Nolde, a communications worker for the conference. A copy of the resolution will be sent to the governor as well as to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and state legislators.

"The legislature won't have any say in the decision," said state Sen. Ralph Hess, R-28. "That will be up to the NRC and the federal courts."

Referring to the portion of the resolution stating that the reactor should not be started until all safety concerns are resolved, he said "They're saying the same thing I am. I'm not an engineer, but I think there is enough pressure on the NRC that I don't think they would license TMI for any restart unless they were absolutely sure."

About 1,400 delegates attended the three-day conference which was held at Albright College.

York Daily Record • Tuesday, June 8, 1982

TMI restart ballot issue resurfaces

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Daily Record staff writer

A local anti-nuclear group opposed to the restart of Three Mile Island unit 1 wants to gauge county-wide sentiment for putting a restart question on the November ballot.

The Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee, at its Wednesday meeting, will begin taking steps to see if there is any interest in York County for putting the question on the ballot.

"We're interested in getting the ball rolling for York County," the group said in a release. The group is not trying to spearhead the effort to get the question on the ballot, but wants to provide a forum for interested people to discuss the issue, according to Helen Hocker, a member of the committee.

"Many people expressed a great deal of resentment in not being able to vote" on the issue in the primary election last May, Mrs. Hocker said. Many York countians were not aware they couldn't vote on restart, she said.

York County Commissioners, unlike their counterparts in three other counties surrounding TMI, refused

to put the question on the primary ballot. Voters in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties rejected restart by a 2-1 margin.

However, voter turnout in those counties, even with the emotionally charged restart question on the ballot, was light — some 30 percent of those eligible turned out to cast a vote. (About 40,000 voters opposed restart, some 20,000 approved.)

"I thought it was a dead issue," said York County Commissioner Robert Bowers. "We really haven't discussed it since the election."

The *Daily Record* conducted an unscientific poll of its readers concerning restart. Of the 1,109 questionnaires returned to the paper, 842 were opposed to restart while 267 favored bringing unit 1 back on line.

In a related poll, carried in a newsletter of the Manufacturers Association of York, 155 votes favoring restart were cast, versus 44 'no' votes.

The Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee, created by the township supervisors shortly after the accident at unit 2, will meet at 8 p.m. Wednesday at the Newberry Township Building, York Haven RD 2.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, June 14, 1982

'Nervous Nellies' united against TMI

Editor:

As one of the "nervous Nellies" (Mr. Masland's description, News, June 2) that voted "no" on the restart of TMI Unit I, I feel compelled to tell him that I find it very difficult to compare my children's health and safety with higher electric bills.

So, too, do the 59 percent of the Lebanon voters — many of whom are Met-Ed ratepayers — who voted to keep the plant closed.

If you are indeed so concerned about dollars, think of the cleanup of Unit II. The company is entering virgin territory with procedures never before used. Anything could happen. GPU wants to do this and operate the "undamaged" reactor (with 30,000 steam tube leaks) simultaneously.

If we are again forced to evacuate our homes and never allowed to return, we would receive three cents on the dollar under the Price-Anderson Act. This would mean that if your home were valued at \$40,000, you would receive \$1,200 to start all over!

Whether you are "pro" or "anti-nuclear," we all have one common goal — to get Unit II cleaned up as quickly and safely as possible. GPU should concentrate all monies and energies on the cleanup of Unit II.

—Paola Kinney,
Middletown

Initial TMI-2 Tests Done, Officials Cite 'Good Vibes'

By The Associated Press

With initial testing completed, Three Mile Island nuclear plant officials said Friday they were pleased with the results but thought it too early to assess the damage in the crippled Unit 2 reactor.

"We have a lot of good vibes, but we're not ready to draw any overall conclusions on the condition of the reactor and we may not from these tests alone," said TMI spokesman Doug Bedell.

The tests, which were completed Friday night, marked the first movement inside Unit 2 since it was shut down on March 28, 1979, in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident. Neither it, nor its sister Unit 1 reactor, have operated since.

Technicians moved eight control rods into the reactor core one

at a time. The last two rods, which were inserted Friday night, did not move at all, Bedell said.

He said two other rods were moved Friday afternoon, with one inserted all the way into the core and the other pushed about 3 inches into the core before it refused to budge further.

Bedell said technicians and engineers would begin analyzing the data obtained from the tests on Monday.

The tests, to cost about \$2.8 million, are critical both to the removal of the 160-ton reactor dome next year and 133 tons of damaged nuclear fuel in 1985.

Each 12-foot rod — a bundle of 16 pencil-thin rods — was to ensure the nuclear fuel was used evenly throughout the reactor. They were raised when the accident occurred and remained in that position until the start of the tests.

Sixty-one other rods, used to stop and start fission within the 40-foot reactor, were dropped into the core to shut down the reactor during the accident.

Tests began Wednesday night when technicians inserted the first rod into the core. It stopped after going 95 percent of the way in it, leaving about 7 inches outside the core. Workers tried to complete the insertion Thursday afternoon, but the rod refused to budge, Bedell said.

Three other rods were lowered through tubing into the core on Thursday. Bedell said the second rod went 96 percent of the way in; the third all the way and the fourth was inserted 81 percent.

"It indicates the tubes are clean as far as the rods moved. They aren't warped or filled with debris within the distance the rods moved," Bedell said.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, June 24, 1982

TMI Ratepayers' Tax Cut Bill OK'd

With a verbal swipe at Congress, Gov. Dick Thornburgh signed into law Wednesday a measure designed to save Three Mile Island ratepayers millions of dollars in state taxes.

The measure, sponsored by Sen. Ralph Hess, R-York, exempts Pennsylvania customers of General Public Utilities Corp., owner of the nuclear plant, from paying utility gross receipts taxes related to a major accident in March 1979.

Specifically, customers are exempted from higher tax bills resulting from the added costs of buying power from other utilities to make up for electricity generated by the southcentral Pennsylvania plant prior to the accident.

At a bill signing ceremony, Thornburgh said enactment of the legislation was "the least we can do in the absence of congressional action that would help to spread the enormous financial burden of TMI in a fair and equitable manner."

Thornburgh said Congress had not met "its moral and legal responsibility" to enact a plan to ensure national financial support for the plant cleanup, estimated at \$1 billion or more.

Thornburgh said the state Revenue Department estimated the tax exemptions, which become effective in 60 days, will amount to more than \$6 million in the first year and continue to rise in future years as the cost of power increases.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, June 28, 1982

Specter urges penalties for N-safety deficiency

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., is urging the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to suspend the licenses of U.S. nuclear plants found to be deficient in their ability to respond to nuclear emergencies.

Specter, in a letter to NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino, said Sunday he was "deeply concerned" by an NRC report indicating half of the nation's nuclear plants are "generally deficient" in their ability to respond to nuclear crises.

"Nuclear plants that cannot respond quickly and effectively to an emergency are not safe and should not be operating," Specter's letter said.

The report by the NRC Office of Emergency Preparedness, the result of a year-long investigation, outlined a number of problems — including incorrectly calibrated radiological assessment equipment, lack of emergency working space, inadequately trained staff and misallocation of personnel.

Specter also noted in his letter

that residents of three counties near Pennsylvania's crippled Three Mile Island nuclear plant voted overwhelmingly in a non-binding referendum in May against the proposed restarting of TMI's undamaged Unit 1.

"Their skepticism about the safety of nuclear power is understandable," he said.

"The near-catastrophe of Three Mile Island raised serious doubts about whether nuclear plants can ever be made reliably safe."

Specter asked Palladino to make compliance with "strict emergency preparedness guidelines" a condition of licensed operation for U.S. nuclear power plants.

"The future of the nuclear industry requires that such corrective action be taken," Specter said. "Without public confidence, the nuclear industry cannot succeed."

"If one of these deficient operations has to result in another incident like TMI, it would set the nuclear industry back a great deal," he said.

STAFF THIS ISSUE:

Editors:

Cathy Musser
Kathy Manfred

Sandra Choma
Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

GPU Mail Deals With Radiation And Evacuation

By Pamela Fry

Residents living within a ten-mile radius of the Three Mile Island Nuclear facility can expect to receive some mail from GPU Nuclear later this summer, probably in August. The pamphlets, scheduled for bulk mail distribution, are financed by GPU, but designed and written by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Association (PEMA), according to John Comey, a spokesman for that association.

The mailing, Comey told the *Press And Journal*, will consist of two pamphlets, one a general radiation information booklet, which will provide a broad overview of nuclear radiation and will also discuss the hazards of radiation. The second publication, a much larger multi-color brochure, contains information and maps showing evacuation procedures in the event of a nuclear emergency. This publication was also written by PEMA, in conjunction with the county governments.

These publications, according to GPU spokesman Doug Bedell, are part of an educa-

tional effort the nuclear company has planned for this summer. The single most important part of this education Bedell explained is to "be sure people understand that the sirens are simply an indication to turn on your radio and wait for further instructions." The sirens, he emphasized, are not a signal for immediate evacuation.

The sirens themselves have been causing their share of trouble, both for area residents and GPU. On several test runs lately, problems have occurred with residents who are unable to hear the sirens. Other problems have cropped up when the sirens blare without actually being sounded.

Addressing these problems, Bedell stated that there are two basic problems which are causing the sirens to sound—weather, and interference from radio tones which are close in frequency to those which set off the sirens. These issues, as well as the inability to hear the soundings in some areas, are being worked on by GPU's maintenance contractor.

One siren that has caused some trouble is located in Lon-

donderry Township. It has sounded on several occasions, including such an occurrence several weeks ago when it was activated during a thunderstorm. The siren was said to have a defective sealant which allowed moisture to enter and increased vulnerability to sounding, Bedell explained.

Sirens located in the Elizabethtown area also were reported to have been activated without reason. But, according to officials at the borough, the matter has been corrected.

At the end of the present analysis period, which should last the better part of a month, Bedell believes that GPU Nuclear should have a better grasp on the ability of the sirens to perform as expected. At that time, necessary changes in the sirens will be discussed.

In a statement to the public, GPU Nuclear said "We apologize to the community for the concern and anxiety the malfunctioning sirens have caused. We are working with the maintenance contractors," Bedell said, "to remedy the situation."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, June 8, 1982

'Insurance inequity' between TMI, residents pointed out

PHILADELPHIA — Liability insurance to be available to operators of nuclear power plants later this year would pay 3 cents on the dollar in claims of property owners if an accident causes major off-site damages within 20 miles of Three Mile Island, a TMI area resident told insurance regulators.

Beverly Hess of Lancaster said liability insurance will amount to \$560 million which has to be "divided among all 800,000 people and many large and small businesses in the 20-mile radius" of TMI. In contrast, power plant operators will be able to insure their plants to cover \$1 billion of on-site damages, said Hess, who lives 16 miles from TMI.

"When are the state insurance commissioners of this country going to do something about this incredible situation?" Hess asked at the annual meeting of the National Association of Insurance Commissioners, an organization of insur-

ance regulators from state insurance commissions.

She was one of a contingent of residents living near TMI that urged that citizens be permitted to buy nuclear insurance to protect their homes and businesses.

Joyce Corradi of Middletown, a member of Concerned Mothers of Middletown, said "being cautious people, my husband and I insured our home and apartment against fire and theft, liability and injury. But we cannot protect our investments against one of the largest problems we face today, the possibility of another nuclear catastrophe. That worries and concerns me."

Middletown Mayor Robert Reid presented a resolution adopted by borough council opposing the reactivation of TMI Units 1 and 2 "until nuclear hazard exclusions in all homeowner and commercial property insurance policies are rendered invalid..."

Dauphin County Commissioner Lawrence J. Hochendoner said, "As long as the insurance industry refuses to provide adequate protection against this risk (of an accident), the fears of (the) public in regard to this technology will only increase."

Hochendoner noted that most Central Pennsylvanians did not have flood insurance in June 1972 when the devastating Agnes flood hit. "Much like the flood of 1972, the accident at TMI was a very expensive and painful lesson; they are both important turning points. We should learn from the past to build a future where we are better equipped to face the many risks and challenges before us," he added.

The issue of nuclear insurance for home and business owners has been before the National Association of Insurance Commissioners since 1975.

TMI cleanup cost-sharing move faces fight

From Staff and Wire Reports

A powerful electric utility industry lobby group vowed Tuesday to fight a U.S. senator's proposal that says state public utility commissions aren't obligated to force ratepayers to pay for cleaning up Three Mile Island unit 2.

The proposal is in the form of an amendment to legislation introduced by U.S. Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., requiring utilities that own nuclear reactors to pay part of the cleanup costs at the damaged reactor.

The Edison Electric Institute contends the amendment, introduced by Sen. Gordon Humphrey, R-N.H., may prejudice utilities' chances for passing along TMI-2 cleanup contributions to ratepayers, if it is allowed to stand.

EELI opposes the Humphrey amendment because its wording may give rise "to an inference that utility-mandated payments (to cleanup) be treated in a certain manner," said EELI spokesman Kirk

Willison in Washington.

EELI is concerned that utility commissions would likely have shareholders "bear the burden" of cleanup contributions alone, given the wording of the amendment.

This point is academic. State utility commissions must decide who pays, by law, regardless of the form federal legislation takes.

Still, "this amendment will force public officials to discuss an issue they might otherwise ignore," said a utility official who asked to remain anonymous.

Heinz said EELI's opposition to the Humphrey amendment probably won't cripple the entire legislation.

"I'm not ready for a change now," Heinz said. "The primary goal is to get the bill passed according to the wishes of a majority of senators."

Passage of the Heinz legislation, co-sponsored by Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., is important for two reasons:

□ It is considered by many to be

central to the survival of the cost-sharing plan fashioned by Gov. Dick Thornburgh. This plan, among other things, envisioned a \$190 million contribution from utilities toward the \$760 million in uninsured cleanup costs at TMI-2. (The Heinz bill would raise \$172 million.)

□ And a viable cost-sharing plan is vital to the financial health of General Public Utilities Corp., owner of TMI.

This is because the 45-bank consortium extending the company its only outside credit will determine whether to continue to support GPU based on what happens with the cost-sharing plan.

Progress made in getting TMI-2's sister reactor, unit 1, back on line will also be a critical factor weighed by the banks when they decide on the fate of the credit line.

Without the line of credit, GPU has no external financing, and runs the risk of bankruptcy, analysts say.

A GPU spokeswoman said the company has "remained neutral because we want to see a bill passed."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, June 22, 1982

'Minor' radiation found near TMI, 2 other N-plants

ANNAPOLIS, Md. (AP) — Tests taken around two nuclear power plants in Pennsylvania and one in Maryland occasionally turn up radioactive elements in the air and water which can be attributed to plant discharges, a new state study says.

However, the concentrations of radioactive elements are so low they usually are hard to distinguish from natural background radiation and don't appear to have any significant environmental impact, the report said.

The conclusions are part of a 350-page report prepared for the Maryland Power Plant Siting Program covering 1978, 1979 and 1980. The report is an attempt to measure the impact of all power plants — nuclear, oil and coal-fired — on the environment.

The nuclear plants are at Calvert Cliffs on the Chesapeake Bay and at Three Mile Island and Peach Bottom, two Pennsylvania plants on the Susquehanna River.

At Calvert Cliffs, the only nuclear plant in Maryland, the only radioactive substance found in the air which could be traced to the plant was small amounts of Sr-89.

"The environmental impact of Sr-89 at the very low concentrations detected is inconsequential," the report said.

Monitoring of the bay around the Calvert Cliffs discharge pipe occasionally turned up concentrations of tritium at the discharge area greater than normal background levels, the report said.

But it said that because tritium does not accumulate in fish and plant life, radiation doses to organisms "are insignificant, and no adverse environmental impact is associated with these levels."

At Peach Bottom, the study found that releases of radioactive substances into the atmosphere are considerably lower than were estimated in the environmental-impact statement prepared before the plant was built.

Tests showed relatively low levels of radioactive materials in fish and plant life and in sediments around Peach Bottom, and the report said that "these low concentrations do not represent a human health concern."

Discussing the situation at Three Mile Island after the major accident in March 1979, the study stressed Maryland's opposition to discharging contaminated water from the damaged reactor into the Susquehanna River until studies have been completed to assess the potential social and economic consequences of such a discharge.

"The major issue associated with the discharge option is not an environmental or radiological concern, but rather the public's perception of the effects of such a discharge," the report said.

"This perception could result in consumer avoidance of bay seafood products, severely damaging commercial and recreational fisheries," it said.

Study downplays TMI stress

CHICAGO (AP) — Proximity to the Three Mile Island nuclear facility did not cause psychiatric patients living nearby to suffer more distress than similar patients who lived close to another reactor site, a new study shows.

The study reported in the June issue of the Archives of General Psychiatry concluded, however, that there might have been significant differences if the comparison group had lived in an area that was not near a nuclear facility.

The study monitored anxiety and depression in 151 patients living in the TMI area in Central Pennsylvania and in 64 patients from Beaver Valley, a Western

Pennsylvania area where the Shippingport-Beaver Valley reactors are situated.

Comparisons between the groups were made at three months, nine months and a year after the March 28, 1979, accident at the Middletown, Pa., plant, and concluded that "no differences in the rate of anxiety or depression episodes" were found.

For the first three months after the accident, about 40 percent of both groups reported anxiety and depression episodes. Similar levels of episodes were reported nine and 12 months after the accident.

A study author, Dr. Herbert C. Schulberg of Western Psychiatric

Institute and Clinic in Pittsburgh, said in a telephone interview that most of the participants were outpatients. Sixty percent had one or more psychiatric hospitalizations, the study said.

Anxiety referred to periods of general tension, an inability to concentrate and excessive worrying. Depression, Schulberg said, was marked by sadness, worries, difficulty in sleeping and eating and weight loss.

Increased anxiety and depression in the TMI group "could not be ascribed to the accident per se," the study said. "It might simply be associated with living near a nuclear facility."

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A 'bed of rubble' . . .

. . . but GPU finds 'no evidence' of meltdown

GPU Nuclear Corp. officials said today the top five feet of the fuel assemblies in the Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor was turned to a "bed of rubble" during the March
York Daily Record • Thursday, July 22, 1982

1979 accident, but there is no evidence of fuel melting.

"We're not saying there was no fuel melting," said Robert C. Arnold, GPU Nuclear president. But "all evidence" up to this point indicates the temperatures during the

accident were not high enough to cause the uranium fuel pellets to melt, he added. The melting point of uranium oxide is 5,000 degrees Fahrenheit.

Preliminary analysis of two hours of videotape shot Wednesday confirmed earlier estimates that the 1979 accident caused severe damage to the central portion of the core.

The Washington Post reported today that the tape appeared to indicate that almost a complete meltdown of the center of the core had taken place. The newspaper quoted William Hamilton, head of the Unit 2 Technology Assistance and Advisory Group that planned the inspection, as saying "the uranium oxide fuel had melted" during the March 1979 accident.

Dr. James Thiesing, an official of Bechtel Corp., which is managing the Unit 2 cleanup, told a press briefing today that an inspection by an underwater camera showed a pile of debris beginning at a point five feet into the core. He said the rubble probably consists of shattered pieces of zirconium cladding and fuel and other structural material.

Thiesing said the cladding and fuel probably shattered when they were "quenched" with cold water after they had reached super-hot temperatures during the accident.

The camera also detected upper support pieces of the fuel assemblies which apparently fell into the reactor Wednesday when a 24-foot-long, 135 pound lead screw was removed to make an aperture for the camera insertion. The fuel assemblies are 12 feet long.

A 14-minute videotape was shown at the briefing. Thiesing, project manager for reactor core removal and decontamination, said 90 percent of the 2-hour tape was murky because of the cloudy reactor coolant. As the camera moved throughout the limited area, particles of rubble floated in front of the lense.

Thiesing said the camera was turned around and showed the underside of internal components above the reactor fuel. He said "no structural damage" was seen in this area.

Portions of the videotape contained audio with comments of the engineers who conducted the cam-

No quick decision on TMI stress issue

Agency rejects request by GPU

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Daily Record staff writer

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's staff is about a month away from determining whether the commission should go ahead with a full psychological stress evaluation on the restart of Three Mile Island unit 1.

The commission last week denied a request by the plant licensee and operator, GPU Nuclear Corp., for a prompt decision on its intent to prepare what's known as a Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement.

That statement will assess the psychological health effects associated with the restart of the undamaged reactor.

As the result of a federal appeals court ruling, the NRC must determine whether the accident at TMI, or any other factors, resulted in mental stress considerations that would require an updating of the original unit 1 environmental impact statement completed in 1974.

The court ruling stems from a suit brought by People Against Nuclear Energy, a local anti-nuclear group based in Middletown, against the NRC.

"We agree with the staff that the Commission does not at present have enough information to decide whether the terms of the court's decision in *PANE v. NRC* require preparation of an SEIS, and that it would be premature to (decide) what procedures should be followed if a decision is made at some future time that an SEIS should be prepared," said the NRC in denying GPU Nuclear's request.

NRC spokesman Gary Sanborn said the staff "is about a month away" from presenting the findings, developed in the assessment on the need for an SEIS on psychological stress.

NRC Commissioner Victor Gilinsky dissented from the commission's decision, saying: "I would grant GPU's request that the commission decide as soon as possible."

Both the commission's and Gilinsky's remarks were contained in the order denying the GPU Nuclear motion. It was served July 19.

Gilinsky said "the Commission has, for more than six months, been aware that some sort of assessment of the psychological effects of restarting TMI-1 might have to be made."

He goes on to point out that the NRC staff has already spent more than \$250,000 to obtain psychological advice in the matter.

"In these circumstances, it is either disingenuous or a confession of managerial failure" on the part of the NRC to say it does not have enough information to determine whether an SEIS is warranted, Gilinsky stated.

GPU Nuclear, at a meeting with the NRC on June 28 and 29, stated unit 1 could be back on line and ready for service in November, following repairs to the 31,000 steam generator tubes in the reactor.

GPU Nuclear earlier this month asked the U.S. Supreme Court to reverse the Appeals Court ruling on the psychological stress decision. The NRC has asked the U.S. Justice Department to file an appeal on its behalf to reverse the decision.

PANE will ask the Supreme Court to let the lower court ruling stand, arguing the Appeals Court ruling was correct, said PANE director James Hurst.

Cont. p. 5

Hanover chamber poll favors TMI restart

By CAROL ANN CAMPBELL
Daily Record staff writer

A survey by the Hanover Area Chamber of Commerce indicates 80 percent of area businessmen favor restart of the undamaged unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island — reflecting a similar poll conducted earlier by the York Manufacturers Association.

The two unscientific surveys reflect areawide support among businessmen for restart of the reactor not damaged in the 1979 nuclear accident, spokesmen for both groups said Friday.

Results of the polls differ sharply from a non-binding referendum voters in three counties faced in May's primary election, but show strong support among those who purchase a great deal of electricity, according to Jay D. Cannon, president of the Hanover chamber.

"Replacement power is skyrocketing employers' overhead. We are seeing higher bills and no progression on the cleanup (of unit 2) We are saying, 'let's start (unit 1) and get it over with,'" he said.

The chamber sent questionnaires to its 650 members, and 251 responded.

A similar unscientific survey by the manufacturers association of its members was conducted before the May referendum, and it also found businesses strongly in favor of restart.

In that survey of 199 manufacturers, 78 percent supported restarting the undamaged reactor.

"Go anywhere in Met-Ed's area and you will find manufacturers in agreement," said Gerald F. Snyder, executive secretary of the manufacturers association.

"Restart is essential to meet the competition. The competition is able to manufacture more cheaply because their power costs are lower," he said.

Cannon and Snyder said restarting the undamaged reactor would lower power costs since the utility would no longer have to purchase expensive replacement power to replace power once generated by TMI.

The half cent per kilowatt hour that Snyder said would be saved with unit 1 operating "could save some of our manufacturers thousands of dollars each month," he said.

"We appreciate the sentiment of people and groups who recognize the importance of a safe restart. We

will make this poll part of our planning," said Doug Bedell, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear Corp. operator of TMI.

The support among businesses for restart differs from that of the general public, according to the May referendums and a *Daily Record* survey.

Voters in Lebanon, Dauphin and Cumberland counties voted overwhelmingly in the primary against restarting unit 1. Voters in the three counties rejected restart by a 2-1 margin. The referendum was not on the York County ballot.

In addition, of the 1,109 people who responded to a *Daily Record* survey, 842 voted against restart.

Snyder blamed the disparity between results of surveys of businesses and surveys of the general public to "statements by the anti-nuke groups that are difficult to prove."

Stephan Brooks, a spokesman for the Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center, however, said, "They (businesses) have bought the line that restart means lower utility costs. There is no compelling evidence that that is the case."

He said restart would result in either a slight increase or a slight decrease in electricity costs.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, July 29, 1982.

Prosecution 'out' for TMI cheating

A federal law panel says it is not interested in seeking criminal prosecution of two former control room operators at Three Mile Island Unit 1 who admitted to cheating on relicensing examinations administered by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"Our only jurisdiction and official interest in this proceeding is the safe operation of TMI 1, not the rehabilitation of O and W who are no longer employees" of GPU Nuclear Corp., the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board said. "O" and "W" are letter designations used to protect the identities of the two shift supervisors who left the company shortly after the cheating incident was uncovered in July 1981.

The board's decision not to seek criminal prosecution is one of several points where the panel differed with the conclusions and recommendations of Gary L. Milhollin, the administrative judge appointed by the board in October to investigate the cheating incident.

Two others of significance are:

- The board was supportive of the Unit 1 operators who did not cheat on their exams, rejecting Milhollin's opinion that the "... overall integrity of the operations staff has been found to be inadequate."

- The board determined that charges against Unit 1 manager of operations Michael Ross of facilitating cheating were "unfounded." Ross was the highest level of Unit 1 management implicated in alleged

cheating, but the board said the charge that he kept NRC proctors from the examination rooms was "incredible" and that testimony by his accuser "was unreliably ambiguous."

In the report issued Tuesday, the board, however, recommended the NRC impose a series of conditions on GPU designed to improve the company's training and testing program. The board also said a \$100,000 fine should be levied on GPU because of its "negligent failure to safeguard the integrity of its examination process, failure to instill an attitude of respect for the company and NRC-administered examinations, failure to assure the quality of training instruction and negligence in the procedures for the certification of candidates for the NRC licensing examinations."

In a widely publicized report issued in April, Milhollin said the two ex-operators should be prosecuted because they appeared to have violated two sections of the United States Criminal Code by (1) falsifying material to a federal agency and (2) conspiring to defraud or commit an offense against the United States. Milhollin noted that while the copied answers were not factually incorrect, they are "false" because "they misrepresent the knowledge of the examinees."

The board it could not "determine that a deterring effect upon those still employed at TMI would

be realized by the prosecution of O and W, over and above the deterrent flowing from the fact that O and W were separated from their employment in disgrace."

The board said the NRC staff and the U.S. Department of Justice discussed the possibility of prosecuting O and W, noting the department "is not interested in a criminal prosecution absent something major of a conspiratorial nature ... There is no evidence of any conspiracy in the events surrounding O and W beyond the cooperation between them," the board said.

Among other reasons, Milhollin recommended criminal prosecution because of the "unrepentant posture" of the two ex-operators. The board, however, noted that it "did not sense" this arrogance in the testimony of "W." At the outset of the board's 200-page report, it noted that "sometimes" Milhollin judged witness credibility on "his observation of the demeanor" of a witness at the hearing. The board said Milhollin "very carefully" advised it when he used this approach, and the board, in turn, examined whether a more objective review of the evidence materially affected the conclusion.

Noting that questions remain about other alleged cheating incidents at the plant, the board said, "... we acknowledge that we are terminating our part of this proceeding without bringing every miscreant to justice, and without resolving every uncertainty.

Senate panel votes 'yes' on TMI bill

By MICK ROOD

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A Senate environment committee sent Three Mile Island legislation to the floor Tuesday, requiring nuclear utilities to pay as much as \$170 million toward the Unit 2 accident cleanup.

The bill was forwarded to the full Senate on a strongly-contested 10-6 vote by the Environment and Public Works Committee.

However, even supporters of reporting the bill said they were "dissatisfied" with the proposal.

The action meant that for the first time since the TMI Unit 2 accident more than three years ago, Congress might take action in relief of the financially beleaguered reactor owner, General Public Utilities Corp.

Sponsored by Sens. John Heinz, R-Pa., and Bill Bradley, D-N.J., the bill would force nuclear utilities to contribute a TMI cleanup sur-

charge of 28 cents per kilowatt of generation capacity toward the cleanup.

It is expected the surcharge would be passed through to utility customers. The Edison Electric Institute has estimated the surcharge would cost ratepayers across the nation from several pennies to no more than 67 cents annually.

The bill emerged from committee without the support of Chairman Robert T. Stafford, R-Vt.

"I oppose the bill. There is no demonstrated need for it . . . There's no reason for other utilities to pay for mistakes of the operators," Stafford said at the outset of today's hearing.

The majority of members, however, argued that the TMI situation is unique and that the full Senate should have the chance to decide on mandating assistance for the cleanup project.

Because of strong differences of

opinion on the committee, the bill was sent to the floor without a recommendation — the first time in the history of the committee that such a neutral position was taken in reporting a bill.

Bernard Cherry, GPU vice president of planning, said the company was "pleased the committee sees this as a serious problem and that the full Senate will have a chance to consider it."

Cherry said GPU and its supporters will "clearly have a difficult time moving the legislation. It's clearly a highly controversial bill."

Prospects for passage of the bill on the House side this year are questionable. Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall, D-Ariz., has said repeatedly he didn't believe federal legislation is warranted for the Three Mile Island cleanup.

York Daily Record July 17, 1982

TMI accident creates tax windfall for state

HARRISBURG (AP) — The state has reaped millions in excess taxes from utility customers as a result of the accident at Three Mile Island, but the amount of that windfall is hotly debated.

Public Utility Commission member Michael Johnson this week estimated the state has collected some \$19.9 million in extra gross receipts taxes since the 1979 accident.

Johnson's estimate was a far cry from the \$6.1 million quoted by the state Department of Revenue and less than half of the \$12.4 million figure provided by General Public Utilities Corp., the owner of TMI.

Whatever the figure, Johnson said Friday the amount exceeds the \$5 million Gov. Dick Thornburgh pledged towards cleanup of the plant, damaged in the nation's worst commercial nuclear power accident.

"When all is said and done, it is the customers of the accident-stricken utility who'll pick up the entire tab, including what the governor says he's giving," Johnson said. "The impression is that this money is coming from some source other than the customers," he said. "It's a fraud."

Thornburgh signed legislation two weeks ago exempting TMI customers from paying gross receipts taxes on increased costs attributed to the accident, chiefly the enormous bill for replacement power.

Because Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co. were forced to buy large amounts of expensive replacement power, their gross receipts shot up, and so did the state taxes paid by consumers.

The state collects a 4.5 percent tax on the gross receipts of utilities.

In letters to Sen. Jeanette Reibman, D-Northampton, and Sen. Robert Mellow, D-Lackawanna, Johnson said PUC records show customers have paid enough in excess gross receipts taxes "to fund the so-called 'state's share' of the cleanup of the accident for four years."

The senators had asked Johnson, also a Democrat, for clarification after a Thornburgh spokesman released the state's estimate of \$6.1 million in excess taxes.

"I don't know where he's getting that number, but we certainly did not receive \$19 million in excess gross receipt taxes since 1979," Robert Benko, deputy director in the governor's planning office, said Friday.

David Carroll, of GPU's rates division, estimated Friday the state had reaped \$12.4 million in excess taxes as a result of the accident.

"We've made a filing with the commission and our numbers are consistent," Carroll said. Although he could not explain the gap between the figures, Carroll added, "Replacement power costs are estimates and there are a number of ways of analyzing them."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, July 15, 1982

14,000 seeking share of \$20 million TMI fund

By JANIS L. WILSON
Staff Writer

More than 14,000 business and personal claims have been filed against the \$20 million fund created to pay damages from the Three Mile Island accident, but payments may not be made until early next year, a federal court spokesperson says.

The \$20 million is part of the settlement of the class-action dam-

age suit filed against the owners, operators and designers of the nuclear plant. The remaining \$5 million is earmarked for scientific and public health research.

U.S. Middle District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo approved the settlement last year and set a deadline of April 15, 1982, for filing claims.

Although 550,000 notices were

mailed to homes and businesses in the 25-mile radius of the plant, only 20,000 requests for claim forms were made. Of those, 14,047 were filed.

Claims for evacuation expenses numbered 7,000, while 3,681 claims were filed for wage losses or employee compensation. Claims for real estate or other personal property losses totaled 1,187, with other

CONT. P. 5

NRC, DOE officials learn to meet the press

by Brian Downey
with H.M. Newstadt

Officials from the Department of Energy (DOE) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), along with executives from EG&G Idaho, (a DOE contractor involved in recovery and cleanup activities at TMI), spent three days of "intense role playing" at the Harrisburg Marriott, July 7-9, that involved testifying before "mock" NRC and congressional hearings, and granting interviews to hypothetical reporters.

The DOE/EG&G-sponsored "Witness and Media Skills Clinic" was presented by The Communications Counsel of America, Inc., a Dallas-based public relations consulting firm that specializes in "Communicating Under Pressure".

Participants were coached in "response and communication models" specifically designed "for media interviews, hearings and legislative testimony."

One demonstrated use of the communications model transformed a situation involving defective radiation detectors in the damaged Unit 2 containment building from one that was thought to be "potentially dangerous, very misleading, and inappropriate," into one where detectors "are not safety-related equipment, therefore not required to work under accident conditions."

The nine participants, Willis Bixby and Bill Bennett, of the DOE; Richard

Conte and Lake Barrett, of the NRC; John Saunders, and T. C. Runion, Tim McIntosh, Bill Schwarz, and Harold Burton, all of EG&G, were instructed by CCA consultants Stephen Rowan, a former CBS News correspondent; David Day, a 17-year veteran of Texas radio news; and Ronald Gossling, a career utility public relations consultant.

Since 1975 CCA has conducted 45 communication clinics for utilities and

manufacturers including Westinghouse, Union Electric, Atomic Energy of Canada, and The Atomic Energy Control Board of Canada.

The clinic began with participants being videotaped in "Cold Turkey Mini-Hearings" while "defending . . . against . . . charges expected to come from opponents." All mock hearings and interviews were videotaped to monitor signs of improvement.



The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, July 29, 1982.

TMI cleanup advances

A U.S. SENATE committee — with obvious reluctance — has forwarded legislation incorporating Governor Thornburgh's plan for financing the cleanup of Three Mile Island Unit 2 to the full Senate for consideration. Its chances for passage remain highly uncertain in the Senate, and action in the House — where U.S. Rep. Allen Ertel, D-Montoursville, has his own cleanup measure pending — is not going anywhere because Rep. Morris Udall, D-Ariz., chairman of the House Interior Committee, doubts that federal legislation is necessary.

Opposition to the TMI cleanup proposal is not difficult to understand. Ratepayers in the rest of the country, many of them paying higher rates than those directly affected by the accident, would be asked to pay for the decontamination of a nuclear plant they had nothing do with and from which they will receive no benefit. Figures compiled by the Union of Concerned Scientists, which opposes the legislation, show that even if the cost of cleanup was charged to the ratepayers of Metropolitan Edison, Pennsylvania Electric and Jersey Central Power and Light, subsidiaries of General Public Utilities which owns the plant, their rates would still be lower than a number of other utilities.

We anticipated this line of opposition when the Thornburgh plan was first announced, and we would be less than candid if we did not acknowledge that it has some justification. But the right and just course of action in dealing with the \$1 billion nuclear accident cannot be found by letting the issue rest on a comparison of rates.

FIRST OF ALL, the actual surcharge to any one ratepayer, under the Thornburgh plan, would be so infinitesimal — less than \$1 — that it is doubtful that the average ra-

the cleanup, even if it means bankruptcy. But it hardly seems likely that the company will proceed with cleanup if the end result is going to put it out of business. It may have a moral obligation to cleanup the mess, but its obligations to its lenders and stockholders probably rank higher. More than likely, bankruptcy would leave the cleanup dilemma more confused than ever and no closer to resolution.

OPPOSITION to a federal cleanup plan flows from two elements — environmentalism and provincialism. As a strong supporter and proponent of environmental positions, we find it more than a little odd that a large segment of the environmental movement is doing everything it can to prevent federal involvement in the cleanup of what is potentially the most dangerous pollution hazard the nation faces. As a tactical move in the battle against nuclear power it leaves a lot to be desired, because instead of protecting ratepayer would even notice it. Of course, opponents will argue that there is a principal involved, that those who had nothing to do with the accident should pay nothing to make it whole again. But the MetEd, Penelec and Jersey Central ratepayer had no more to do with the accident than the ratepayers of the Arizona Public Service Co. They had no part in the decision to build the plant and were never asked if they consented to the plant and its risk. But if the local ratepayer is asked to bear the full financial burden of the accident, it will be more than noticeable and will come on top the increases they have had to pay for replacement power. That doesn't strike us as a fair solution.

Some suggest that the company pay for

CONT P. 5

CLEANUP fr. 4

ple from the danger of nuclear plants it is in fact exposing them to an even greater risk.

Many senators and congressmen fail to recognize that the cleanup of TMI is not just an issue of interest only to Pennsylvania, but that it has much broader implications. It was the Commonwealth's misfortune to be the first state to experience a major nuclear accident, but every one of the other 37 states which either have or are planning nuclear plants should be aware that they run the same risk with the same devastating impact that Pennsylvania has experienced. Common sense suggests that we define responsibility for accidents of this magnitude and that policies be implemented which reduce their economic impact, even as efforts are being made to minimize the possibility of future accidents.

To do nothing does not settle the matter, it merely avoids coming to grips with the single most important incident to occur in the brief era of nuclear power. Today, as it has in the past, the federal government is deeply involved in the development, regulation and promotion of nuclear power at enormous expense to the taxpayer. Given that kind of national commitment to nuclear power made by Congress, it must follow that it has an inherent responsibility to protect the public from the policy it has pursued. It is time Congress recognized that responsibility and began dealing with the consequences of its policy before the danger grows and while the risk to the public and the environment is still manageable.

14,000 fr. 3

personal loss claims numbering 1,022. Business-loss claims numbered 1,157.

However, David Berger, chief counsel for the group, said the amount sought in evacuation and wage losses is far less than the amount sought for business and real estate losses.

A specialist in class actions, Berger said the number of claims filed in this suit is the largest ever in such litigation. "This case is unique," he said.

Where there is a question about a claim, Heffler has written to the claimant for more information or documentation. Businesses have been given until July 15 to provide the additional data, while individuals have until Aug. 2 to clear up any questions about their files.

Real estate and personal property loss claims require the most documentation, the spokesperson said, because appraisals and other objective data are needed. During the hearing Rambo conducted on whether to approve the settlement, witnesses said real estate values were not affected by the March 28, 1979, accident.

Besides the 14,047 claims filed by the deadline, another 500 letters have been sent by persons who want to file late claims. The spokesperson said the accounting firm is studying those requests.

While no claims have been dismissed, Berger said some can generally be disregarded because they were filed on behalf of persons or businesses outside the 25-mile radius of TMI, or because they seek damages for personal injuries or emotional stress.

Rambo excluded personal inju-

RUBBLE fr. 1

ery inspection. At one point, one of the engineers remarked, "as you can see we are seeing all sorts of debris." Another engineer also counted off in one-foot increments the depth the camera was reaching as it was lowered into the fuel assembly.

The camera was stopped at 4 feet, 11 inches into the core when the bed of rubble was seen.

Arnold said officials involved in the cleanup were "very pleased" with the camera inspection. "Overall we are encouraged by what we saw." He said the limited view of the core condition is "consistent with expectations."

However, Arnold noted "that we saw a very limited part of the core..."

The GPU officials said they saw nothing on the videotape that led them to believe conditions during the accident were more severe than thought at the time.

Hamilton told the Post the "fuel elements were badly damaged, and the rubble was badly broken up in small particles. Some of it appeared to be congealed together. The control rods were damaged also. The center of the core was very badly damaged."

During the 2-hour inspection Wednesday, four engineers maneuvered a 12-inch-long tubular

camera through a 1½-inch aperture in the reactor vessel in an attempt to get some "hard" evidence of core damage. Assessments of the core condition up to now have been based on "inferential" data, such as analyses of core coolant, and have ranged from slight to severe.

The camera inspection is one of a series of data-gathering techniques to be used to help plan for the removal and packaging of 133 tons of damaged uranium fuel, targeted for 1985.

In June technicians tried to re-insert eight axial power shaping rods which had been left partially withdrawn from the vessel since the accident. Two of the eight rods were re-inserted completely, two went in 95 percent, one was lowered 81 percent, one 77 percent and two did not move.

During preparations last week for the camera inspection, technicians vented gas from the reactor system.

STAFF THIS ISSUE:

Editors:

Cathy Musser

Kathy Manfred

Sandra Choma

Kay Pickering

TMIA Office Staff

ry claims because they are too dissimilar to be handled as a class action. Numerous personal injury lawsuits have been filed and will be handled by Rambo individually.

Also, the losses must be linked to the nuclear accident. Berger said the "evacuation and wage claims are pretty straightforward. It is clear people who evacuated did so as a result of the Three Mile Island accident."

However, Berger said the claimants for loss of real estate and property values must be able to show that the diminished value was a result of the accident.

Some personal or evacuation claims, even without a shred of documentation, have been verified because they reflect reasonable expenses, the spokesperson said. On the other hand, some claims obviously are inflated.

"People who have not done this in good faith are slowing up the people who have," the court representative said.

While the claims processing is going on, a scientific advisory committee has been quietly meeting in Philadelphia to consider how to spend the \$5 million public health fund.

Under the public health fund portion of the settlement, money was set aside to research improvements in monitoring and evacuation procedures, public education, general effects of low-level radiation releases and on the effects of the radiation released at the time of the accident, Berger said.

A seven-member committee of distinguished scientists of various disciplines was established to review proposed projects and recommend to Rambo which ones should be funded.

If attorneys for TMI's owners and operators disagree on whether a project should be funded, the issue will be submitted to Nobel Prize winner Dr. Baruch S. Blumberg, of the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia.

Blumberg has been appointed independent scientific adviser to the court and would make a recommendation on any disputed project, although Rambo again would have the final say.

The scientific advisory committee, which meets monthly, is headed by Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, a physics professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology. Berger calls Morgan the "grandfather of health physics" and "one of the world's greatest authorities on the effect of releases of radiation."

The court spokesperson said the advisory committee is currently reviewing studies made at the time of the accident to determine which data will form the foundation for future projects. The initial review is expected to be concluded in November, when Rambo will meet with the committee to discuss proposed projects, the spokesperson said.

Berger said the scientific committee is working closely with the Governor's Health Advisory Committee, which is concerned primarily with the effects of TMI.

Berger could not estimate when a list of projects will be submitted to Rambo, but said he and the advisory committee are working "assiduously" to make recommendations which will result in the "best use of the public health fund."

Although "the amount of work is massive," Berger said, "it is being managed."

PROSECUTION fr. 2

"There are individual due process considerations for allowing matters to rest as they are, and we have no confidence that further inquiry will produce a more reliable record than that made in the hearing before Judge Milhollin."

The board further said, "The large honest majority of the operators were denied the fruits of passing the first NRC reexamination (in April 1981) by the need for the second reexamination in October 1981; and they were held up to public derision by no failure of their own to safeguard the integrity of the NRC and company-administered examinations."

"With substantial justification, they have become embittered about these events. They should now be permitted to return to the important matter of preparing the unit for operation without further distractions."

The board said that in some instances it bypassed Milhollin's conclusions and based its findings on a direct examination of the evidence in the record.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, July 29, 1982

Contact your county agency

TMI pamphlets 'stray'

Residents within a 10-mile radius of Three Mile Island who receive the wrong set of evacuation and radiation pamphlets currently being mailed should contact their county Emergency Management Agency — not the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency — for replacements.

John J. Comey, PEMA spokesman, said emergency management officials in Dauphin, Cumberland, Lancaster, York and Lebanon counties have received an ample supply of the brochures. Residents can either pick up appropriate copies at the county's courthouse or request that a set be mailed to them, Comey said.

He noted the pamphlets are being distributed by zip code and while the error factor is "minimal" it is "causing concern" for the residents receiving inappropriate copies. The brochures contain general information about nuclear power plants and specific county-by-county evacuation details in the event of an accident at TMI.

These are the telephone numbers of county emergency management agencies: Dauphin, 238-1693; Cumberland, 249-1133, Ext. 288 or 289; Lancaster, 299-8373; Lebanon, 272-7621, and York, 848-3301, Ext. 218.

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Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

VOL. 3 NO. 12

Sept 1982

The Evening News, Tuesday, August 24, 1982

TMIA appeals OK of restart for Unit One

Three Mile Island Alert Inc. has appealed a hearing panel's recommendation that the undamaged Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor should be permitted to resume commercial operation.

The recommendation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board was issued July 27. The report was based on the results of an investigation and hearings into cheating incidents among TMI operators. After setting several conditions, the board recommended the NRC approve restart.

TMIA alleges the 184-page decision contains 150 legal and factual errors and should not be used as a basis for concluding Unit 1 could be operated safely.

In a related matter, the anti-nuclear group said it sent letters to Gov. Dick Thornburgh and nearly 100 members of Congress, including the Pennsylvania delegation, urging the restart be stopped.

"In the face of last May's overwhelming referendum vote rejecting restart, this (ASLB) decision clearly shows the NRC's total lack of concern for the health, safety and well-being of the citizens of Central Pennsylvania," said Joanne Doroshow, TMIA spokesman. Doroshow was referring to the non-binding referendum in the May primary in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties.

"Thus, we are turning to Congress and to the governor, asking that they intervene immediately to prevent restart," Doroshow said.

GPU Nuclear Corp., TMI's operator, does not expect to have Unit 1 operationally ready until early in 1983. In addition, the issue of psychological stress of nearby residents must be settled.

The hearings concerning cheating were held after the licensing

board concluded its own investigation on technical and management issues and emergency planning. Recommendations in those two areas were released by the board as "partial initial decisions" last year.

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board will resume oral argument Sept. 1 on appeals from the Dec. 14 partial decision on hardware, design, emergency planning and separation of Units 1 and 2, an NRC spokesman said. The session will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the NRC Public Hearing Room, fifth floor, East-West Towers Building, 4350 East-West Highway, Bethesda, Md.

The exceptions of GPU Nuclear Corp. and the Union of Concerned Scientists on plant design and procedures and separation will be considered at the session. Argument on emergency planning was heard in June.

York Daily Record • Wednesday, August 25, 1982

TMI asks ban lifted on restart

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Daily Record staff writer

The operator of Three Mile Island has asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to lift the suspension of its unit 1 operating license.

Spokesmen for GPU Nuclear Corp. said three years of hearings by an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board have resolved all TMI-2 accident-related issues tied to the restart of unit 1, and the license suspension should be lifted.

Unit 2 suffered the worst accident in the history of commercial nuclear power in March 1979. Unit 1 was shut down for refueling at the time of the accident.

Shortly after the events at TMI-2, the NRC ordered the completion of accident-related safety hearings on restart before unit 1 would be allowed to come back on line.

On three occasions, the ASLB has recommended the restart of unit 1, as a result of hearings on unit 1 management competence, technical modifications to the plant, emergency planning issues and cheating on reactor operator qualification examinations.

Last August, the NRC said it would lift the license suspension if the reasons for the suspension no longer existed, said GPU Nuclear spokesman Doug Bedell.

"All of the bases for the suspension have now been resolved, and the commission is, therefore, obligated to make the ASLB's decision immediately effective," the operator said in its request filed Friday.

Since the August 1981 declaration of the NRC, however, a U.S. Appeals Court has ruled that restart cannot proceed until the possible damage to psychological health of TMI area residents is evaluated.

Also, widespread corrosion of the steam generator tubes in unit 1 now requires the operator to repair all 31,000 of the tubes before TMI-1 can restart.

The Justice Department is scheduled to file a petition on the NRC's behalf Monday asking the U.S. Supreme Court to review the lower court's decision, said Joshua Schwartz, a department attorney involved in drafting the petition.

Schwartz would not give any indication of what is contained in the petition to the Supreme Court.

More than a month ago, operating subsidiaries of General Public Utilities Corp. — including Metropolitan Edison Co. — asked the high court to reverse the lower court ruling.

Asking the NRC to remove the suspension of GPU Nuclear's operating license "certainly doesn't mean we're going to restart unit 1 immediately," Bedell said, referring to the steam generator tube repairs and the psychological stress ruling.

GPU Nuclear said it would accept a \$100,000 fine recommended by the ASLB, as well as a number of conditions proposed by the board after hearings were conducted into safety and management procedures at TMI.

The operator now predicts unit 1 will be ready for restart by the first quarter of 1983. Less than a year ago, GPU Nuclear predicted unit 1 would be ready to restart in the first half of 1982.

NRC spokeswoman Sue Gagner said the commission hadn't received GPU Nuclear's request to lift the license suspension by Tuesday. Until the commission has had a chance to review the request, there would be no comment on it, she said.

The commission "has not pointed out how they're going to handle" all of the issues involved in the restart question, said NRC spokesman Gary Sanborn.

Three Mile Island Alert, a local anti-nuclear group involved in the restart hearings, said Monday it sent letters to Gov. Dick Thornburgh and 100 members of Congress, including the Pennsylvania delegation, "urging immediate action be taken to stop the restart of TMI unit 1."

The NRC "could authorize restart pending resolution of the psychological stress and steam generator tube issues" 35 days after Friday, the period after comments

Cont. p. 5

Those near TMI still show stress,

WASHINGTON (UPI) — Two research groups say some people living near the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant in Pennsylvania still show signs of stress arising from the reactor accident three years ago.

But the researchers, reporting their findings Tuesday to a meeting of the American Psychological Association, said most people around the plant have handled the situation well and show little evidence of anxiety.

They said the stress that does occur is generally mild and there is no evidence that lingering anxiety from the accident has caused any health effects.

Dr. Andrew Baum, a psychologist at the government's Uniformed Services University of Health Sciences in Bethesda, Md., compared a group of 50 people living within five miles of the plant near Middletown, Pa., with similar groups of people who live near no

power plants, a coal-fired plant or a non-damaged nuclear plant.

"The data suggest that Three Mile Island residents are experiencing more stress than any of these groups and continue to do so over fairly long periods of time," Baum said at a news conference. He said about 30 percent of the Three Mile Island residents interviewed showed signs of some stress.

Dr. Herbert C. Schulberg, a psychologist at the University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, studied mothers of young children living within 10 miles of Three Mile Island.

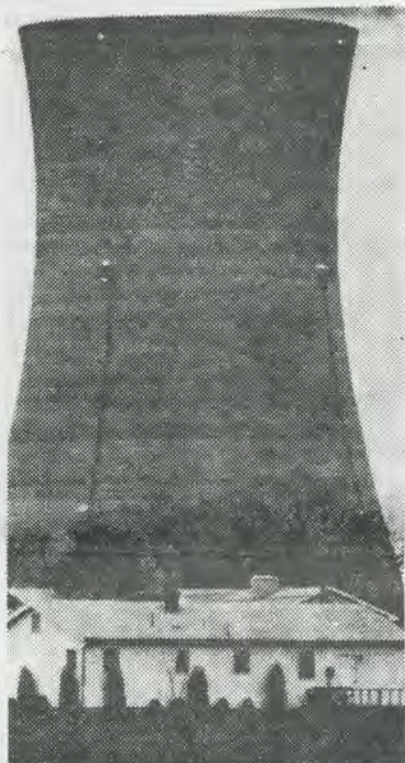
He found that stress among them was five times higher three months after the accident than those living an equal distance from another nuclear plant. He said some stress has continued.

Schulberg said it is the perception of the degree of danger that is the key to how mothers react.

"Consequently, the kind of information that's shared by the operators of Three Mile Island and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in the future, if and when the plant is reopened, would be a very vital factor affecting the way in which this particular population could be expected to react at that point in time," he said.

Schulberg said psychological studies of people living near Three Mile Island take on special significance since a federal appeals court ruled in May that federal law requires the NRC to consider psychological impact when it decides whether the undamaged reactor at Three Mile Island can be reopened.

York Daily Record • Saturday, August 14, 1982



TMI: Still stressful?

Having ratepayers foot cleanup bill a 180-degree turn

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Daily Record staff writer

If it seems as if Metropolitan Edison Co. ratepayers, as well as customers of other General Public Utilities Corp. subsidiaries, have had the tables turned on them, it's because that is the case.

Met-Ed ratepayers at the time of the March 1979 Three Mile Island unit 2 accident may recall the state Public Utility Commission declared they would not be made to bear the financial burden of cleanup.

That was slightly more than three years and 180 degrees ago.

Making ratepayers of GPU's Pennsylvania subsidiaries contribute to the cleanup makes sense from an equity standpoint — Jersey Central Power & Light ratepayers (GPU's New Jersey subsidiary) are contributing some \$13 million. It makes little sense otherwise.

In fact, it leaves ratepayers out on a limb. A card played, waiting for a gamble to pay off.

Last week, Met-Ed, the PUC trial staff and the state consumer advocate's office submitted a petition to the commission, asking that a Jan. 8 rate settlement be amended to allow \$16.7 million currently flowing to

ward recovering the investment cost of unit 2 to be diverted toward a cleanup fund. PUC action may come Aug. 27.

In the original settlement, TMI-1 would have to restart before ratepayers contribute to cleanup. Restart in the near future is dubious.

The idea behind this move, backers of the amendment contend, is to spur favorable action on a U.S. Senate bill sponsored by John Heinz, R-Pa., and Bill Bradley, D-N.J. The bill is part of Gov. Dick Thornburgh's TMI-2 cleanup cost-sharing plan.

"Your faith in Congress and the utility industry transcends my faith and that of many of my constituents," wrote state Sen. Ralph Hess, R-28, to state Consumer Advocate Walter Cohen, a supporter of the amendment.

Hess was a backer of legislation in 1979 barring any costs of cleanup from being passed along to ratepayers. The action cleared the Democratic state Senate, but died in the then-Republican House.

The amendment petition "shows the arrogance and indifference of the powers that be in Harrisburg, who are so willing to make the

Cont. p. 5

York Daily Record • Wednesday, August 11, 1982

More problems loom for cleanup

By RICH KIRKPATRICK
Associated Press

Possible damage to a 55-ton structure that sits atop the crippled Three Mile Island reactor core could complicate the \$1 billion TMI cleanup, a Nuclear Regulatory Commission official said Tuesday.

Inspections indicate some distortion to the stainless steel structure, called a plenum. If it is fused to the core or to the reactor vessel, the cleanup could take longer, said Lake Barrett, deputy program director of the NRC's TMI office.

"If the plenum lifts right out, it takes an hour or so," Barrett said in a telephone interview. "If it's fused to the fuel or the vessel, it would have to be cut into pieces and then it's multi-months to take it out."

As for the effect on the cleanup's cost, Barrett said: "It usually boils down to time is money."

However, Barrett added in a later conversation that he didn't feel the damage to the plenum would make "a big difference" in the cleanup.

"Most of the studies showed we'd have a damaged plenum," he said. "It's clear there's damage, but we don't know yet and can't say it's going to make cleanup significantly different than what we originally planned for."

STAFF THIS ISSUE:

Editors:
Cathy Musser
Kathy Manfred
Sandra Choma
Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Sept. 1, 1982

GPU's income is up in 7-month period

PARSIPPANY, N.J. — General Public Utilities Corp. reported net income of \$28.1 million, or 46 cents per share, for the first seven months of 1982, compared to a loss of \$13.4 million or 22 cents per share for a similar period last year, a spokesman announced.

Revenues were \$1.4 billion for the period ended July 31 and \$1.18 billion for the same period in 1981.

The report for the 12 months ended July 31 with comparable figures for the previous 12 months in parentheses is as follows:

Revenues, \$2.28 billion (\$1.98 billion); net income, \$25.6 million (loss of \$2.8 million); and net income per share, 42 cents (5 cent loss).

Rebuffed TMI protesters take case directly to the NRC

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Asked to leave a Nuclear Regulatory Commission hearing room Wednesday in suburban Bethesda, Md., a group of Central Pennsylvanians took their protest against restart of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 nuclear plant to NRC headquarters in downtown Washington.

After noon-hour picketing of the NRC's main offices by a dozen anti-restart protesters, staff director Linda Lotz of the TMI Public Interest Resource Center in Harrisburg delivered a letter outlining various grievances to NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino.

"Our experience, simply put, has been that the entire (restart) process is weighted in favor of General Public Utilities' corporate survival rather than the safety and health of the people and businesses surrounding TMI," the letter said.

The group's underlying theme was that citizens do not have the resources to match legal firms and technical experts hired by a utility.

As nuclear energy critics were making their message public, GPU continued to run its television series of "TMI status reports" on Central Pennsylvania stations. The advertising campaign's latest spot features an NRC-appointed atomic safety and licensing board's conclusion in August that GPU Nuclear

Corp. was capable of properly managing and operating Unit 1.

GPU spokesman Joseph M. Benish in Parsippany, N.J., said Wednesday the company has spent \$307,000 on the Pennsylvania television campaign in the last 11 months. He emphasized the money spent was "at shareholder expense," meaning the funds conceivably could have gone to dividends or retained earnings.

"We regard it as an effort by the company and its shareholders to address public concerns," Benish said. "The spots don't urge you to support or oppose anything, they just present information the public

might not have gotten through normal channels."

Lotz said in the letter to Palladino that the same atomic safety and licensing board GPU quoted in its television commercials had ignored "key" safety problems.

Earlier in the day at another NRC office building in Bethesda, the protesters attempted to be heard at a quasi-judicial hearing before an appeals board appointed to hear objections to the licensing board's recommendation favoring restart.

The appeals board headed by Gary J. Edles heard arguments Wednesday by the Union of Con-

cerned Scientists that defects in plant design and procedures since the TMI-Unit 2 accident had gone unheeded by the board.

As the proceedings started, Lotz and other protesters said they attempted to read a statement similar to the Palladino letter, but they were asked to leave. Some members said they stuffed their mouths with handkerchiefs as they left to symbolize the alleged "gag" effect of NRC procedures.

TMI PIRC and other anti-restart groups represented by the protesters were not legally recognized as intervenors in the restart case when proceedings began more than two years ago. Hence, they were not scheduled to appear at Wednesday's appeal hearing on design and procedure arguments brought by the Union of Concerned Scientists, an official intervenor in the restart case.

Lotz said the appeals board's refusal to hear the protest statement reflected what's wrong with NRC nuclear plant licensing rules.

"There is no place in the licensing process where citizens can just express their concerns," Lotz said. "You have to become fanatics, technical experts for two or three years to participate in the appeals process."

York Daily Record • Friday, August 27, 1982

GPU seeks foreign aid for cleanup

By MICHAEL A. HOBBS
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — General Public Utilities Corp. is trying to get foreign contributors to help pay the estimated \$1 billion cost of cleaning up Three Mile Island's crippled unit 2 nuclear reactor.

GPU, the owner of TMI, has retained a Washington consulting firm, International Energy Associates, to discuss with officials in Japan and five European nations, including France, the possibility of their contributing to the cleanup fund. GPU declined to name the other countries involved.

As part of the effort, an official from GPU and another from the Bechtel Corp., which is coordinating the cleanup operation, recently went to Europe to talk to foreign officials about the proposal, a GPU spokesman said.

The foreign funds, if received, would come from "private (nuclear) utilities with some (foreign) government participation," a GPU official said Thursday.

The disclosure that GPU was seeking foreign funds for the six-year cleanup task was made during an informal roundtable discussion here Thursday between GPU officials and reporters about the firm's efforts to have Congress approve legislation requiring the nuclear utility industry to share part of the cleanup costs.

The core of TMI-2's reactor was severely damaged in the March 28, 1979, nuclear accident that led to the evacuation of area residents and the release of some radiation into the air.

Bernard H. Cherry, a GPU vice president, said the corporation was seeking foreign funds because it would

still be about \$70 million short of what was needed even if Congress passes the legislation requiring all nuclear power utilities to contribute \$170 million to the TMI-2 cleanup project.

That legislation, sponsored by Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., and Sen. Bill Bradley, D-N.J., would divide the \$1 billion cleanup cost among utilities, the federal government, the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, and GPU.

The cleanup bill, however, is facing stiff opposition from congressmen who argue that utilities will unfairly pass their \$170 million bill on to consumers. Cherry told reporters that potential foreign contributors are being courted whatever the fate of the Heinz-Bradley bill.

"Even with the industry contribution, we're still short of the total amount of money needed to do the job," Cherry said.

Asked if GPU would increase utility rates to consumers to add to the cleanup fund should the Heinz-Bradley bill be defeated, Cherry said that might not be necessary if domestic vendors and foreign nuclear utility firms agree to aid the project.

He said the decision to seek foreign funds was viewed by GPU as a sort of tradeoff in which foreign nuclear industries would provide financial help in the cleanup in return for the technical information they are receiving about this nation's worst nuclear accident and its aftermath.

Cherry noted that foreign firms have already sent 12 representatives to the TMI site to gather information and gain experience in dealing with the huge decontamination task.

"The world will benefit," Cherry said, from the research and development, the actual cleanup, and the safety measures being taken at TMI. "We think it's fair that (foreign) utilities will pay part of the tuition in return for the decontamination experience."

York Daily Record • Saturday, August 7, 1982

No meltdown evidence yet inside TMI-2

By RICHARD BEAN
Daily Record staff writer

Officials of Three Mile Island Friday night said that after taking a second "quick look" into the damaged unit 2 reactor they could find no evidence indicating a meltdown of the uranium fuel in the March 1979 accident.

Damages were found to the fuel and plenum assemblies, but again technicians were unable to conclude if any of the uranium dioxide pellets melted, said David Osterhout, GPU Nuclear Corp. spokesman.

"The damage estimates are very consistent with what we are finding in the quick looks," Osterhout said.

Technicians from Bechtel Corp. lowered a miniature underwater television camera into the unit in two locations — on the outer edge of the reactor and midway from the center to the outside edge. July 22 they examined the center of the reactor using the same procedure.

Osterhout said the damages viewed at the midpoint of the reactor were very similar to those seen nearly two weeks ago in the center. There was a rubble bed about five feet into the fuel assemblies, from fracturing and breaking away of the structure.

On the outer edge everything "looked pretty much intact," he said. There were no piles of rubble found and the metal components of the structure were in place, he said.

Major debate in Senate seen for TMI cleanup bill

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A bill that would finance part of the Three Mile Island cleanup will generate fierce Senate floor debate — if there is a debate — according to a report released Tuesday by two committees with members making up one-third of the Senate.

As approved earlier this year by the Senate energy committee and later by the environment committee, the measure proposes all nuclear-power electric utilities be forced to pay a small surcharge toward the \$1 billion TMI decontamination project. The Congressional Budget Office now estimates the assessments would raise \$181 million over five years toward the uninsured remaining cleanup cost of \$760 million.

Sens. John Heinz, R-Pa., and Bill Bradley, D-N.J., helped TMI owner General Public Utilities win a 12-8 energy committee approval of the bill March 31 and a 10-6 report to the floor "without recommendation" by the environment panel July 27.

But based on comments in Tuesday's report and remarks made during deliberations, the 34 senators serving on both units may end

up evenly divided or opposed to the legislation if it is taken up sometime between September and November.

Just getting the bill to the Senate floor, Heinz and Bradley aides have said, will depend on progress in the House. New Jersey Reps. Jim Howard, a Democrat, and Millicent Fenwick, a Republican, have introduced the Heinz-Bradley bill in the House. But Morris Udall, D-Ariz., has yet to say whether he would change his mind and have his Interior Committee take up TMI legislation.

In the two Senate committees' report, environment committee Chairman Robert Stafford described the Senate's reluctance to act and flatly predicted the House will not consider such legislation this year.

"No member of the Committee on Environment and Public Works spoke to this bill in a favorable light," said Stafford, who opposed the bill.

"The lack of enthusiasm was deafening. The debate centered on the degrees of dislike individual members had for the bill. The sentiment in the Senate appears equally tepid," the Vermont Republican

said.

Democrats Gary Hart of Colorado, Lloyd Bentsen of Texas and Quentin Burdick of North Dakota, all of whom voted with the 10-6 environment committee majority to let the Senate consider the bill, expressed deep reservations. For various reasons, they voted more out of courtesy to Heinz and Bradley than out of conviction for the proposal.

Hart said in joint committee report Congress should "... send a clear signal that the government will not, in effect, tax ratepayers around the country to pay for nuclear accidents ..."

Bentsen said he had serious problems with the bill and wasn't sure how he would vote. A dozen utilities in his home state would have to pay \$5.3 million toward the TMI cleanup under the legislation.

Without their votes against the bill on the floor, Stafford's environment committee would be split 7-9 against the bill.

Further, GOP leader Howard Baker of Tennessee, a fourth committee member who voted to let the Senate debate the TMI bill, gave no hint in the report as to his position on the merits of the proposal.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, August 28, 1982

Funds OK'd for Cleanup

By United Press International

The state Public Utility Commission on Friday allowed two owners of Three Mile Island to use \$21.7 million annually in customer payments for cleanup of the nuclear plant's damaged reactor.

The move will not increase customer bills, but will allow Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co. to shift to the cleanup effort funds earmarked to pay off investment in the crippled Unit 2 reactor.

Unit 2 at the Londonderry Twp. power station was the site of the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident in March 1979.

The 4-0 vote by the PUC marked the first time it allowed customer funds to be used for the massive decontamination project by the two utilities, which are both subsidiaries of General Public Utilities Corp. of Parsippany, N.J.

The PUC previously ruled the companies could not use customer money for the cleanup until the plant's idled but undamaged Unit 1 reactor was restarted.

PUC Chairman Susan Shanahan and GPU speculated the move would encourage other groups, such as state and federal governments and the national nuclear utility industry, to contribute to the remaining \$760 million cost of the cleanup.

"To get federal money, we're going to have to bite the bullet and allow customer contributions [for cleanup]," said Shanahan. "Hopefully, this will make it easier to help us to more quickly get federal money."

"Today's PUC approval could well serve as an added impetus to the other parties that would be involved in a broad-based cost-sharing of the cleanup to participate," said a GPU spokesperson.

The third Three Mile Island owner, Jersey Central Power & Light Co., last month was permitted by the New Jersey Public Utilities Commission to collect cleanup funds from its customers.

The plan for Met-Ed and Penelec was approved by the PUC trial staff and Consumer Advocate Walter Cohen as a modification to a rate increase settlement approved for the plant owners by the PUC in January.

Under the new agreement, Met-Ed, based in Reading, will immediately begin using \$16.7 million annually for the cleanup and Penelec, of Johnstown, would be allowed \$5 million yearly toward the decontamination project.

GPU recently asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to restore the Unit 1 operating license, which was lifted shortly after the accident. The reactor was shut down for refueling before the accident occurred.

However, the firm said restart was months away because repairs must be made to thousands of corroded steam generator tubes and a federal court has ruled area residents' psychological stress must be considered before restart.

THE PRESS AND JOURNAL Wednesday, August 4, 1982

Mistakes Mar Emergency Brochure

By Pamela Fry

A set of brochures recently mailed to all residents within a 10-mile radius of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Station were produced and mailed with the intent of educating people on

nuclear energy and instructing them as to what to do and where to go in the event of a nuclear accident. Despite the intent however, the materials may have compounded rather than alleviated the anxieties of

the residents concerned.

The emergency information brochure features typographical errors, and according to local officials, incomplete and indeed wrong

Cont. p. 5

MISTAKES from 4

evacuation information.

Residents of Elizabethtown, designated as "Elizabeth" on the map, were recently notified by Harold J. Carotto, the borough's coordinator of the Emergency Management Department, that the Elizabethtown Borough's telephone number was wrong as listed in the brochure. The correct phone number is (717) 367-5300.

Middletown residents seemed particularly confused by the fact that the new evacuation routes failed to coincide with those released two years earlier in the borough publication "Lifeline." The borough booklet, written by Mayor Robert Reid and the former chief of police George Miller, contained detailed explanations of evacuation routes for area residents. The confusion

began, according to the mayor, when the new mailing, written by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency in conjunction with the county agency, published evacuation directions which were incomplete, and in at least one case, erroneous.

The lack of specific instructions, Comey stressed, should cause no problem since the route will be posted and police will be available to direct drivers. Comey also explained that evacuees will not be "herded" to a mass care center, but be free to choose where they plan to stay.

Reid also explained that he had at one point, planned a mock evacuation for volunteers to participate in, allowing officials to see what kind of problems needed to be straighten-

ed out in preparation for an actual emergency. His plans called for the participation of about 300 cars, with simulated problems, such as an accident and fire built in. The plans, however, were put aside when county and state officials claimed there would be liability problems if private vehicles were to have been involved in an accident.

Bravitz explained that such a practice evacuation could "run into problems, causing more fears that something is wrong at the nuclear plant." He said, however, that the county is "looking toward another drill whereby we would go all the way up-through the streets with emergency vehicles." "When you're moving that many people," he continued, "you have to be well planned."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, Sept. 2, 1982.

TMI worker fired; insisted that he wear respirator

A Three Mile Island employee was fired because he refused to follow a new work rule which says he cannot wear a respirator while undressing personnel leaving the Unit 2 containment building.

GPU Nuclear Corp. acknowledged the worker, who was an employee of Catalytic Inc., a TMI contractor, was terminated "for refusing to work under existing work rules."

GPU said the filtering device is unnecessary because the level of airborne contamination in the undressing room is well below federal standards for occupational exposure. GPU also said wearing a respirator causes physiological stress to the body.

Lake H. Barrett, the top Nuclear Regulatory Commission official at TMI, said the levels in the undressing area are less than 1 percent of the NRC standards at which a respirator would be required. Barrett said the harmful effects of breathing in the air in the area would be equivalent to smoking a cigarette.

The discharged employee, William D. Pensyl of Shamokin, said he had been working at TMI for 14 weeks, the last seven of which he was assigned to Corridor I. This is the area in the decontamination room where entry personnel are stripped of the top layer of protective garb after they leave the reactor building.

Pensyl, 34, said he was given the options of "doing my job without a respirator, quitting or getting fired." He said he told his supervisor, "I'm not refusing to do my job. I want a respirator." He said he was discharged Monday.

After the new work rule was instituted Aug. 13, Pensyl said he presented TMI supervisors with a petition signed by 25 other laborers who wanted to have the option of wearing a respirator. Pensyl said the laborers take turns working in Corridor I and normally work a 2-hour shift during an entry.

He said the workers are permitted to continue wearing other protective clothing, which includes several layers of plastic boots, coveralls and gloves and a hood.

TMI ASKS from 1

on the recent ASLB cheating findings have been filed, said Joanne Doroshow, a spokeswoman for the anti-nuclear group.

Also, the group contends the suspension of the unit 1 license shouldn't be lifted, Ms. Doroshow said.

She said she has no indication of how the NRC will act on the question of restart. But she said the NRC should consider the ASLB decision regarding cheating on reactor qualification exams "defective" and containing "a number of errors."

In a statement, the group said the licensing board's decision "contains over 150 legal errors and factual errors."

The licensing board's decision "will eventually be reversed," either by an NRC licensing and safety appeals board or a court, she said. "A court could reverse it (the cheating decision) if and when we get to court," Ms. Doroshow said.

RATEPAYERS from 2

customers the sacrificial lamb," said Democrat J. Richard Oare, a York attorney seeking Hess' seat in the November elections.

In the House, Rep. Allen Ertel, D-17, a candidate for governor, also has sponsored cleanup cost-sharing legislation, but "has been conspicuously unable to move anything out of committee," a Heinz aide once observed.

Rep. James Howard, D-N.J., a politically powerful House member, recently introduced legislation along the same lines as Heinz', and is hopeful of gaining House passage.

Still, this is an election year, and many political observers doubt seriously representatives from around the country will support a plan to pay for cleaning the mess near Middletown. If both chambers of Congress don't act, there will be no mandating legislation.

The powerful Edison Electric In-

stitute, a lobby group for most of the nation's investor-owned utilities, is pushing for passage of the Heinz-Bradley bill, which would mandate a \$170 million contribution from utilities using nuclear power, and is taking little action in the House.

EI has no contingency plans — follow-up action to raise its share of the cleanup costs voluntarily — should Congress not mandate utility contributions, said Fred Davis, EI's senior legislative representative for nuclear affairs.

President Reagan pledged \$123 million toward cleanup. However, only \$66 million to \$69 million would offset cleanup costs. To date, only \$33 million of the \$123 million has been made available.

Thornburgh has committed Pennsylvania to paying \$5 million this year. Thus far, GPU has spent about \$245 million of its \$300 million in insurance coverage on cleanup.

Thornburgh's plan assumes the uninsured portion of cleanup to be \$760 million. But the numbers don't add up.

"Most people will tell you off the record the cleanup will cost \$1.5 billion," said Alfred Nardelli, director of the division of rate counsel for New Jersey's Public Advocate office. He has litigated JCP&L rate cases since the accident.

"It may be \$2 billion" before cleanup is funded and completed, he said.

GPU must have cleanup funds if it is to avoid bankruptcy. Both the PUC and consumer advocate's office have determined the utility won't be allowed to go belly up.

Nardelli stressed GPU subsidiaries will likely ask state regulatory boards to let ratepayers shoulder the entire cost of the cleanup, should the federal government and the utility industry fail to contribute to the cleanup.

"In New Jersey, we're certainly going to resist (that) very bitterly," Nardelli said.

The amendment petition, if approved, bars Met-Ed from seeking additional cleanup funds from ratepayers until October 1983. In addition, it requires no rate increase above those granted in January.

TMI cleanup could be complete by 1987; funding critical

Removing the fuel from Three Mile Island unit 2 can still be accomplished by 1985, based on information obtained from probes within the damaged reactor.

But funding for the decontamination of unit 2 will be the critical factor determining the speed, timing and scope of the cleanup.

"We've yet to see anything significant that was not anticipated, nor anything that would lead us to change our cost or schedule estimates," said James Thiesing, project manager for the Bechtel Corp., which is assisting TMI operator GPU Nuclear Corp. on the cleanup.

Using a miniature television camera, technicians have probed the Unit 2 reactor three times in the past four weeks, finding severe damage

in the fuel assemblies.

However, officials at the plant made no conclusions on whether fuel had melted during the accident at unit 2.

The cleanup has an estimated cost of \$1 billion. Under the operating schedule now assumed by the operator, removal of the damaged reactor head would take place in mid-1983, followed by extraction of the damaged core material in 1985. Cleanup would be completed by 1987, officials believe.

GPU Nuclear officials believe there is presently enough money to allow for the removal of the 160-ton reactor head. But, "we're not going to start defueling until we know we can finish," said GPU Nuclear spokesman Doug Bedell.

A committee of nuclear technicians said after reviewing videotapes of the probes, preliminary indications are:

☐ Fuel within the reactor was "severely damaged" so that part of it is in a bed of rubble at the center, along with shattered zirconium tubing that encased the fuel. Officials have not determined whether any fuel pellets melted.

☐ A "significant sized void," about five feet deep, exists within the reactor. The void is believed to have been created by collapse of the assemblies at the center of the core. Although videotape of the core's center showed an indistinguishable mass of rubble, another look midway between the center and edge showed recognizable components of the reactor, such as springs and tubing.

☐ The plenum, a major reactor component just above the core, was substantially undamaged, although some fuel assembly fittings are hanging from it.

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News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

VOL. 4 NO. 1

OCT. 1982

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, Oct. 7, 1982

NRC to rule Dec. 10 on TMI Unit 1 safety

By MICK ROOD

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — If the Nuclear Regulatory Commission lifts two 1979 orders requiring cold shutdown of Three Mile Island Unit 1 for safety improvements in two months, General Public Utilities officials believe it will be "a major step toward restart" of the undamaged nuclear plant.

Commissioners had their staff describe steady GPU progress Wednesday on safety items required after the Unit 2 nuclear accident and scheduled a Dec. 10 decision to lift the 1979 orders — a necessary prelude to the restart decision expected next year.

"The safety items raised in 1979 set us apart from all other plants," said a smiling GPU President, Herman Dieckamp, after the NRC session here. "If the commission lifts the orders, it means we are ripe for a final decision on those issues. I guess you could say we have achieved a measure of respectability."

NRC staff members said GPU had completed 65 of 129 safety items. Of the remaining 64, many were at late stages of approval by NRC inspectors and another dozen would have to be verified after Unit 1 is approved for low power testing, the staff said.

At times during the meeting, the next step of lifting the 1979 or-

ders seemed a foregone conclusion.

"We're committing all resources necessary for approval of the 64 (remaining) items," said Darrell G. Eisenhut, director of the NRC licensing division.

"You meant all resources necessary to act on the (GPU) requests for approval," cautioned Commissioner John F. Ahearne.

Other equipment and safety work will still have to be individually approved after the commission acts on the 1979 orders Dec. 10, including repair of the corroded steam generator tubes at Unit 1. Eisenhut predicted that task would be completed by March or April at the earliest.

The NRC also scheduled hearings with Unit 1 restart intervenor parties in the afternoon and the general public in the evening on Nov. 9 for comments on the lifting of the 1979 orders and on the restart in general. It will run from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at a site as yet undetermined.

Strict rules for testimony at the Nov. 9 public hearing include limiting statements to three minutes per person or organization and prohibiting questions of the commissioners by witnesses. A witness could speak a maximum of six minutes if another witness gave up his three minutes.

The idea, the five commission-

ers said in a formal order, is "to allow the commission to hear the views of interested speakers ... The commission also intends for a balance of viewpoints to be presented."

The NRC said it is searching for a "neutral organization" to help set up the public meeting. Speakers must sign up "in advance," but the NRC did not say when that was on Wednesday.

After a meeting on the status of the Unit 1 restart, NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino allowed that commission members had differed somewhat behind the scenes on the question of hearing groundrules.

"We didn't want to get involved in a debate. We didn't want to dwell on any particular issue and not hear all views," Palladino said in a veiled reference to emotional public meetings in the past.

Palladino said Dauphin County Commissioner John Minnick, who heads the NRC's citizen advisory panel, had suggested the public meeting because it "would be desirable for people to feel that at least we've (the NRC) considered items of concern to them."

The NRC chairman said the public hearing is not legally required, but he said the commission wanted to "make sure people understood what we consider" before deciding on the Unit 1 restart.

Wednesday, October 13, 1982

The Pennsylvania Beacon

Anti-nuclear groups protest setting of TMI ruling date before stress tests

By BRIAN DOWNEY

Special to The Beacon

HARRISBURG—A Harrisburg-based anti-nuclear group is calling an expected Dec. 10 Nuclear Regulatory Commission decision on whether to restart the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island "premature" and "typical of the contempt" the NRC has shown toward the hearing process and "the people of central

Pennsylvania."

The Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center's (TMI PIRC) reaction to the NRC announcement—that it will hold a public hearing Nov. 9 and make its final decision Dec. 10—came at a press conference at the capitol Friday morning.

TMI PIRC is a coalition of 10 area anti-nuclear groups opposed to the restart of Unit 1.

TMI PIRC spokesperson Pat Smith said any NRC decision on the subject of restart would be premature because the U.S. Supreme Court has yet to consider the subject of "psychological stress" associated with the March 29, 1979 accident at Unit 2.

Cont. pg. 5-PROTEST

GPU Nuclear to file for rate increases

GPU Nuclear Corp. plans to continue another major operation in the decontamination of Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building Friday, but the company says it will need more money from ratepayers to fund the jobs ahead.

GPU said the two Pennsylvania owners of TMI plan to file rate increases with the state Public Utility Commission in January seeking additional cleanup revenues from their customers. As part of a rate-case settlement which went into effect in January, the two utilities, Metropolitan Edison Co. of Reading and Pennsylvania Electric Co. of Johnstown, agreed not to seek higher rates for a year. Regulatory review could take nine months, meaning customers probably would not begin paying any increases until September.

Met-Ed and Penelec customers are indirectly contributing toward the cleanup bill now. In August the PUC permitted Met-Ed and Penelec to divert a total of \$21.7 million from funds used to pay off the investment in Unit 2 to the decontamination effort.

GPU President Robert C. Arnold said Wednesday GPU expects to have \$76 million available for the cleanup in 1983 and \$95-\$100 million in 1984. About \$70 million will have been spent during 1982, he said.

It is expected Met-Ed and Penelec will seek the contributions from ratepayers outlined in Gov. Dick Thornburgh's cost-sharing blueprint announced in July 1981. Under that proposal Met-Ed customers would pay \$25 million annually and Penelec's \$12.5 million annually. Jersey Central Power & Light Co. already is collecting \$12.5 million annually from its customers for the decontamination.

Arnold said GPU plans to issue an update on its cleanup schedule and funding sources by the end of

the year. Arnold made a preliminary report on the cleanup plans for the next 15 months in a letter to Harold R. Denton, director of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

Key to the cleanup effort will be the restoration of the polar crane, which is located in the dome of the containment building, because it will be needed to lift heavy equipment and the head of the reactor. Head removal is tentatively planned for mid-1983. Removal of the plenum, a support cylinder above the fuel in the reactor, could follow if it is not severely deformed.

Other jobs projected over the next 15 months are preparations for removing the reactor's fuel, shipping radioactive wastes from the plant and further decontamination of the reactor, auxiliary and fuel-handling buildings.

Arnold said GPU will meet an Oct. 8 deadline set by Denton for issuing schedules for the shipment of radioactive wastes from TMI.

Arnold said GPU shares Denton's concern that "cleanup delays, if they are permitted to continue, will increase the likelihood of incidents, involving radiation leakage and possible exposures of workers and the public."

Meanwhile, technicians at TMI expect to resume spraying the upper portions of the reactor building Friday as part of a \$1 million wash-down project that makes use of data gathered during a small-scale operation which ended in March.

Dubbed "Phase 2," the wash-down will encompass the ceiling, wall and floor surfaces of the building, starting at the dome and working down to the entry level, a GPU spokesman said. Spraying devices will be used, and the dirty water will be flushed into the basement sump where it will be collected for processing.

A mechanical floor scrubber will be used and strippable decontamination coatings will be applied to certain areas. The spokesman said the polar crane will be scrubbed by hand.

Judge dismisses claim

NEW YORK (AP) — A federal judge has dismissed one of several claims in a pending \$4 billion damage suit filed by four utilities against Babcock & Wilcox Co., manufacturer of the nuclear unit involved in the 1979 accident at Pennsylvania's Three Mile Island plant.

The action was taken Wednesday by U.S. District Judge Richard Owen in granting a pretrial motion in which Babcock & Wilcox successfully contended it could not be held responsible for a "strict liability" claim under Pennsylvania law.

The dismissed claim was filed

by General Public Utilities Corp., one of four owners and operators of the Three Mile Island generating plant where the nation's worst nuclear accident to date occurred on March 28, 1979.

The other plaintiffs were Jersey Central Power & Light Co., Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co.

The utilities filed the suit in 1980 contending that Babcock & Wilcox was liable for \$4 billion damages because of its failure to warn them of known safety hazards in the nuclear steam supply system which General Public Utilities purchased.

York Daily Record • Saturday, October 9, 1982

Venting at TMI

Did you know venting at Three Mile Island has occurred 27 out of the last 34 days? Pennsylvanians, you should be appalled and very angry.

You should write or call Gov. Thornburgh and your congressman immediately and say stop. Stop tampering with my health and the health of my children. Mr. Bellamy of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission told me venting is done mainly for the comfort of the manned entries. We citizens are secondary once more.

Could the gases be so harmful that they must vent before the manned entries? Mr. Bellamy said that they are venting krypton 85 and tritium.

"Yes," he agreed with me that it was cumulative, and "not much each day." But I related a drop of oil in a bucket of water each day accumulates as the gasses do in our atmosphere. He said, "That bucket is an ocean."

Mr. Bellamy admitted that venting of the gases will occur during the entire clean-up, be it eight to 10 years. That could accumulate to be astronomical.

Isn't this a good reason to have constructed a mechanism in July 1980 when we so clearly protested the venting of krypton into our atmosphere?

The money GPU is spending on television ads could go to this purpose or any part of clean-up. Area residents, call and tell them our health must be top priority all the time, not just when Met-Ed chooses.

Mr. Bellamy talked about being for clean-up. I don't appreciate that comment from anyone as I personally know a lot of people, pro and con TMI, and no one is against clean-up. We just respect our health and the atmosphere. If every industry did as Met-Ed, our atmosphere would be doomed in the near future.

Met-Ed vented two weeks ago during dreadful weather conditions as well as many rainy days. It should be stopped immediately, and you area residents can do it if you write or call now.

Act now. Do it for yourself, your neighbor, but most of all, for our children. If you wait, someday you'll wake up to TMI being turned on because you waited too long to write or call.

A small amount of arsenic each day or a small amount of krypton each day.

We need you very much. We care about your health and our own.

Patricia A. Smith
Newberry Township and
TMI Public Interest Resource Center

TMI Unit 1 restart hearing

Nov. 9 at CD High

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Final arrangements for the Nov. 9 public hearing on the restart of Unit 1 at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant were announced today by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The hearing, designed to be the NRC's last chance to hear the public on the potential restart, will be held from 7:30 p.m. to 10 p.m. at Central Dauphin High School, 4600 Locust Lane. NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino will preside.

Harrisburg area residents who want to speak about the Unit 1 restart now being considered by the NRC must call the commission's Middletown office on Thursday and Friday, or on Monday, Tuesday and Wednesday next week.

On those five days between the hours of 8 a.m. and 5 p.m., the telephone numbers are 717-948-1150 or 717-948-1152. A reserve line in Philadelphia, 215-337-5332, is also available.

Because of the time limitation, only 30 citizens will be guaranteed the right to make three-minute presentations. The speakers will be chosen from among those who register their names with the NRC.

Dauphin County Commission Chairman John E. Minnich volunteered with the NRC to be "a neutral party" who will select the 30 speakers representing "a balance of viewpoints," the NRC said in an order signed today. Minnich will telephone by Oct. 29 the list of 30 speakers and follow up with confirmation letters.

Other ground rules include:

— Public speakers may not quiz Palladino and other NRC commissioners.

— If a speaker can swap time with another person chosen to speak, that speaker may talk for as long as six minutes, but no more.

If time remains after the scheduled speakers are finished, Palladino will call on extra speakers, who will be picked in the order they originally called the NRC this week and next.

Any resident may submit a written statement at the hearing, the NRC said.

Also on Nov. 9, the NRC will hear from the various parties to the Unit 1 restart proceeding from 3 to 5 p.m. at the William Penn Memorial Museum Auditorium, Third and North streets in Harrisburg. The formal hearing will be open to the public observers.

In an Oct. 6 order, the NRC announced the dual hearings, saying it would decide by Dec. 10 whether to lift 1979 orders forcing Metropolitan Edison Co. to keep in cold shutdown both Unit 1 and Unit 2, the reactor severely damaged in the March 1979 nuclear accident.

If the NRC lifts those orders, it would not allow Met-Ed's operating subsidiary, General Public Utilities Nuclear Group, to operate Unit 1. But it would be a major procedural step toward the commission's final restart decision, now expected by mid-1983 at the soonest.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Oct. 6, 1982

Nuclear anxiety and expense

THOUGH only this summer GPU Nuclear Corp. concluded that embrittlement of the steel walls of its Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor vessel would not be a problem during the reactor's lifetime, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission identified Unit 1 this week as one of 16 nuclear plants in the country most seriously affected by the embrittlement problem.

The NRC staff evaluation of the metallurgical phenomenon — resulting from the bombardment of radiation — at more than 40 nuclear facilities in the country found that no immediate changes were necessary at any of the plants, but some plants would have to undergo modifications in the next few years. It should be noted, however, that one of the NRC's own safety engineers, Demetrios Basdekas, considers the problem far more serious than the agency's staff.

The concern about embrittlement centers around the possibility that as pressurized water reactors age they become less and less capable of withstanding a sudden change in temperature. If they should crack "like a piece of glass," as Basdekas puts it, the result will be the most serious type of accident a nuclear plant can sustain — a core meltdown.

Fortunately, both the agency and some members of Congress view the problem as serious enough to warrant additional study and review. And unlike the incidents at other nuclear plants which preceded the accident at Unit 2 more than three years ago, the industry and the public have been given ample warning of the problem. For the most part, however, the public cannot judge if the NRC is responding to the problem in a way which will forestall the type of event that Basdekas is warning about. It only can hope.

AN ISSUE less important than safety concerns raised by embrittlement, but one of no small significance, is the additional costs that would be imposed on ratepayers if, and when, "modifications" are ordered. Not just ratepayers, but utility officials as well, must be asking themselves, "where does it end?" A new problem associated with nuclear power seems to pop up as soon as an old one becomes stale. And none of the resulting modifications come cheap. It is enough to make one wonder if all the "bugs" will ever be wrung out of nuclear power and whether the public will ever stop paying to have the benefits of its electricity.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, Oct. 5, 1982

Red ink is erased by GPU profit hike

PARSIPPANY, N. J. — General Public Utilities Corp. has announced its revenues for the 12 months ended Aug. 31 totaled \$2.3 billion,

compared to \$1.99 billion in the same period a year ago. Net income was at \$27.77 million, compared to a loss of \$2.2 million in the like period a year ago. Net income per share was 45 cents; this compares with a loss of 4 cents.

For the eight months ended Aug. 31 (thus taking in only the

months of 1982), revenues were at \$1.6 billion, compared to \$1.36 billion in the period in 1981. Net income was \$36.1 million, compared with a loss of \$7.55 million. Income per share was 59 cents, compared to a loss of 12 cents in the like period a year ago.

Another look at nuclear licensing

REAGAN administration proposals, released last week, to speed up the licensing of nuclear plants is a mixed bag of the sensible and the expedient.

The time required to take a plant from conception to completion — now averaging around 13 years — clearly is unreasonable and unjustified by any rational standard, and is a major cause in the steep escalation of nuclear building costs.

The widely held misconception is that opposition to nuclear plants largely is responsible for delays in the completion of nuclear projects. Studies have shown, however, that construction and financial difficulties, labor problems, changes in design and regulatory delays are the main reasons it takes so long to build nuclear plants.

Keeping that in mind, it will make hardly any difference in the speed with which nuclear plants are built by restricting public participation in the licensing process as the administration proposes. If anything, there is a need to simplify and strengthen public involvement in the nuclear plant decision-making process. Any project, such as a nuclear plant, which contains so great an inherent risk, however small, to the public and surrounding community and which requires a large degree of faith in the integrity of the regulatory process, must be subject to full public comment and scrutiny. Otherwise, democracy is perverted, and an angry and disenchanted citizenry is the outcome. The

public deserves to be heard and its questions fully and forthrightly answered.

The demands of safety, questions of operator competence and the public's right of comment, it seems to us, can be accommodated in one proceeding. Currently, a utility must first seek a license to construct a nuclear plant and then, at a time close to completion, an operating license. No utility which has received a construction license has ever been denied an operating license. It is inconceivable that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission would permit a utility to build a multi billion dollar nuclear plant and then conclude that the utility was incompetent to operate it. Operating competence is an issue which should be determined before a plant is built, not after.

THE OTHER ASPECT of the administration's proposed changes in regulatory rules would limit the backfitting of safety improvements only to cases where it would reduce the overall risks to an "acceptable level." This is too imprecise a guideline on which to base questions of safety. If there is one thing that can be learned from the Three Mile Island accident, and earlier, if less-disastrous nuclear accidents, it is that the trouble is likely to be triggered in the least expected and most mundane areas of the facility. The obvious trouble spots must be dealt with, but it is clear that no aspect of nuclear safety can be overlooked or omitted on the grounds it is of little consequence.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, Oct. 15, 1982

Truth quotient?

EDITOR:

THE RECENT GPU television commercials purport to convey the impression that the Lincoln Memorial is a greater radiation hazard to the public than TMI.

The commercials also make the statement that nuclear generating plants contribute only an additional 1 percent radiation to the earth's total radiation from natural and man-made sources.

Unfortunately for the public this admission of 1 percent radiation emissions is pretty much the truth quotient percentage of the nuclear industry for the past 40 years.

—John J. Kovalic,
Middletown

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, Sept. 21, 1982.

GPU behind scenes

EDITOR:

U.S. COMMITTEE for Energy Awareness. That is the impressive sponsor appearing at the end of TV commercials wherein Dr. Sagan tells us how little radiation we receive from nuclear plants when compared to what we receive from background radiation. In another commercial, Dr. Sagan tells of the progress being made in the

disposal of nuclear wastes. The co-sponsor of the commercials is GPU Nuclear.

What is not told to us is that the committee is not an office of the U.S. government. Rather, it is comprised of utility companies.

How is the public to believe the educational messages GPU issues when such deception is practiced?

—Frank J. Fiscella,
Shiremanstown

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, July 17, 1982



'Don't believe everything you read...Since '69 I've only been involved in one relatively minor radiation leak!'

STAFF THIS ISSUE:

Editors:

Cathy Musser
Kathy Manfred

Sandra Choma
Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff

Ratepayers still only guaranteed funding for cleanup

By ROBERT P. RYAN
Daily Record staff writer

Much to the chagrin of some observers, the only sure bet for funding the cleanup of the crippled Three Mile Island unit 2 appears to be the ratepayers of the General Public Utility Corp. subsidiaries that own TMI, including those of Metropolitan Edison Co.

"If you want to know who's going to pay for the cleanup, you guessed it: you, the ratepayer," declared Michael Johnson, a commissioner on the state Public Utility Commission.

But, PUC Chairman Susan Shanaman disagrees.

"It's a little premature to be that much of a doomsayer," she said. "And I would not agree with the doomsayers of this world."

An earlier ploy — committing \$16.7 million that was being collected from Met-Ed customers, and \$5 million from Pennsylvania Electric Co. ratepayers to recover investment costs of unit 2 to a cleanup fund — doesn't appear to have any chance of paying off.

The accounting change was made to spur positive action on legislation sponsored by U.S. Sen. John Heinz, R-Pa., which requires nuclear utilities to contribute \$170 million toward cleanup.

Heinz last week acknowledged his bill likely will not be passed by Congress, because there has been no action on similar legislation introduced in the House.

Edison Electric Institute's senior legislative representative for nuclear affairs, Fred Davis, said the institute still supports the Heinz bill, but acknowledged "it will be difficult to pass it" in the current session of Congress. EEI is a trade group for investor-owned utilities lobbying for Heinz's bill.

"Obviously (similar legislation) has not progressed in the House," Davis said. "We're going to have to make some decision in the next couple of months to see how we can make good on our commitment, realizing we don't have forever to do it."

Mrs. Shanaman, who doesn't think Heinz's bill should be written off yet, said: "If Congress doesn't pass something, not only this commission but various other parties involved will be looking for some response from the utility industry, possibly voluntary contributions."

"There's not a chance the Congress will come through," Johnson said. "I talked to congressmen from other parts of the country and they said forget it."

State Consumer Advocate Walter Cohen, the PUC's trial staff and Met-Ed all supported the accounting change designed to help Heinz's bill. It was approved Aug. 27 by the PUC on a 4-0 vote, with Johnson abstaining.

"I support cost-sharing and no more than that," said Cohen. If no other additional money comes from other quarters to fund unit 2 cleanup and ratepayers are left funding it, "I would have to explore solutions other than that alternative," he said.

State Sen. Ralph Hess, R-28, was among those warning Cohen before the PUC vote against the amendment to the original Jan. 8 rate order to aid the Heinz bill.

"Now I think the PUC should shelve any consideration of cleanup until Congress and EEI put up their share" of cleanup funds.

"I certainly hope they'd (the PUC) have enough sense after one time of sticking the necks of consumers into a noose — and seeing no results (from Congress or EEI) — that they'll take a second look," Hess said.

Hess' Democratic opponent in the Nov. 2 election, York attorney Richard Oare, said: "If we can't persuade the EEI to put money on the table ... how can we expect the average man to be persuaded?"

Rep. Bruce Smith, R-92, declared: "I still think they made a mistake by establishing a precedent" of ratepayer funding of the cleanup.

The official estimate of the total cleanup cost is \$1 billion, with the uninsured cost at \$760 million. Some knowledgeable observers contend the figure could go higher, with total costs going to \$1.5 billion, perhaps \$2 billion.

However, a government study concluded cleanup could be accomplished for less than the currently

estimated \$760 million in uninsured costs — provided there are no funding or operational delays.

Met-Ed parent GPU is in the process of revising both its cleanup timetable and its cost schedule. It must have the cleanup funded and the undamaged unit 1 restarted if it is to avoid bankruptcy, observers agree.

In addition to the Met-Ed customer share, ratepayers of GPU's two other subsidiaries presently are contributing \$17.5 million (at an annual rate) to cleanup.

President Reagan pledged a \$123 million federal contribution, some \$69 million of which would offset cleanup. Some \$33 million for research and development activities at unit 2 were spent in federal fiscal year 1982, and \$27 million is contained in legislation not yet passed covering fiscal year 1983, which began Oct. 1.

And Pennsylvania is putting \$5 million a year toward the effort. New Jersey has yet to earmark any funds for the cleanup operation.

These shares are part of a broad cost-sharing plan developed by Gov. Dick Thornburgh to spread the uninsured cost of cleanup among the federal government, Pennsylvania, New Jersey, GPU ratepayers and the utility industry.

Thus far, parts of the commitments from Pennsylvania, ratepayers and the federal government have come on line.

After Jan. 1, Met-Ed will be asking for a rate increase, part of which will seek to have its ratepayers contribute \$25 million annually to cleanup, up from the current \$16.7 million.

GPU also is trying to get foreign countries to contribute to cleanup to cover cost overruns, should they develop.

From 1-PROTEST

The Atomic Safety Licensing Board (ASLB), which held several months of hearings in the summer and fall of 1980 in Harrisburg, refused to consider the subject of psychological stress in connection with the restart of Unit 1.

The Middletown-based People Against Nuclear Energy (PANE), won a decision in Federal Appeals Court in Washington last January ordering the NRC to consider the subject of psychological stress.

TMI's owner, General Public Utilities (GPU), has appealed that decision to the Supreme Court. Smith said TMI PIRC is still awaiting notification of the date of oral arguments to be heard by the high court.

Smith announced that the American Psychological Association filed a brief before the Supreme Court last week supporting the PANE position, saying the issue of stress should be fully considered before the restart decision is made.

Smith said, "No matter how many people speak on Nov. 9, they will not be able to represent the tens of thousands of voters who opposed the reopening by a two-to-one margin in the May 18 referendum.

"We believe an election with tens of thousands of voters should have the final say on restart. Does democracy have any meaning in this licensing process?"

Smith also questioned GPU's

contention that the restart of Unit 1 is necessary to generate revenue that could be used to fund cleanup activities at Unit 2.

She said there is no guarantee the utility will use any of those funds for the cleanup at Unit 2. She added that the utility has indicated Unit 1 revenues would first be used to meet other obligations.

Smith said TMI PIRC continues to oppose restart because the group claims that:

- ✓The plant is not safe, according to contentions filed by the Union of Concerned Scientists and other groups, and the NRC's recent announcement that Unit 1 is high on the NRC's list of reactors threatened by embrittlement of reactor walls.

- ✓"It is pure fantasy to expect that people would only need to be evacuated to 10 miles in another accident."

- ✓The reopening would harm the area's economy and cause businesses and families to consider leaving the area.

- ✓The plant should not be reopened until home and business owners can purchase nuclear insurance.

- ✓GPU with its current management cannot be trusted to operate a plant safely.

Lawmaker critical of NRC report

WASHINGTON — A key congressman said Monday there was no justification for the "politically expedient conclusions" that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff made concerning reactor safety.

The NRC staff study found no significant danger that the eight-inch-steel walls of some 40 reactors — including the Three Mile Island unit 1 reactor — had become so brittle that they could crack during accident scenarios considered likely to happen, according to Roy Woods, task manager for the NRC's pressurized thermal shock study, which examined the embrittlement problem.

Such likely accident scenarios include small break loss-of-coolant accidents, operator errors and heat-generated tube ruptures, according to Woods.

The study said no immediate modifications were needed at any nuclear plants, and did not single out any particular reactor as a high-risk case for vessel failure.

But the staff did urge the commission to establish a screening system to determine when plants were reaching the stage where corrective

action may have to be taken to reduce the chances of a vessel wall failure.

Rep. Edward J. Markey, chairman of the House Interior Oversight Subcommittee, said the report's safety claim was not supported with hard evidence.

The dispute involves a potential problem at nuclear plants that operate with water under high amounts of pressure.

In certain accidents where the reactor vessel is suddenly cooled, the combination of rapid cooling, high pressure inside the reactor and the presence of a crack within the wall itself could cause the vessel's shell to fail, according to Woods.

The cracks, should they produce a failure in the reactor wall, would allow water to escape into the containment building and uncover the uranium fuel. Such a loss-of-coolant accident would pose the threat of a meltdown of the fuel core.

New reactor vessels are not as susceptible to cracking as older ones, such as the TMI-1 reactor.

The weld material used to hold older reactor vessels together contains relatively higher amounts of copper than newer vessels, which causes the steel of the vessel to become brittle when bombarded with neutrons, Woods said.

The NRC study, which will be considered by the full commission in a few weeks, sets up specific criteria to determine when plant operators should begin taking corrective actions to reduce the risk of vessel cracking. The NRC staff recommends that intensive studies be done three years before it is projected the reactor will reach a set of "screening criteria."

Markey said the methods by which the NRC staff set the criteria were questionable.

The unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island — included in the NRC study — is a pressurized water reactor with eight-inch steel walls that will require a study within seven years to determine whether corrective action is necessary to reduce the risk of failure of the reactor vessel, Woods said.

"An extensive safety evaluation of the nuclear reactor vessel at (TMI-1) has confirmed that the vessel's eight-inch-thick steel walls will not be subject to cracking due to combined thermal and pressure stresses over the reactor's lifetime," GPU Nuclear Corp., the TMI operator, maintains.

The NRC neither agrees nor disagrees with GPU Nuclear's study, Woods said.

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News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

VOL. 4 NO. 2

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The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Nov. 10, 1982

Area Views Aired On TMI-1 Restart

By MICK ROOD
Staff Writer

Damned by most and praised by few, the prospective restart of Three Mile Island's Unit 1 reactor drew a boisterous crowd of some 1,200 people to a public hearing before the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission at Central Dauphin High School last night.

Afterward, a bowed NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino said the fears of most speakers, fed by a largely anti-restart audience, "cannot be dismissed outright."

He conceded that the hearing at the Lower Paxton Twp. school building, promised after numerous requests from local anti-nuclear groups, had no legal bearing on a decision on restarting the undamaged Unit 1.

"Each commissioner will have to decide for himself," said Palladino, who refused to say how public sentiment would apply to the five-member commission's legal mandate to weigh technical safety factors as they affect public health and safety.

Only nine of the scheduled speakers favored the restart, out of about 30 people on the roster drawn up by Dauphin County Com-

mission Chairman John Minnich from those who had called in to express interest.

After the scheduled speakers had their say, more than 20 others were allowed to troop to the microphone — all opposed to the restart.

The evening hearing completed 7½ hours of hearings for the NRC yesterday, including an afternoon adjudicatory session with intervening parties in the restart proceedings.

The afternoon session was technical and restrained; the evening meeting was emotional and unrestrained.

Palladino had to gavel down the catcallers in the crowd, most of them restart opponents interrupting proponents of renewing the suspended license of Metropolitan Edison Co. and plant operator General Public Utilities Nuclear Corp.

Some speakers were novel.

Eugene Stilp refused to speak into the "Pennsylvania Power & Light Co." microphones — "No nuclear power for me." This despite the fact PP&L does not have an operating nuclear power plant.

Stilp urged the NRC to have the courage to vote for shutting TMI Unit 1 down permanently.

"I hadn't intended to speak,"

Palladino interjected, "But I assure you, it will take courage no matter which way we turn." A decision is expected in mid-1983 on restarting Unit 1, which was not damaged in the March 1979 accident that crippled its companion Unit 2 reactor at the Londonderry Twp. power station.

Other speakers were emotional.

"If I drop something at home and spill something, I have to clean it up. You guys take 3½ years," said Joanne McConnell, who works for a day care center in Middletown. She said she would "beg" or "crawl" for the commission to close Unit 1.

More than one speaker was offended — at the audience.

"It's a shame those who are opposed to the restart won't let others speak," said Helen Rohrbaugh, President of the York Board of Education.

She had been one of the nine backers of Unit 1 operation at the rostrum.

Rohrbaugh emphasized the restart's "extreme importance to the free enterprise system of central Pennsylvania" and estimated Unit 1 operation would save her school district 7 percent in utility bills.

Her speech was punctuated

CONT. p. 4

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, Nov. 1, 1982

High court to weigh TMI stress argument

By MICK ROOD

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Supreme Court will weigh arguments — probably early next spring — on whether the mental health of residents near Three Mile Island should be considered in the proposed restart of the TMI Unit 1 nuclear reactor.

In a setback for the group of Middletown residents, People Against Nuclear Energy, the high court this morning granted appeals of the government and TMI owner-operator Metropolitan Edison Co.

U.S. Solicitor General Rex E. Lee, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and Met-Ed had asked a review of a lower court decision re-

quiring the NRC to consider under federal environmental laws the psychological stress of TMI area residents before any restart decision.

Made without comment, the court's action means at least four of the nine justices believed the lower court decision should be reviewed. Had the court denied the appeal today, it would have let stand the lower court ruling for PANE's contention that the March 1979 TMI-Unit 2 nuclear accident caused measurable stress that should bear on the restart of undamaged Unit 1.

The earliest oral arguments could be scheduled would be in March or April. If scheduled then, a decision couldn't be expected until

at least June.

Until then, the federal lower court's ruling holds that the NRC must give 30 days' notice if it intends to permit renewed operation of Unit 1 before finishing its consideration of psychological stress. NRC spokesmen refuse to estimate when their stress review, which began last spring, will be completed. Although the commission is ready to rule Dec. 10 on other issues concerning the restart, the NRC staff has estimated Unit 1 mechanical problems — repair of corroded steam generator tubes — won't be completed until mid-1983.

The case pits a variety of government and business interests

CONT p. 6

GPU income is up

General Public Utilities Corp. reported net income of \$15 million (24 cents per share) for the third quarter of 1982, compared to \$14.1 million (23 cents a share) for the same period last year.

For the nine months ended Sept. 30, earnings of \$39.7 million (65 cents a share) were posted, compared to a loss of \$4.7 million (8 cents) in the same period in 1981.

William G. Kuhns, GPU chairman, said the third-quarter increases resulted from higher rates and decreased interest expense resulting from lower levels of outstanding short-term debt. Partially offsetting these increases were higher operating and maintenance expenditures and a 3 percent decline in kilowatt-hour sales.

GPU is the parent company of three utilities that own Three Mile Island.

York Daily Record • Friday, November 12, 1982

Whatever happened to 'cheaply?'

GPU is sponsoring commercials stating that TMI will furnish electricity safely and reliably. Whatever happened to "cheaply?" That word was included in GPU's presentation a few years ago.

What accounting procedure will compensate for the large amount of money being spent on these commercials? Or will it be included in future rate hike requests?

Probably most important is the disposal of waste products, which has been completely ignored in their commercials.

Chester R. Schaeffer
Springettsbury Township

York Daily Record • Saturday, October 30, 1982

Candidates want U.S. role in cleanup of TMI's Unit 1

This article is based on information collected by Daily Record staff writers Carol Ann Campbell, Jim McCarty, Joel Michael, Linda Roeder, Robert P. Ryan and Dean Wise. It was written by Ryan.

Three Mile Island. The name has become part of York County's conversational vocabulary. Nary a week goes by when it is not in the news. It's been three and a half years since the worst accident in the history of nuclear power occurred at Unit 2, and, thus far, the greater part of the funding of the cleanup of the damaged reactor still is not on line.

The island has been the center of much conflict. A local radio station, in a continuing series, dubbed it "The Island of Doubt."

In some local election races, it is a central issue; where it's not central, it still is, of course, a topic candidates address. And for good reason: Unit 2 was not designed for the purpose it has been serving these past three and a half years; a radioactive waste storage cite.

There is a consistency to the remarks of candidates concerning the

decontamination of TMI-2 and the restart of TMI-1, regardless of political affiliation.

"Basically, as I've indicated many times, I think the federal government has a tremendous responsibility in the cleanup" of the crippled reactor, said U.S. Rep. Bill Goodling, R-19.

Goodling said he was responsible for getting some \$33 million allocated by the federal government for research and development projects at Unit 2 in fiscal 1982, which ended Sept. 30. He also proposed a similar funding level range for the year begun Oct. 1, and co-sponsored a bill mandating a \$170 million utility contribution toward cleanup.

Goodling and others observed that Uncle Sam ultimately is responsible for the regulation and licensing of nuclear power plants.

"I don't feel the PUC (Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission) should grant any ratepayer money for the cleanup (of Unit 2)," said state Sen. Ralph Hess, R-28. "I feel the responsibility for licensing and regulating all nuclear power plants, under the law, rest with the federal government."

"They should be responsible for the cleanup and protection of the

GPU says Babcock & Wilcox knew of problems in TMI reactor

NEW YORK (UPI) — An attorney says Babcock & Wilcox Co., maker of the nuclear reactor at Three Mile Island, knew of the problem that led to the nation's worst nuclear accident but issued no warning that could have prevented it.

An attorney for General Public Utilities Corp. made the allegation Monday in opening remarks at the trial in U.S. District Court in Manhattan of its \$4 billion damage suit against Babcock & Wilcox, manufacturers of nuclear systems.

"Babcock and Wilcox knew about the safety hazard but did not tell us about it," GPUC lawyer David Klingsberg told Judge Richard Owen, who is presiding at the non-jury trial. "Babcock and Wilcox consciously decided to withhold crucial safety information out of fear of a possible plant shutdown."

In related developments, the U.S. Supreme Court agreed to decide whether people's "fears of recurring catastrophe" spurred by the Three Mile Island nuclear accident must be weighed before restarting an undamaged reactor at the plant. And officials released a safety study, conducted for the Nu-

clear Regulatory Commission, that said a "worst case" nuclear plant accident in a major population area could kill more than 100,000 people.

In New York, General Public Utilities, operator of Three Mile Island, charged in court that Babcock & Wilcox was negligent. The utility based its charge on a warning it said was issued to B&W's top management in advance of the accident by one of B&W's experts, Bert Dunn.

Dunn, GPUC alleged, reported on his study of an almost identical accident involving the nuclear steam supply system that occurred 18 months earlier at the Davis-Besse plant in Ohio.

If Dunn's "prediction of an impending disaster" had been heeded and made known to the utility, Klingsberg said, "there would have been no Three Mile Island accident."

Klingsberg said operators at the Three Mile Island plant did exactly what they should not have done but that they were not be faulted because they did precisely what they had been told to do under the "old rules."

health and welfare of the citizens of the surrounding area," Hess said.

The PUC recently approved an amendment to a Jan. 8 rate settlement with Pennsylvania subsidiaries of General Public Utilities Corp. — Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co. GPU owns TMI.

The amendment reallocated approximately \$22 million from GPU's Pennsylvania subsidiary ratepayers that was flowing toward recovering the investment in Unit 2 toward a cleanup fund for decontaminating the accident's debris. The total cost of cleanup is estimated at \$1 billion, with the uninsured costs estimated at \$760 million.

"I'm concerned that right now the ratepayers are the only individuals whose money is being used," said Rep. Bruce Smith, R-92. "My concern is that the PUC has set a precedent of ratepayers paying for cleanup. The government's formula encompasses others, but the others are not putting their money forward."

CONT. p. 5

TMI hosedown unable to lower overall radiation

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

A washdown of surfaces in the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building reduced airborne contamination but has not significantly lowered the overall radiation dose rate in the domed structure because radiation apparently has been absorbed by the building's concrete walls, according to an official of General Public Utilities Corp., the plant's operator.

"A certain amount of radiation essentially has penetrated the concrete, and this is not easily removed," said Bahman Kanga, director of Unit 2. Also contributing to the overall dose rate is contaminated equipment in the building and a 1/4-to-1/2-inch sludge layer on the basement floor, left after 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive water was drained.

In late September engineers initiated a gross decontamination program involving the washdown of ceiling, wall and floor surfaces using a water-spraying device similar to that used on a garden hose. Kan-

ga said the goal of the washdown is to reduce radiation levels so workers can enter the structure without wearing bulky protective suiting.

He said loose surface contamination has been washed away using the hydro-lasing device. But, engineers have "not seen a significant gain in the reduction" of radiation readings overall, Kanga told the Citizens Advisory Panel on the Decontamination of Unit 2 Wednesday at Holiday Inn-Center City. He said engineers are reviewing methods of cleaning the concrete surfaces and evaluating which of two options would result in the greater protection for workers: Removing contaminated equipment from the building or leaving it intact but enclosing it with lead shielding.

John J. Barton, deputy director of Unit 2, said the highest dose a worker has received since the cleanup began is 2.7 rems in three months. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's limit for occupational exposure is 3 rems a quarter.

Kanga said repairs of the polar

crane are under way. The crane, situated at the top of the containment building, will be needed to lift the 160-ton head of the Unit 2 reactor. That operation is tentatively scheduled for mid-1983, he said.

Kanga said \$76 million is budgeted for the cleanup in 1983 and approximately \$95 to \$100 million in 1984. He said a revised cleanup schedule is expected to be completed in January.

In response to questions from panel members, Kanga said he did not know how GPU officials were apportioning corporate funds for the cleanup and the repairs of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor. He said the resources for Unit 1 and 2 "are completely separated. I'm not adversely impacted by the activities at Unit 1."

He acknowledged that additional funding would enhance cleanup efforts but stressed that schedules could not be rapidly changed and work accelerated without careful planning simply because more money becomes available.

York Daily Record • Saturday, October 30, 1982

Probe asked of TMI tube repair process

HARRISBURG (AP) — An anti-nuclear group has asked Gov. Dick Thornburgh to investigate a proposed repair process for cracked steam generating tubes at Three Mile Island unit 1.

Three Mile Island Alert said the controlled explosive technique that is being used has not been proven safe or effective.

In addition, the group said the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff approved the repairs without a public hearing.

Earlier this year, an internal NRC memorandum said the repairs would require an amendment to the plant's license and would be subject to public hearings.

The plant's owners, General Public Utilities Corp., announced Thursday that the repair process would

begin in about 10 days and be completed by the end of the year.

With the technique, a controlled explosive is lowered into each cracked tube and the explosion pushes the tubes out to form a new seal with surrounding metal sheeting.

During testing last year, technicians found that many

of the plant's 31,000 steam generating tubes had cracked. The tubes are used to transfer heat from the nuclear process and convert water to steam for electrical generation.

"The staff's avoidance of a public hearing whereby the process could be fairly examined is not in the interest of safety and should be of immediate concern to you as governor," wrote Louise Bradford, a TMIA member.

With no guarantee the repairs will seal the cracks, "the potential consequences of operation could be extraordinarily hazardous," Ms. Bradford wrote.

Company officials said Thursday the technique has been used safely at other plants, but not on so large a scale at a plant that was in service as long as unit 1. It was first opened in 1974, but was shut down in 1979 after the accident at unit 2.

Roland Page, a spokesman for Thornburgh, said the governor's office had not yet seen the letter.

"We'll refer it to the appropriate people within the administration," he said. "The governor has always expressed the view that all operations out there should be conducted safely and he would expect the NRC to make its decision with that in mind."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, Nov. 16, 1982

STAFF THIS ISSUE:

Editors:
Cathy Musser
Kathy Manfred

Sandra Choma
Kay Pickering
TMIA Office Staff



Thornburgh action at TMI queried by ex-health chief

HARRISBURG (AP) — Gov. Dick Thornburgh's first health secretary held a press conference at Democratic headquarters Friday to say the governor has "deceived" the public by claiming cool leadership during the Three Mile Island crisis.

Dr. Gordon MacLeod, fired by Thornburgh shortly after the March 1979 nuclear accident, said Friday the governor "was too cool," "showed a lack of leadership," and "ignored vital public health considerations."

Declaring that health factors were not included in TMI-related decisions, MacLeod said an opportunity was lost for learning valuable health lessons related to the accident.

Roland Page, a spokesman for Thornburgh, said the governor didn't take credit in the wake of the accident, but was acclaimed by Democratic President Carter, congressional committees, various study commissions and the national media.

One of the biggest problems during the crisis, though, was MacLeod's "strident and contradictory" actions, Page said. He added that MacLeod seemed more interested in getting on television and demanding additional powers than in dealing with the crisis.

"As the crisis went on, he just seemed more emotionally distraught to the point where finally he did have to be excused from the crisis

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Thornburgh claim credit for cool leadership in the face of the crisis at Three Mile Island.'

— Dr. Gordon MacLeod
Former Pa. health secretary

management process and eventually from the administration itself," Page said.

He said the governor sought the advice of MacLeod and other health experts during the crisis.

"Health and safety always were and remain the governor's prime concern," Page said.

MacLeod, now chairman of the University of Pittsburgh's graduate school of public health, said he came forward after seeing one of Thornburgh's campaign ads that praises the governor's actions during the crisis.

"In a current political advertisement, the public is being deceived when they see Gov. Thornburgh claim credit for cool leadership in the face of the crisis at Three Mile Island," MacLeod said.

Maintaining his intentions were not political, MacLeod said he contacted Bill Campbell, a press aide in the Health Department in 1979.

Campbell now works for the Pennsylvania State Education Association, which is supporting Democratic gubernatorial candidate Allen Ertel.

MacLeod, a registered Republican, said he was unaware that the announcement of his press conference had gone out on Ertel campaign stationery and he said he would have preferred a neutral site rather than state Democratic Committee headquarters.

"I think this is not a political issue, but a public health issue," he said.

Among MacLeod's assertions:

□ Thornburgh did not order the evacuation of pregnant women and young children fast enough during the accident.

□ There was and still is not sufficient quantities of potassium iodide available to people living near nuclear plants in Pennsylvania. The drug blocks absorption of radioactive iodine.

□ There is no radiation health unit within the Department of Health. The existing Bureau of Radiological Health with the Department of Environmental Resources is more concerned with technical matters, MacLeod said.

Asked about the reasons he was fired in 1979, MacLeod he still didn't know.

"The only thing he (Thornburgh) said to me was it was a difference in institutional style," MacLeod said.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, Oct. 29, 1982

Repairs to Start at Unit 1 of TMI

By United Press International

Three Mile Island officials said yesterday they will begin a \$25 million repair project as early as next week on the nuclear plant's undamaged reactor, possibly readying Unit 1 for restart in March.

Robert Arnold, president of plant owner General Public Utilities Nuclear Corp., said the repairs were "central" to restarting the reactor, which has been shut down since February 1979.

The Unit 1 reactor was idled for routine refueling when a major accident extensively damaged its twin Unit 2 in March 1979.

Company officials said they planned to use controlled explosive charges to

repair most of 31,000 steam generator tubes that corroded since Unit 1 was shut down.

The repairs were slated by GPU after it discovered leaks in 124 steam generator tubes during low-pressure tests conducted a year ago. Company officials said thousands of tubes could be corroded.

The thin, metal tubes are used to carry heated water from the reactor to the steam generator, where a secondary source of water is heated to create steam and drive a turbine generator that produces electricity.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission is considering the company's

request to restart the undamaged reactor.

The NRC has been ordered by a federal court to measure psychological stress of area residents before restarting Unit 1. The NRC and GPU have appealed the order to the U.S. Supreme Court.

Lake Barrett, top NRC official at the Middletown area plant, said use of explosives to repair the tubes "has never been done before on this scale" at a nuclear plant that operated previously.

However, he said, the repair process has been used and tested since 1966 to repair or alter tubes, including some at new plants, and was considered "an accepted practice."

VIEWS from 1

with boos and cries of "Money!"

Some were dramatic.

Harrisburg City Councilwoman Jane Perkins, who missed her turn to speak because of a council meeting, strode to the rostrum later to announce the council had passed a resolution opposing the restart. She presented the resolution and a letter from Mayor Stephen R. Reed echoing that sentiment.

Perkins, who said she first got involved with "the system" [running for the council] partially because of the Three Mile Island acci-

dent, said the system had spoken.

The crowd roared in approval.

And outnumbered advocates of nuclear power were frustrated.

"You've heard'm," Joe C. Hoffman said, pointing at the crowd. "They create a sense of panic beyond their numbers and their knowledge."

However lacking in legal sanction, the theme of restart foes was constantly the non-binding referendums May 18 when voters in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties voted against Unit 1.

"I resent being part of a hand-picked group of people allowed to

speak three minutes," said Kathy McCaughin, who chaired the "Vote No Committee" during the referendum campaigns. "The people have truly spoken."

Other area elected officials appeared, urging the NRC to heed popular sentiment.

Andrew Burger, a Middletown councilman, said the referendums alone should be enough to keep Unit 1 closed.

There were no new charges or

CONT p.5

VIEWS from 4

defenses during the four-hour afternoon hearing in Harrisburg, in which the NRC sought comments on how severely GPU should be punished for operators' test cheating, and whether the utility had sufficient competence and emergency plans to run the nuclear plant.

In what may have been the last NRC legal proceeding for comment on the restart decision, the Union of Concerned Scientists made the most emphatic case against renewing GPU's license.

Referring to reports critical of 1979-81 cheating incidents involving as many as a dozen GPU management officials, UCS attorney Elyn R. Weiss of Washington, D.C., said, "You must judge this company by its actions."

Although two shift supervisors were fired and two other operators suspended without pay for two weeks in the wake of the license exam cheating, Weiss and other intervening parties said the punishment wasn't sufficient.

Further, she said GPU has not demonstrated the "implicit trust" necessary in NRC licensees.

Weiss won applause from a crowd of about 200 people in the

William Penn Museum auditorium when she finished by urging the NRC not to take any action toward Unit 1 restart without requiring GPU to complete action on all new safety requirements. The NRC ordered numerous equipment, training and emergency planning changes after the TMI-2 accident in March 1979, but has allowed GPU to complete some of them after the restart decision, now expected around mid-1983.

Earlier in the meeting, which all five NRC members attended, GPU attorney Ernest L. Blake said the NRC should have "particular confidence" in an atomic safety and licensing board's recommendations that GPU deserves license renewal.

A special master appointed by the licensing board, Gary Milhollin, had been considerably more critical than the board of the company's handling of the cheating, but Blake said the official's opinion was advisory only. The board's "extraordinarily knowledgeable" assessment should be heeded, Blake said.

Commissioner John F. Ahearne later chided Blake, noting the issue was not whether Milhollin's role was advisory or not, but rather

whether or not he had been correct. As an example of what the NRC must decide, Milhollin urged that the two TMI shift supervisors who were fired should also be criminally prosecuted; the licensing board concluded the firings were enough.

Much of the session was taken up with Commissioner Victor Gilinsky's repeated questioning of the extent to which GPU officials knew they had certified in 1979 a relicensing exam taken by a former TMI Unit 2 shift supervisor. Milhollin alleged that the supervisor's test was completed in someone else's handwriting and that company officials had not reported that for two years.

Gilinsky asked GPU Nuclear President Robert Arnold whether he realized a letter of certification in the supervisor's behalf was connected with the supervisor's operating license. As he has in the past, Arnold said he knew of no connection, only that the supervisor had cheated in July 1979. Arnold agreed the matter should have been reported sooner than July 1981.

The supervisor was subsequently demoted.

CANDIDATES from 2

Smith's opponent, M. Sue Daugherty, perhaps hit the nail on the head, insofar as how people feel about the 3½-year impasse in the cleanup and responsibility for decontamination:

"Most people who have spoken to me are generally tired of the situation," the Democrat said. "They want to see it cleaned up and they can't understand why it is being dragged out."

Goodling's opponent, Democrat Larry Becker, contends the best way to insure that the cleanup is carried out safely is to use the U.S. military. "For the sake of public safety, a military team should be chosen and assigned to cleanup the disabled reactor," Becker maintains.

His position on the subject is that the U.S. Navy, which has experience in handling nuclear situations, should be the force to oversee the cleanup operation. The expertise of whatever group performs the cleanup task could be used if a similar emergency crops up again, Becker has said.

Under the settlement that was amended by the PUC recently, it was assumed the undamaged Unit 1 reactor would be back on line — it's been ordered to remain in cold shutdown since the accident. The restart supposedly would generate enough revenues to produce a net reduction in customer rates, even with an increase to allow for contributions toward cleanup.

It never happened, and TMI-1 isn't likely to restart this year. The corroded steam generator tubes in Unit 1 — all 31,000 of them — coupled with a court ruling mandating the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to evaluate possible psychological stress that restart might produce militate against a restart before March or June 1983. The U.S. Supreme Court is expected to decide whether or not to review the court ruling mandating the stress survey.

Of course, the NRC would have to approve restart. Many, as is to be expected, support a safe restart. But not everyone is in favor of the NRC's role.

"I'm not satisfied that the decision for restart is being made by the NRC and PUC," said Richard Oare, Hess's opponent in the upcoming election. The PUC has no direct say in restart, although it can be argued the commission has an indirect role in that it assumed a restart in its Jan. 8 decision.

"With nine nuclear power plants in this state — four on line, one waiting to come on line (TMI-1) and four under construction — it's clear the state government must take a much greater role in the collection of technical data and the utilization of that data in determining restart," Oare contends.

Donald Dorr, R-193, says the state government has little role vis-a-vis restart, since the federal government must determine Unit 1's safety status for restart. He filed objections with the PUC and NRC concerning the ratepayer contribution to cleanup.

His opponent, Michael Dows, favors restart of Unit 1

with the necessary safety clearances, but only on a temporary or interim basis. He wants an independent "blue ribbon" panel to evaluate the restart. "I don't trust GPU or the NRC," he declared.

The issue of restart, and by implication nuclear power, also includes greater national policy issues, as the remarks of some candidates indicate. Dows, for one, sees the need for a greater commitment to coal gasification and synthetic fuels research.

Gregory Snyder, a Republican seeking election to the House as a representative of the 94th District, said: "While I'm not a proponent of nuclear energy, it's obvious we need a good source of power. If, and only if, Met-Ed can prove there's a safe way to operate TMI, then I am not opposed to a restart."

His opponent, Carroll I. Anderson, has not stated his views on the subject, but does say he will "try to get (94th residents) overall views on TMI, and vote accordingly."

For some, it seems the memory of the Unit 2 accident is still fresh. (The severity of the accident increased due to operator error, and equipment failure.) "Unit 1 should not be restarted unless they solve the human, mechanical and safety factors," states John Broujous, Democratic candidate for the 199th seat in the state House.

Monte Shoemaker, his opponent, favors restart of Unit 1: "If there's any good reason to at all, I'd like to see it restarted because we have to find other sources of energy provided it's well-managed and the safety features are there."

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HIGH COURT from 1

against PANE, which was formed shortly after the March 1979 TMI-Unit 2 accident.

The NRC has rejected PANE's notion from the beginning, although at one point in 1980, it was split evenly on the subject when there was a vacancy on the five-member commission. The commission twice voted not to let an atomic safety and licensing board consider psychological stress in now-concluded Unit 1 restart proceedings.

The NRC argued that federal law has never clearly required that mental health be considered along with physical health and environmental damage before a major federal project is undertaken — in this case the restart of a nuclear plant.

But a District of Columbia U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel ruled 2-1 last January that PANE was right. The circuit court said the NRC had to conduct an environment assessment of citizens' psychological stress, but later modified its order to say the agency had only to consider conducting a stress assessment. Still, the circuit court

said environmental laws encompassed "the psychological aftermath" of the Unit 2 accident and the "fears of recurring catastrophe."

In the NRC's behalf, the government appealed the decision.

"The range of possible causes of psychological stress is almost unlimited," Lee said in his appeal brief. "Bringing all of those within NEPA (National Environmental Policy Act) would radically change that law from an environmental statute to one that deals generally with human emotions."

Lee also argued the D.C. circuit court's opinion conflicted with other precedents and, that a decision for PANE would hamstring many federal projects with psychological contentions.

Filing briefs in favor of the government appeal were the U.S. Chamber of Commerce, the Atomic Industrial Forum, the National Rural Electrical Cooperatives Association, Scientists and Engineers for Secure Energy, Inc., the American Mining Congress, Edison Electric Institute and National Association of Manufacturers.



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