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## **Three Mile Island Resources**

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Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

News Watch on the  
Harrisburg Area

**VOL. 4 NO. 3**

**Jan. 1982**

York Daily Record • Tuesday, December 7, 1982

## NRC puts off decision on TMI-1 restart; no new date set

*By local and wire reports*

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Monday it will postpone a decision on the restart of the undamaged unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island.

The NRC had said it would rule by this Friday on whether to lift its 1979 order closing the plant, owned by General Public Utilities Corp.

NRC spokesman Karl Abraham said the delay was caused by the large amount of research needed to arrive at a decision. He said no new date has been set.

Regardless of when the NRC acts, the reactor could not be ready for service before March or April at the earliest because of repairs to steam generator tubes, said TMI spokesman Doug Bedell.

"We're disappointed. We don't know what the source of delay but we're disappointed. The schedule is for the NRC to set, and we await their pleasure on it," Bedell said.

"It was a question of them having to get through all

the information that has been submitted," the NRC's Abraham said.

Another spokesman said the commission needs to study several issues that have arisen since the accident, including leaks in steam generator tubes at the reactor, cheating on operator training exams and a U.S. Appeals Court order requiring the NRC to assess psychological stress in the area around the TMI plant.

The U.S. Supreme Court has agreed to hear an appeal of the stress order.

Louise Bradford of Three Mile Island Alert, a Harrisburg-based anti-nuclear group trying to block a restart, said she did not read anything into the delay.

But she said she was encouraged that the NRC didn't make a snap decision after a stormy public meeting that many in the group attended in Harrisburg Nov. 9.

At the meeting, many in a crowd of more than 1,000 people noisily expressed opposition to restarting the unit 1 reactor.

See **RESTART** on 6

*The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, Dec. 18, 1982*

### *GPU, Analysts at Odds*

## TMI's Quake Safety Eyed

**By MICK ROOD**  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission was told by its staff yesterday that General Public Utilities Corp. officials and a private consultant differ over the ability of the Unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station to withstand an earthquake.

The commissioners called a meeting on the issue in the wake of their decision Thursday to postpone a vote, scheduled for Tuesday, on whether to lift a 1979 NRC order that has kept Unit 1 shut down. That order was issued after the March 28, 1979, accident that damaged the Unit 2 reactor at the Londonderry Twp., Pa., power plant.

The earthquake issue evolved into a potential unresolved safety question affecting that order, and the NRC voted yesterday to give parties involved in the administrative legal proceedings on the restart of Unit 1 an opportunity to air their views on the subject by Dec. 31.

The commissioners' vote yesterday will delay until next year a vote on whether to lift the 1979 order on Unit 1. That vote is regarded as a potential first step toward actual reactivation of the undamaged reactor.

Meanwhile, the NRC staff will determine what improvements will have to be made by GPU on Unit 1, according to Harold Denton, director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

He gave no estimate of how long that review might take.

Differences arose between GPU and an NRC-hired consultant, Livermore Laboratories, concerning Unit 1's ability to withstand earthquakes. Livermore specialists have been analyzing the design of all 46 pressurized-water reactors in the nation.

For several years, the NRC has been checking the ability of emergency feedwater systems in that type of reactor to withstand earthquakes.

Livermore analysts were par-

ticularly concerned because equipment associated with a steam-driven pump in Three Mile Island's Unit 1 feedwater system was housed in a building not designed to withstand earthquakes.

GPU officials said at the meeting that it would be difficult for them to promise that the unit's earthquake protection would be improved because of the absence of agreement on the issue with NRC staff.

But GPU officials pledged to make whatever improvements eventually may be required. They said the work would be accomplished during the next fuel reloading after Unit 1 is reactivated.

Of the 46 pressurized-water reactors being analyzed by Livermore for the NRC, 24 reviews have been completed. Of those plants reviewed, a dozen reactors have been found acceptable, Denton said.

The NRC began requiring tougher earthquake protection for new reactors in 1975 but did not consider improving protection for existing plants until after the Three Mile Island accident.



# Met-Ed asks 27% rate increase for its wholesale users

By JIM McCARTY  
Daily Record staff writer

Metropolitan Edison Co. customers in Goldsboro and Lewisberry will be hit with a 27 percent base rate increase in their electric bills if a request filed Friday by the utility with the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission is approved.

The rate request announcement was made simultaneously Friday morning in York, Reading, Lebanon and the Eastern District offices of Met-Ed through a telephone hookup with Fred Hafer, the company's vice president of rate case management.

An exact number of York County customers affected by the increase was not immediately known. A Met-Ed official said the number of customers is "in the hundreds," but could not elaborate.

"It's up to (the individual boroughs) to determine the way they will divide the increase. We have no way of knowing," the official said.

The rate increase will affect only a minimal number of Met-Ed's customers — about 2 percent — because it applies only to the company's wholesale customers: those boroughs, municipalities and cooperatives that purchase electricity in bulk from Met-Ed and distribute it to their customers.

The other 98 percent of Met-Ed's business is comprised of retail sales of electricity, providing the bulk of the \$535 million in total revenues raised by the company each year.

Goldsboro and Lewisberry comprise a small section of the customers affected by the \$1.8 million total increase. The bulk of the customers

are with the Allegheny Electric Cooperative, which will experience a 30.6 percent increase at a cost of \$1.2 million. Other areas where rates would increase are Royalton and Kutztown.

Hafer said Friday marked the company's first base rate increase request for wholesale electric customers since 1978, in contrast to base retail rates, which have generally kept up with the company's calls for more money.

He said the overall 28.9 percent rate hike comes to an increase of about 7 percent during the past four years, "Which is clearly not out of line, and is actually lower than the rate of inflation during that same time."

"The increase is necessary in order to bring our charges to wholesale customers in line with the rates being paid by retail customers," Hafer said.

He said base rate increases for wholesale customers were delayed "as a pragmatic decision." After the accident at Three Mile Island in 1978, Hafer said Met-Ed focused its attention on the bulk of its business in retail sales customers "until we were able to stabilize matters and address it."

Hafer said approximately \$460,000 of the expected \$8.2 million in annual wholesale revenues will be applied to the cleanup of the damaged TMI unit 2 under Gov. Dick Thornburgh's cooperative cleanup plan.

Under the plan, cleanup costs will be shared by Met-Ed customers, other utility companies, the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey and the federal government.

## LETTERS

### Public utilities playing at leapfrog

It is a sad commentary when we give a sigh of relief because our neighbors are starting to pay as much for their electricity as we are being ripped off for ours.

To try to justify the new competitive prices on the basis that industry may now locate in our community because electric rates in the Met-Ed/GPU area will be in line with the neighbors' misses the point of rate increases. Met-Ed/GPU pawns off its rate hike requests on the basis of TMI's costly accident. What are the neighboring power companies basing their rate hikes on?

Ever since the PUC permitted utilities to pass their "emergency" cost of operations on to the public, the utilities have been playing leapfrog in the price increase game.

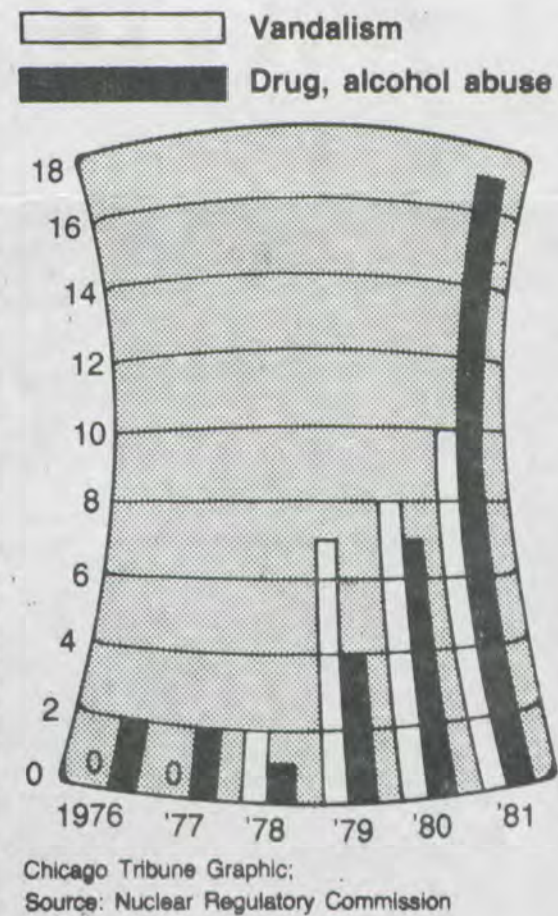
Consumers conserve electricity and gas and the utilities receive less money. The utilities leap to the PUC-godfather and cry they are losing money because of less consumption. PUC-godfather leaps to the consumer and tells them they are granting the poor utilities a rate hike. The consumer leaps to his closet, pulls out another sweater, turns back his thermostat and gets out more candles, conserving more electricity and gas, and the utilities ....

All of a sudden the price of gasoline starts to decline and the feds pull a Thornburgh — sock a 5¢-a-gallon tax on it, justified on the basis that gasoline will decline 5¢ a gallon and we will recognize no difference. What difference is there in giving us an income tax cut and then taking it away with leapfrog tax hikes in other areas?

Gene Engles  
Red Lion RD 1

December 11, 1982 York Daily Record

## Incidents at U.S. nuclear power plants



York Daily Record • Monday, December 20, 1982

# TMI worker hurt in fall from tower

By a Daily Record staff writer

A maintenance worker was injured at about 3 p.m. today when he fell from a platform halfway up the side of a cooling tower at unit 2 Three Mile Island nuclear station.

Tommy Howard, a worker employed by a Georgia contracting firm, had just finished replacing a red aircraft warning light at the top of the tower. The lights are lowered and raised by cables. He fell from the platform and slid down the curved lower face of the cooling tower for a total distance of about 200 feet.

Howard was admitted to Hershey Medical Center intensive care unit in serious condition. Exploratory surgery will be performed to pinpoint the extent of injuries, now listed as multiple trauma.

A co-worker called to a foreman who called fire rescue companies from the Middletown area. The Liberty Fire Co. #1, the Liberty Life Rescue Squad, the Union Hose Co. and the Londonderry Township ambulance responded.

At 4:25 p.m. fireman and paramedics lowered the injured worker from the base of the cooling tower about 40 feet to the ground. He was wrapped in blankets and strapped into a rescue basket. The basket was lowered from the end of a Liberty Fire Co. powered ladder on the fire truck.

The Londonderry Fire Co. ambulance took the injured worker to the Hershey Medical Center at 4:35 p.m. Extensive first aid was provided at the scene.



# Rambo OKs N-power symposium

By JANIS L. WILSON  
Staff Writer

U.S. Middle District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo today approved convening a 2½ day public symposium next spring at which internationally known experts will discuss various aspects of nuclear power and related problems.

Rambo approved expenditure of up to \$40,000 from the \$5 million public health fund portion of the \$25 million out-of-court settlement reached in the class-action lawsuit against owners and operators of Three Mile Island.

Rambo granted permission to David Berger, attorney for the plaintiffs — persons and businesses within 25 miles of the damaged reactor — to convene the symposium, "Critical Issues Associated with Nuclear Power Development."

The public health fund was created to underwrite scientific studies of cancer and the health effects of radiation, emergency procedures after a nuclear accident and public education.

Berger proposed a five-session symposium to be held in Harrisburg or Middletown "at the end of the first quarter of calendar year 1983," according to court records. The first session will be "a broad overview of public concerns relating to the operation of nuclear power plants," Berger said.

In seeking approval for the symposium, Berger said TMI-area residents are concerned about "radiation releases arising from the accident, the continuing cleanup of the facility and the proposed restart of the TMI Unit 1 reactor."

Berger said as far as he knows "there has never been a public forum in this geographic area, or indeed, anywhere in this country, in which the subject of the health effects of low-level radiation has been presented in a non-technical, understandable way by experts representing all segments of scientific opinion in which the public was invited to participate."

"Moreover, the community will have the benefit of learning about, most likely for the first time, the hazards of working in nuclear and nuclear-related industries. This is of particular importance to doctors and medical technicians and workers at the TMI facility."

The first session will focus on "perceptions of the public, the industry and government regulators of nuclear power, the problem of locating nuclear power plants, including a discussion of the risks associated with a

serious accident at a nuclear facility and the radiation exposures commonly anticipated from various sources associated with nuclear facilities," Berger said.

The second session will cover "risks to human health from exposure to low levels of radiation" including "implications of recent experimental research."

Session three will focus on the "health risks experienced by nuclear industry workers" with a discussion of "international standards promulgated by the International Committee on Radiological Protection."

The fourth program will center around the "psychological impact of public concerns over the safety of nuclear power." Presentations will include "stress created by living near and working in a nuclear power plant and the credibility of government and industry in the eyes of the public."

Each session "would involve a panel of four persons, three speakers and a moderator," with each speaker making a half-hour presentation followed by questions from the public.

Proposed participants are:

—Dr. Karl Morgan, former director of the health physics program at Oak Ridge National Laboratory and professor emeritus of nuclear engineering, Georgia Institute of Technology. He was an original member of the Manhattan Project and, according to Berger, is "generally acknowledged as the 'father' of the scientific discipline of health physics."

—Edward Radford, professor of environmental epidemiology, University of Pittsburgh and chairman of the National Academy of Sciences' Committee on Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation.

—Bo Lindell, member of the Radiation Protection Institute of Sweden and past president of the International Commission on Radiological Protection.

—John Kemeny, Dartmouth University mathematics professor and chairman of the Presidential Commission on the Three Mile Island Accident, appointed by former President Jimmy Carter.

—Arthur Upton, chairman of the environmental medicine, New York University.

—Alice Stewart of the University of Birmingham, England.

—Hiroo Kato, member of the Radiation Effects Research Foundation and principal investigator of effects of radiation on survivors of the atomic bombs of Hiroshima-Nagasaki.

—Roger Kasperson, professor of government and geography, Clark University.

—Robert Holt, New York University psychology professor.

—Dean Abrahamson, professor of Hubert Humphrey Institute of Public Affairs, University of Wisconsin.

—Ian McHarg, chairman of the department of landscape architecture and regional planning, University of Pennsylvania.

—Frank Von Hippel, Princeton University professor.

—Jan Beyea, senior energy scientist, National Audubon Society.

—David Gee, health and safety officer, General Municipal Workers Union of Great Britain.

## Unit 1 decay-heat removal setup to be checked

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

The adequacy of decay-heat removal systems at Three Mile Island Unit 1 will be examined at a hearing Feb. 8 at 9 a.m. at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission offices in Bethesda, Md., an NRC spokesman said today.

An Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board set the hearing in a 45-page order issued late Wednesday because the board felt "the existing record is unclear as to whether adequate core decay-heat removal can be assured for TMI Unit 1 in the event of a loss of main feedwater or small-break loss-of-coolant accident," Sue Gagner, NRC spokesman said.

There was no indication what effect the reopening of the record

would have on the full commission's pending decision regarding restart of the undamaged reactor. A key vote that could lead to restart was postponed by the commission twice this month.

The hearing will be held by the appeal board.

Issues regarding decay-heat removal were raised by the Union of Concerned Scientists which argued that critical changes must be made before the reactor could be operated without endangering the public.

In an order issued Nov. 5 the appeal board agreed with UCS that the viability of feed and bleed has been called into question by a series of tests conducted in Idaho, according to UCS. "Even without the evidence of these tests, the appeal

board indicated that the record does not support a conclusion that feed and bleed is a viable means of removing decay heat for TMI 1," UCS said in its response to the Nov. 5 order.

Without feed and bleed as a back-up, the only means of decay-heat removal is with natural circulation via emergency feedwater, UCS said. But, "the record shows two critical problems with (liquid) natural circulation," UCS said. The first is the unreliability of feedwater, which is needed to provide a heat sink for natural circulation.

Second, even if feedwater is available, natural circulation would be stopped by the formation of steam bubbles for most small loss-of-coolant accidents.

See Unit 1 on 6



## TMI clean-up casks pass test

IDAHO FALLS, Idaho (AP) — Specially constructed burial casks to hold radioactive materials resulting from cleanup efforts at the Three Mile Island nuclear reactor have passed drop tests, EG&G Idaho said.

The company, a prime contractor for the Department of Energy at the Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near here, said this week that the tests show the casks can withstand a handling accident and still confine radioactive material.

Each double-walled cask is 84 inches high and 62½ inches in diameter. They are designed to hold a steel liner containing resins used to strip radioactive materials from water taken from the crippled reactor in Pennsylvania.

EG&G Idaho designed the casks to meet Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements. The casks were manufactured at Nuclear Packaging Corp. in Tacoma, Wash., where the tests were performed.

The tests involved raising a sand-filled cask three feet off the ground and dropping it onto a hard surface. EG&G Idaho said the cask's six-inch-thick concrete outer shell received only minor chips and surface cracks.

The NRC requires the casks to be able to stay intact for 300 years without releasing radioactive materials.

## TMI Cleanup Casks Pass Tests, Judged Safe — For 300 Years

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Eventually, 50 of the steel liners are to be shipped to the INEL for interim storage and research before they are sealed in the casks and buried at a disposal site outside Idaho.



York Daily Record • Tuesday, November 30, 1982

## Feds' TMI suit remains intact

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

PHILADELPHIA — A federal judge denied a government request Monday to throw out a \$4 billion civil suit that accuses the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission of negligence in the 1979 nuclear accident at the Three Mile Island power plant.

U.S. District Judge E. Mac Troutman rejected claims by government lawyers that the suit, brought by the owners of TMI, should be dismissed under laws that protect government agencies from liability. The ruling thus would clear the way for a trial in the case.

Troutman, however, put off enforcement of the order and allowed the government to appeal his decision to the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals.

He wrote that although he believed the government had not proved he lacked jurisdiction to hear the case, the appeals court might rule otherwise. An appeal now, he wrote in his opinion, would save the parties time and money if the appeals court reversed his decision.

If he did not stay his order, the judge wrote, the government would be subjected to "tremendous trial costs, a staggering amount of potential liability and force them to defend a suit in which they may ultimately prevail."

The suit was filed in U.S. District Court Dec. 3 against the federal government by the owners of TMI, General Public Utilities Corp., Jersey Central Power

and Light Co., Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co.

They contended that the NRC was liable for the damage caused by the March 28, 1979, accident at TMI because the agency had approved the construction of the unit 2 reactor while knowing the design contained a faulty valve — the one that failed and caused the accident.

The NRC also failed in its obligation to the nuclear power industry by not properly warning the operators of TMI that a similar accident had occurred at a Toledo Edison Co. plant in Ohio 18 months earlier, according to the suit.

The owners contended that if they had known about that accident, they could have corrected their

equipment and prevented such a problem at TMI.

NRC lawyers countered by asserting that the agency has no obligation to the nuclear industry and that its primary function is to set minimal safety standards the industry must meet.

Troutman ruled Monday that laws "support (the owners') assertion that the NRC has undertaken some duty to carefully monitor nuclear experiences and to disseminate appropriate warnings."

The owners of TMI are suing to have the government pay the cost of cleaning up TMI as well as the cost of buying electricity from other utility companies.

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# Now you can buy pills offering protection against radiation

HARRISBURG (AP) — Residents near Three Mile Island will be the first in the nation to be able to buy pills that give some radiation protection during a nuclear power plant accident.

Anbex, Inc. of New York City said it will sell 28 potassium iodide pills for \$10 plus \$2 handling and postage. The tablets, which are supposed to be taken once a day during a nuclear emergency, prevent the thyroid from absorbing radioactive Iodine 131.

The firm will run newspaper advertisements next Monday in Harrisburg and Lancaster, which are on opposite sides of the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant. That plant suffered the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident on March 28, 1979.

Residents will be able to order the tablets, known as Iosat, by mail or by calling a toll-free number.

"If we get a large number of calls that indicate more than a casual

interest, we'll be placing advertisements all across the country," Bruce Rodin, vice president of Anbex, said in a telephone interview.

During the week of Nov. 29, ads also will run in a newspaper in Peoria, Ill., which has no nuclear power plants nearby.

"That's exactly the reason we're trying to market the pills there," Rodin said. "We want to see how sensitive people are to the idea that they could be endangered by wind-blown Iodine 131 even if they live 100 miles from a nuclear plant."

Before the Food and Drug Administration's approval of the Iosat sales last month, "the manufacturers ... in the past have voluntarily agreed to distribute the drug only to state and nuclear power officials," William Rados, an FDA spokesman, said.

Rodin said he believes that stockpiling by the government and utilities will not get the tablets to the people quickly enough in the event of a nuclear accident.

The idea for retail sales of potassium iodide came to him "when the Three Mile Island reactor almost melted away," said Rodin, a consultant.

He was in New York City at the time and frightened by the fact that "Iodine 131 can become suspended in air and blown hundreds of miles. It lands on the grass, the cows eat it, it becomes part of the food chain and winds up in our milk."

"The authorities are supposed to tell you when to take them," Rodin said. "It's supposed to be before you're exposed to the Iodine 131. That's why we don't see how stockpiling of these tablets (by the government) would ever work."

This is the first time that Rodin and Anbex president Alan Morris, an advertiser by profession, have been involved in the pharmaceutical business.

Their tablets will be manufactured by Bator Pharmaceutical Co. of Rye, N.Y.

## Objections to report of NRC hearing

I am appalled and alarmed by your biased reporting of the public meeting the Nuclear Regulatory Commission held in Harrisburg. I hope this type of reporting does not reflect the policy of your paper.

The reporter made much of the statements of York City and County Republican groups in support of restart while eliminating all statements of the 80 percent in support of no restart of Unit 1.

I wonder if the *Daily Record* has sold out to these power groups.

I relate some of the testimony eliminated in the article as I recall them:

□ The support of no restart given by state Rep. Bruce Smith and his wife. His district in northern York County is well within the 10-mile danger zone of TMI.

□ The report of the referendums on restart taken in Lebanon, Dauphin and Cumberland counties, which were overwhelmingly opposed to restart.

□ The report against restart by agencies of the cities of Lancaster and Harrisburg.

□ The proclamation by the Pennsylvania Council of Churches against restart.

□ The minister of a Harrisburg church conveying the feelings of his congregation against restart.

□ A sad and pitiful story of a young housewife who lost her son in a traffic accident during evacuation. It was perhaps the most moving of all the testimonies.

Testimony during the last hour of the hearing was by individuals and groups, such as township officials and church organizations, with many stressing the emotional and psychological impact that still exists in their lives and the lives of their families.

The testimonials seemed to come down to two distinct categories best described as profit or people. The profit group kept stressing the loss to stockholders of profitable dividends and the cheapness of nuclear power someday, while playing down the danger, in case of an accident, of meltdown and the possible death of 100,000 people surrounding a nuclear plant.

The people group centered its concerns on the danger that still exists with Unit 2 not being cleaned up and the failure of the industry to proceed swiftly

with the clean up. Other concerns include the incompetence of the present management to safely manage Unit 1, the availability of coal, the increase of employment needed in Pennsylvania by the mining and transportation of this safe resource, the lack of a safe and speedy evacuation plan in case of another accident, the location of TMI making this region a prime target in a nuclear attack. These, plus the physical and psychological stress still present because of the continuing danger and mistakes of the management to safely manage nuclear fission, has demonstrated that the cry "No More Nukes" is valid.

I hope your biased reporting was an oversight on the part of the reporter and not the policy of the *Record* to slant the news of a democratic public meeting. I hope the *Record* has not joined the military-industrial (and now) political complex. Dwight Eisenhower warned the American people to be aware of the danger to our democracy of the power of such a complex. This nation can still be governed of, by and for the people.

Robert C. Euler  
Wellsville RD 1

## Wonder drug against radiation

Now you and your family can afford the same protection afforded to state and nuclear power officials: Iosat, radiation protection pills, brought to you with the same civil-minded enthusiasm as the swine flu shots. You no longer need to worry about a polluted environment, a contaminated food chain. The new wonder drug cancels the harmful effects of radiation.

Tell that to the Class of 1995 who have eaten government approved exceptably contaminated food for their entire lives — if you can find them alive in 1995.

Are a "few" extra cancer deaths worth the convenience of your electric carving knives and can openers. I say no.

Douglas Stitley  
Springettsbury Township



# Restart

Continued from 1

Many people at the hearing expressed extreme distrust of GPU and of the NRC, saying both lacked credibility. In addition, many said restart would produce psychological harm.

Unit 1 was closed for refueling at the time of the March 1979 accident that crippled unit 2. The NRC ordered unit 1 closed while GPU's ability to operate it

was reviewed. Last year, however, damage was found in unit 1's steam generator tubes and a \$25 million repair program is now under way.

GPU officials have envisioned unit 1 restarting this year, which would, under terms of a rate settlement later amended, have generated money to be used for the cleanup of unit 2.

Both the restart of unit 1 and identified sources of cleanup funds are considered critical factors to GPU's financial health.

## Unit 1 from 3

Robert D. Pollard, nuclear safety engineer with UCS, said today he was "pleased the appeal board listened to our argument and found that the plant is not safe for restart." But, Pollard added, "I'm disappointed UCS should have had to mount this appeal. The NRC staff is the one who is supposed to be protecting the public."

Gagner said the appeal board directed the NRC staff and GPU

Nuclear Corp., plant operator, to file testimony on 11 specific technical issues regarding decay-heat removal. She said other intervenors in the case also may file testimony.

The board set Jan. 26 as the deadline for submission of written testimony and Feb. 28 for filing of briefs, she said.

A spokesman for GPU Nuclear said today company attorneys are reviewing the order.



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

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Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

News Watch on the  
Harrisburg Area

**VOL. 4 NO. 4**

**FEB//MAR 1983**

*The Evening News*, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, March 1, 1983

## TMI stress unique? justices skeptical

By MICK ROOD  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — U.S. Supreme Court justices collectively questioned today whether Three Mile Island nuclear power anxieties are much different from fears over public housing projects or airport noise.

The high court was hearing a case in which People Against Nuclear Energy of Middletown, Pa., argued that the government should consider residents' psychological stress before the TMI Unit 1 reactor is restarted.

A lower court had ruled in PANE's favor, stating that federal environmental laws should require a review of psychological stress in cases similar to the TMI Unit 2 nuclear accident. But, today Supreme Court justices took turns postulating other physical changes in the environment that might require similar reviews.

William S. Jordan III, an attorney representing PANE, argued persistently the psychological health damage suffered by people living near TMI was unique and merited special consideration under environmental laws.

But Chief Justice Warren Burger was among the first to question whether the accident at Unit 2 and the potential restart of

Unit 1 had caused or would cause anything more than "anxiety, fear and apprehension." Burger asked Jordan whether placing Pershing missiles in Western Europe wouldn't cause the same "widespread apprehension."

Other justices chimed in with their analogies. Justice William Rehnquist brought up the example of a prison escape or the prospective location of public housing. He also asked whether reopening an airport would require an environmental impact assessment by the government.

Jordan responded, "No, this is different."

Under questioning by Justice Thurgood Marshall, Jordan acknowledged that his clients' anxieties would be completely relieved if Unit 1 were shut down permanently. Jordan added, however, that the government might take other actions, such as providing health treatment for individuals with stress problems.

Arguing for the government and TMI licensee, Metropolitan Edison Co., Paul M. Bator said "fear or stress is not an environmental impact" as envisioned by Congress. The National Environmental Policy Act, Bator said, required environmental assessment only for a federal project's effect on the "natural environment."

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission balked and delayed over whether stress should be a factor in its review of Unit 1's status under NEPA. Its general counsel advised the NRC four months after the Unit 2 accident in March 1979 that court precedents might make stress a valid factor under environmental laws, but the NRC finally decided against the idea in December 1980.

At the time, former Commissioner Joseph Hendrie derided the idea of measuring "rational and irrational" fears of the public. Commissioner John Ahearne suggested at the time other adjudicatory bodies might be able to decide the issue.

The District of Columbia Circuit Court of Appeals ruled in January 1982 that the NRC would have to consider mental health of residents. The NRC slowly launched a review of the stress issue, complaining that the court took five more months to explain its court order with a full-blown opinion.

Meanwhile, Met-Ed appealed the circuit court decision.

The court-ordered NRC review, being conducted by Dr. George Warheit, has not been completed, and the NRC refuses to set a timetable.

*The Evening News*, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Jan. 26, 1983

## Scientists fight TMI restart

A nationally known anti-nuclear group has urged Gov. Dick Thornburgh to renew his objection to the Three Mile Island Unit 1 restart because of unresolved safety issues.

The Union of Concerned Scientists also asked Thornburgh to direct Commonwealth attorneys to participate in reopened federal restart hearings. Unless the NRC "sees that the commonwealth intends to take an active, informed role in the reopened hearing, we believe there is little hope that the remaining safety problems at Unit 1 will be corrected," UCS told Thornburgh.

"In that case, restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 would once again jeopardize the physical and psychological security of the citizens of Pennsylvania," UCS said in the letter signed by Henry W. Kendall, chairman of the board of di-

rectors, Robert D. Pollard, nuclear safety engineer, and Ellyn R. Weiss, general counsel.

Kirk Wilson, a Thornburgh spokesman, said today the governor had not yet received the UCS letter because it was hand-delivered to Pennsylvania's Washington office. However, the governor has said in the past he will oppose restart until certain health and safety issues are resolved and until a clear consensus on funding the Unit 2 cleanup is reached, Wilson said.

A hearing concerning decay-heat removal at Unit 1 is scheduled for March 1. "The active involvement of the Commonwealth is essential to assure that the safety issues surrounding reactor core cooling will be properly explored and resolved," UCS said in its Jan. 21 letter.

UCS has provided technical and legal expertise on safety issues in

the restart proceedings for the past three years. But, "UCS simply does not have the resources to cope with the combined technical and legal forces of GPU (Nuclear Corp., plant operator) and the NRC staff under the accelerated ground rules established for this hearing. The Commonwealth's active participation in the hearing is, therefore, essential for a fair review of the reactor cooling issues."

In June 1979 Thornburgh wrote to then NRC Chairman Joseph M. Hendrie opposing Unit 1's restart "until a number of very serious issues have been resolved." In its letter UCS contended that this requirement has not been met.

"Your failure to comment on the restart at this time would be interpreted as your approval to resume operation before the remaining safety problems are corrected," UCS said.



# GPU asks for delay in TMI Unit 1 hearing

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

GPU Nuclear Corp. has asked a Nuclear Regulatory Commission law panel to postpone for two weeks a hearing on the adequacy of the decay-heat removal system at Three Mile Island Unit 1.

GPU asked for the delay, a company spokesman said, because of a schedule conflict involving one of its consultants, who is an employee of Babcock & Wilcox Co., designers of the Units 1 and 2 reactors.

B&W is being sued by General Public Utilities Corp. for damages resulting from the March 1979 accident at Unit 2. The lawsuit is currently being heard in federal court in New York, and the consultant will be needed to assist B&W in presenting its case, the GPU spokesman said.

A NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board had scheduled Feb. 8 as the date of the decay-heat removal hearing in the NRC offices in Bethesda, Md. GPU asked the appeal board to extend the deadline for written testimony on decay-heat removal from Jan. 26 to Feb. 16.

GPU said the public hearing could be rescheduled shortly after the new deadline for written testimony.

The appeal board scheduled the hearing because it felt the record compiled during months of restart hearings was "unclear as to whether adequate core decay heat removal can be assured (for Unit 1) in the event of a loss-of-main-feedwater or a small break-loss-of-coolant accident."

In a related matter, the Union of Concerned Scientists, which raised the decay-heat removal issue, said it was "astounded" that GPU asked the full commission to lift the NRC's 1979 shutdown orders before the decay-heat issue is resolved.

In a letter dated Jan. 4 GPU said the commission should not defer its decision on lifting the orders because "(t)here can be no serious dispute that the questions presently being-raised by the (a)ppeal (b)oard on decay heat removal are not unique to TMI-1 but in fact are equally applicable to a number of currently operating plants of similar design."

GPU said, "Continued operation of

other similarly configured plants would be irreconcilable with deferral of a decision to lift the immediately effective suspension of TMI-1 on the basis of the generic questions raised" by the appeal board, GPU said.

UCS said the "assertion" that "some other unidentified plants with safety deficiencies as serious as TMI-1 may be operating" has yet to be proven. UCS contended the "record is clear, as the (a)ppeal (b)oard has found, that the evidence does not support a conclusion that TMI Unit 1 can withstand an accident of the type that occurred in Unit 2."

In other TMI matters:

— An emergency drill will be held by Unit 2 personnel next Thursday between 3 p.m. and 11 p.m. If the drill includes the sounding of on-site sirens, the noise could be detected by residents, a GPU spokesman said.

— The Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of Unit 2 will meet Feb. 2 at 7 p.m. at Holiday Inn-Center City, according to a NRC spokesman. The panel will discuss the funding and scheduling of cleanup activities.

HARRISBURG, PA., TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 1, 1983

## GPU estimate lists cost at \$975 million

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

GPU Nuclear Corp. said today the decontamination of Three Mile Island Unit 2 may not be completed until 1988 — two years later than previously projected — but that the mammoth mop-up from the March 1979 accident could be done for slightly under the earlier estimate of \$1 billion.

Despite the slippage in the overall schedule, however, GPU said a key element of the cleanup — removal of damaged fuel — could begin in 1985 as earlier envisioned.

The new assessment, which has been sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, updates one made in July 1981. In the earlier plan, the cleanup was projected for completion in 1986 at a cost of \$1.034 billion and assumed no funding constraints after January 1982.

The revised scheme calls for returning the plant to a radiological condition typical of a normal operating plant by June 1988 at a cost of \$975 million, including allowances for inflation, GPU said.

Of the \$975 million figure, \$339 million had been spent on the cleanup as of Dec. 31, 1982. In the new assessment, GPU lists decontamination projects totaling \$524 million which remain to be done.

The assessment also includes \$112 million for the effects of inflation from 1984 to 1988.

The new assessment does not allocate any money for decommissioning or restoring Unit 2. Bahman K. Kanga, director of Unit 2, said,

"Additional work will be required after completion of the cleanup, regardless of the decision on the ultimate disposition of the plant. The program as presently structured will not achieve a decommissioning or ready-for-restart status," Kanga said in a statement.

In a companion statement, Robert C. Arnold, GPU Nuclear president, said he was "encouraged" by the "substantial progress made to date, especially the very successful decontamination of accident-related water and by our ability to develop useful technical data and observations of conditions within the reactor itself."

No plan is included in the new scheme for disposal of processed water currently being stored on-site. The water, according to the assessment, will continue to be recycled and reused throughout the cleanup.

The new assessment was prepared by GPU and its contractors in the cleanup, particularly its lead contractor, Bechtel Corp. Kanga said the assessment may have to be revised as additional information is gathered about plant conditions and funding sources.

GPU said five funding and scheduling scenarios were examined during the preparation of the new assessment. The scenario selected — Case 1 — is the "most reasonable assumption in terms of funding requirements," GPU said.

Case 1 provides for maximum allowable cash flow of \$76 million in 1983, \$92 million in 1984 and \$100 million in 1985. But, GPU said, actual cash flow will be higher in 1984 and later due to escalation.

The other four cases projected completion ranging from December 1987 at a cost of \$950 million to

December 1989 at an estimated \$1.041 billion. The key variable in each scenario is the availability of funds.

The new \$975 million cost estimate results, GPU said, from decreases and increases in various categories of work that reflect experience in the cleanup thus far.

In the assessment, GPU listed a breakdown of \$524 million in work needed to be done. The most costly single project is \$119 million for the reactor head and core removal, including engineering, consultant and direct labor associated with technical preparation, removal, dismantling and transfer of core to fuel pool.

Several categories relate to another key project — decontamination of the containment building and removal of contaminated equipment.

York Daily Record • Wednesday, January 26, 1983

## TMI faces another delay

By the Associated Press

Workers may be delayed by higher than expected radiation levels in removing the 55-ton structure atop the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear reactor, an official said on Tuesday.

"But no conclusions are being drawn until the current testing is completed," said Douglas Bedell, spokesman for GPU Nuclear Inc., the plant's operator.

"If there is a delay, it won't mean the whole cleanup schedule will be

setback. The defueling of the reactor is still set for 1985-86 and that's the heart of the cleanup," he said.

A monitor placed in a reactor control rod guide tube found radiation levels under the reactor's head to be 10 times higher than engineers had estimated, Bedell said.

He said the engineers don't know for sure what caused the higher radiation.

Workers can still prepare to defuel the reactor even if the head removal is delayed, Bedell said.



# Judge orders \$2.7 million to TMI neighbors

By ROBERT P. RYAN  
Daily Record staff writer

A federal judge has ruled more than 10,000 residents of the TMI area will be paid \$2.7 million to cover lost wages and evacuation costs resulting from the March 28, 1979, accident at the nuclear plant.

U.S. Middle District Judge Sylvia H. Rambo on Tuesday approved the \$2.7 million payout, the first from a \$25 million settlement fund set up in 1981. Of the \$25 million, \$20 million was set aside to cover claims of economic loss and \$5 million was set aside to establish a public health fund.

The \$25 million fund was established in the wake of Judge Rambo's order consolidating individual lawsuits against General Public Utilities Corp. and its subsidiaries — including Metropolitan Edison Co. — TMI designer Babcock & Wilcox Co., and J. Ray McDermott & Co. McDermott Inc.

is the parent company of B&W.

David Berger, lead counsel for those claiming economic losses as a result of the accident, said some 10,270 people living within a 25-mile radius of TMI will be paid for lost wages and evacuation expenses. Claims range from \$100 to more than \$1,000, he said.

Some 14,808 people are claiming economic loss as a result of the TMI accident, Judge Rambo said.

Persons who have filed a claim in the class action already have been notified of the amount of money they will receive, an aide to Judge Rambo said.

The necessary administrative work is being completed to allow the checks to be ready for mailing in less than 30 days, when Judge Rambo's order becomes effective, Berger said. He did not have a breakout of where the claimants lived.

A hearing to determine whether the payment schedule should be accelerated was held Friday, and on Tuesday the order was issued.

Yet to be decided are other issues

within the class action suit dealing with business losses and real estate depreciation issues, Judge Rambo said. These issues are complex and "speculative" and will require more detailed analysis, she said.

Berger said he is hopeful of having the necessary administrative work completed on the business and real estate claims done by December, which would allow Judge Rambo to decide the issues.

The suits consolidated into the class action were filed shortly after the TMI-2 accident. There were 600,000 notices sent out to people living within a 25-mile radius of TMI regarding the suit, but only 14,808 claims were filed.

In addition to the business and real estate claims, Judge Rambo still must decide how the \$5 million public health fund is to be spent.

Berger said the \$25 million, which companies insuring the defendants put up in February 1981, was placed in an escrow account and had collected about \$7 million in interest income.

York Daily Record • Saturday, January 22, 1983

## Met-Ed asks hike of 13½%

By ROBERT P. RYAN  
Daily Record staff writer

Metropolitan Edison Co. Friday sought state approval of a \$60 million rate increase that would push annual residential customers' rates up 13.5 percent.

In filing its request before the state Public Utility Commission, Met-Ed also said that if the undamaged Three Mile Island unit 1 reactor is allowed to return to service and begin producing commercial power, the rate hike would be reduced to about 11 percent.

But at the same time it filed for the rate hike, Met-Ed officials also vowed that "... In no event will charges to residential customers increase by more than 10 percent as a result of (Friday's) base rate filing."

Under this arrangement, ratepayers using 500 kilowatt-hours of electricity a month would see their monthly bill go from \$41.31 to \$45.44, according to the utility.

"As far as I know it's the first time" the company has said it will hold a rate increase to less than the amount it sought, said R. Bruce

McLean, a Met-Ed spokesman.

Because of current economic conditions, company officials "felt they should try to hold a cap on (the increase), even though (Met-Ed) needed the revenues," McLean said.

Funds requested to make payments on Met-Ed debt and preferred stock dividends, among other things, would be used to make up the difference, McLean said.

Of the \$60 million in additional revenues being sought by the company, \$8 million would be used to push Met-Ed ratepayers' contribution to the cleanup of the damaged TMI unit 2 reactor to \$25 million. Met-Ed owns 50 percent of TMI.

The timing of a TMI-1 restart is uncertain. The U.S. Supreme Court still must rule on the Nuclear

Regulatory Commission's appeal to overturn a lower court ruling that requires a psychological stress study of TMI-area residents before restart is allowed.

If the ruling is overturned, restart could occur around mid-year. If it is upheld, restart could be pushed out to January 1984, said Joseph Benish, a spokesman for GPU Corp., Met-Ed's parent company.

Met-Ed also filed preliminary figures with the PUC indicating it likely will request a \$16.7 million pass-through of its energy costs to customers. This would add \$1.12 to monthly residential

bills, or an additional 2.7 percent beginning April 1, according to Met-Ed.

The company would like the 13.5 percent hike to be effective March 23. But, given the PUC's historical handling of its rate cases, residential ratepayers likely will see the 2.7 percent energy cost pass-through first, Benish said.

The PUC has 60 days to act on the 13.5 percent rate hike request. If it doesn't allow the increase within 60 days, a rate case would follow, which would allow the PUC until Oct. 23 to act on Met-Ed's rate request.

In a related development, Pennsylvania Elec-

tric Co. of Johnstown, another GPU subsidiary, asked the PUC for a \$75 million annual rate increase. Penelec said it needs the additional revenues in the absence of service at the TMI-1 reactor, of which the company is a 25 percent owner.

York Daily Record • Monday, January 17, 1983

### Vote on restart of TMI Unit 1

I was taught that government of, by and for the people pertained to the United States. To me that would mean that when a vote was made, regardless of result, the majority of the people's decision became that final result.

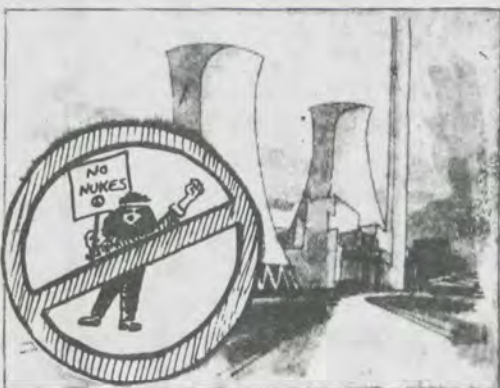
Recently a vote was conducted in reference to the restart of TMI Unit 1. As a result of this vote, the restart was turned down by a 2-1 margin.

Yet, the operators of TMI insist that they will reopen.

It reminds me of a suggestion box where persons give you the opportunity to make suggestions, but can easily discard the ideas or thoughts that they dislike. Why is the suggestion box at the end of the table, if suggestions are so easily discarded?

Why should one vote if nothing is changed? Why have a poll, vote, election, or whatever if it doesn't matter what the outcome is?

Scott Michael Igenfritz  
Springettsbury Township





# 'Tremendous strides' cited in TMI cleanup

## GPU's nuclear adviser says results are not 'luck'

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

The operator of Three Mile Island has made "tremendous strides" in its management of the Unit 2 decontamination and the "proof of the pudding" is in the number of critical tasks accomplished in 1982, according to an internationally known nuclear expert.

After giving a thumbnail sketch of cleanup projects undertaken, Dr. Norman C. Rasmussen said they were "done very well" with "no major mistakes made" and "no one hurt."

A major accomplishment was the processing of 600,000 gallons of highly radioactive water through the submerged demineralizer system. The SDS had to be designed and constructed in the Unit 2 fuel-handling building. Radioactive elements sucked from the water are being stored in steel liners, two of which already have been shipped off-site.

"You don't get a result like that by luck," Rasmussen told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Panel on the TMI Unit 2 Decontamination Wednesday night at the Holiday Inn Center City.

Rasmussen, recently retired chairman of the Department of Nuclear Engineering at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, is a member of the Safety Advisory Board of GPU Nuclear Corp. The blue-ribbon panel of 10 technical consultants was formed by GPU in March 1981 to advise the company on the cleanup, waste disposal and decommissioning or recovery of Unit

The NRC advisory panel is a 12-member group of local public officials and citizens which gathers information on the cleanup and makes recommendations to the NRC on key issues.

Rasmussen, a Harrisburg native, said his committee is "pleased" with the management of the cleanup project. He said GPU assembled the diverse groups assisting in the cleanup into one organization under the leadership of Bahman K. Kanga, "a man of substantial expertise in managing large projects." Kanga is director of Unit 2 for GPU Nuclear Corp.

Rasmussen said he is "confident" this is a "functioning organization" that can undertake the next major step, removal of the reactor head.

Dr. James C. Fletcher, chairman of the GPU advisory board, said head removal, tentatively scheduled to begin this summer, could be "potentially dangerous to workers, but we think it can be done safely with adequate preparation."

The GPU advisory board has "tried to preserve a degree of independence from the GPU companies," said Fletcher, a former administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration. Fletcher said the board meets in private.

In a status report on the cleanup, Kanga told the NRC panel that repairs to the polar crane at the top of the containment building are completed and the apparatus is being tested. The crane will be needed to lift the 160-ton reactor head.

York Daily Record • Tuesday, January 25, 1983

# GPU reaches settlement in TMI design suit

By ROBERT P. RYAN  
Daily Record staff writer

General Public Utilities Corp. has agreed to an out-of-court settlement in its \$4 billion suit against the designer of Three Mile Island unit 2 and announced Monday an arrangement that may generate up to \$37 million for cleaning the damaged reactor.

The settlement could, among other things, lower the level of additional funds ratepayers and investors of GPU subsidiaries may have to contribute toward the TMI-2 cleanup, said GPU spokeswoman Renee Leuchten.

GPU and TMI designer Babcock & Wilcox Co. said that after almost three months of trying to assign the blame for the March 28, 1979, accident at unit 2, "neither party has established that the other was the cause of the TMI-2 accident."

In a joint announcement Monday, both sides said "it would be counter-productive to incur the substantial cost of further litigation to resolve the issue." GPU voluntarily dismissed the suit.

The out-of-court settlement provides GPU up to \$37 million in rebates on the purchase of goods and services from B&W in the next 10 years, beginning Feb. 1.

GPU said most of this money — an undisclosed percentage of sales volume — will be used to supplement funds earmarked for cleaning TMI-2.

In its suit, GPU alleged B&W failed to provide information on an incident that occurred 18 months before the unit 2 accident at the Davis-Besse nuclear plant near Toledo, Ohio, which, because of its similarity, could have prevented the March 1979 accident.

B&W countered, claiming the "overwhelming primary cause of this accident was negligence on the part of GPU," according to the Associated Press.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Jan. 26, 1983

# TMI Radiation Level Higher Than Expected

By United Press International

Officials at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant said yesterday higher than anticipated radiation levels may force postponement of plans to remove the head of a ravaged reactor in June.

Douglas Bedell, a spokesman for plant operator General Public Utilities-Nuclear Corp., said tests

under the head of the crippled Unit No. 2 reactor showed radiation levels 10 times higher than estimated.

Plant officials had hoped to remove the reactor head in late June as part of ongoing cleanup efforts from the nation's worst commer-

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# Utilities asked to aid TMI cleanup

PHOENIX (AP) — The trade association for private electric utilities asked its members Friday to raise \$150 million over six years — preferably from consumers — to help clean up the damaged Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

The association, Edison Electric Institute, also urged public electric utilities to contribute \$42 million toward cleaning up General Public Utilities Corp.'s crippled TMI unit 2 reactor.

The total would meet the goal set by Gov. Dick Thornburgh for industry contributions toward the cleanup, which is expected to cost more than \$1 billion overall, the institute said.

Thornburgh's plan calls for the industry and federal government each to pay \$190 million over six years; the states of Pennsylvania and New Jersey, in which GPU operates, a total of \$45 million over six years; and GPU, \$245 million.

Insurance companies have already kicked in some \$300 million.

So far, the federal government has committed \$65 million to \$70 million for research at the plant itself; Pennsylvania has appropriated \$5 million as its first-year share; and GPU ratepayers are contributing \$36 million a year.

The Washington, D.C.-based institute's plan, approved Friday at a board of directors meeting in Phoenix, asks other utilities to chip in according to a formula based on sales of electricity and nuclear capacity.

Frederick Webber, the institute's executive vice president, said he hoped regulatory commissions in each state would allow companies to charge the expense to customers rather than stockholders.

"They'll barely see it," he said, when asked if consumers would feel the impact. "It'll be pennies."

The institute's 200-odd companies may go to stockholders for the cash if commissions refuse to charge consumers, but stockholders may resist reduction in their profits, Webber said.

The institute has set target amounts it is asking each of its roughly 200 members to pay, but set no deadline for payment and stressed that any contribution would be voluntary.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, Jan. 18, 1983

# Coast student designed robot used in TMI cleanup

RICHLAND, Wash. (AP) — A community college student who likes to tinker with computers has designed a robot that is being used to help clean up a contaminated nuclear plant in Pennsylvania.

Russell Swannack, 18, used his mother's home computer to devise the remote-controlled machine, which takes pictures in rooms at Three Mile Island that are too radioactive for humans to enter.

Swannack, a student at Columbia Basin College in computer science and a technician at a local research firm, began to toy with the project during his senior year at Hanford High School in 1981.

He convinced his father, Dan, an engineer at Westinghouse Hanford, to procure a \$2,000 mechanical arm. The youth mounted it on a crawler, which Westinghouse had modeled on a toy tank, to come up with the 2-foot-high robot.

General Public Utilities Corp. signed a contract with Westinghouse for the project, and Swannack's father supervised his son in tailoring the robot to work at Three Mile Island.

It has already been used to inspect two cubicles at the plant which were seriously contaminated in the reactor's March 1979 accident.

"For a person, just being in there five minutes is too long with the radiation levels where they are now," said Dan Swannack, who took the robot to Three Mile Island in June.

The machine, undamaged by radiation, shot eight hours of videotape inside the two cells.

Its arm had been programmed to pick dry swabs out of tin cups attached to the crawler, wipe the floor with them to pick up samples and place them back in the cups.

The GPU staff was then able to find out exactly what contaminants were on the floors of the cubicles.

# Six of 15 nuclear plants can't meet safety goals

From local and wire reports

WASHINGTON — More than a third of the nation's nuclear plants where risk assessments have been conducted would not meet the government's proposed safety goals, according to data compiled by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The Peach Bottom Atomic Energy Plant is one of nine plants involved in the study that would meet those goals.

The commission is scheduled to vote Monday on the goals, which were recommended by a presidential commission following the March 1979 accident at Three Mile Island's unit 2 reactor.

The goals — aimed at answering the question "How safe is safe enough?" — say each nuclear plant should be built so there is only one chance in 10,000 that it will ever have a core meltdown, the most serious of possible accidents.

The NRC has twice ordered TMI unit 1 shutdown after the accident.

Even if the two orders were lifted, several hurdles stand in the way of restart for unit 1. Among them: instances of cheating on operator exams and a court-ordered survey of psychological stress in the TMI area, currently on appeal to the U.S. Supreme Court.

NRC data requested this week by Commissioner Victor Gilhaksy shows that six of the 15 nuclear plants in the country where probability risk assessments have been made would not meet the commission's safety goals.

The risk assessments on core meltdowns showed the following plants don't meet the proposed safety goal: San Onofre in California, Big Rock Point in Michigan, Browns Ferry in Alabama, Calvert Cliffs in Maryland, Crystal River in Florida, Indian Point Unit 2 in New York and Millstone in Connecticut.

Other than Peach Bottom, the plants that would meet the goals are San Onofre in California, Grand Gulf in Mississippi, Indian Point Unit 2 in New York, Limerick in Pennsylvania, Oconee in South Carolina, Sequoyah in Tennessee, Surry in Virginia and Zion in Wisconsin.

The NRC said probability risk assessments are now being prepared for 11 other plants in the country. The U.S. has 83 licensed nuclear power plants and another 43 under construction.

## RADIATION from 4

cial nuclear accident that occurred at the southcentral Pennsylvania plant in March 1979.

Bedell said the measurements would be reviewed for up to two months "to determine the source and nature of the radiation and how best to reduce it."

He said additional tests are planned to determine if radiation is particularly high in a portion of the reactor assembly submerged in contaminated water.

"No conclusions [about the source of the radiation] are being drawn" until the measurements are analyzed, Bedell said.

He said even if the head removal operation is delayed, company officials remain confident they can stick to a cleanup schedule that calls for removal of uranium fuel from the damaged reactor core by 1986.



# TMI EVACUEES TO GET \$2 MILLION IN MAIL

More than \$2 million in checks was to be mailed today to people who lost wages or incurred evacuation expenses as a result of the March 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, attorney David Berger of Philadelphia announced.

Philadelphia National Bank was to mail payments totaling \$2,349,000 to 10,993 people, said Berger. The funds come from a \$25 million class-action settlement with General Public Utilities Corp. and its insurees won by Berger on

behalf of people living, working or doing business within 25 miles of the reactor at the time of the accident.

Berger said the payment of the nearly 11,000 small claims set a new precedent in class-action settlements because the court permitted a part distribution prior to the resolution of all claims filed in the case.

"Our purpose was to pay quickly the claims of individuals who lost a day or

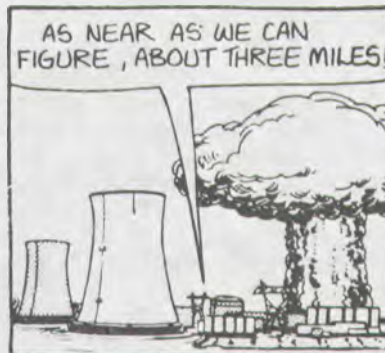
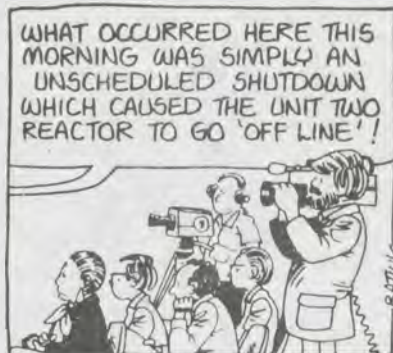
two of work or who had to move their families for a short period of time," Berger said in a statement.

"These people, many of whom need the money badly, represent 75 percent of the total claimants."

Berger said the larger claims from businesses which incurred extensive economic losses could take years to resolve.

The settlement is under the supervision of U.S. Middle District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo.

## Funky Winkerbean



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Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

News Watch on the  
Harrisburg Area

**VOL. 4 NO. 5**

**APRIL 1983**

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., March 27, 1983

## Cleanup One-Third Finished

# Four Years Later, TMI Woes Linger

By **BOB DVORCHAK**  
Associated Press Writer

The tedious work is going too slow for all concerned, but the \$1 billion cleanup is one-third done four years after the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island's Unit 2.

General Public Utilities, the consortium that owns the crippled plant sitting on an island in the Susquehanna River, has made a financial comeback after teetering on bankruptcy.

And emotions seemed to have reached their own level of cold shutdown, even though court fights remain and the haywire reactor remains the most notorious symbol in the anti-nuclear movement.

"Four years later, there has been a return to guarded normalcy. Things have settled down. Hey, life goes on," said Joseph Krasja, a commercial printer and father of three who lives a mile from the crippled plant.

But the calm is an uneasy one for James Hurst, a member of People Against Nuclear Energy, which is waging legal war to block the restart of the nuclear plant's undamaged Unit 1.

"It's like a tornado that hit and keeps circling the town. It ran us out of town once, and you're never sure if it's going to come back. It's an ever-present danger," said Hurst, 37, a state employee and a lifelong resident of Middletown.

"Things will never return to normal until the cleanup is completed and the TMI thing goes away. The accident began on March 28, 1979, and continues through today," he added. "There's only one way we can be sure we'll never have to go through that again, and that is never to have a nuclear plant out there."

A three-day public forum on nuclear power, supervised by a federal court through a fund established following a lawsuit, opens tomorrow.

But for the first time, there will be no formal vigils, demonstrations, rallies or protests commemorating the worst accident at a U.S. commercial nuclear plant.

At 4 a.m. March 28, 1979, a series of mechanical breakdowns, human error and design flaws robbed the nuclear core of precious cooling water and uncovered 133 tons of uranium fuel in the second of two reactors at the plant.

Parts of the core disintegrated into a pile of rubble. Radiation was released into the atmosphere, and thousands of residents fled during an 11-day crisis.

Federal investigators concluded that the core came within 30 to 60 minutes of a meltdown. But they said radiation doses were small, and the most significant health threat for residents was stress.

**TODAY, THE MANGLED** core is essentially unchanged. But after spending \$350 million so far, GPU's work crews and advisers have made some headway.

"We've had the floodwaters recede. We're one-third of the way there in cleaning up the

debris and getting us back to the condition to decide whether we rebuild the flood zone or not," said Robert Arnold, head of GPU Nuclear and chief officer in charge of the cleanup.

"We've made major strides. As far as the potential health threat to the public, I think 90 percent of the risk is behind us," he added in an interview just several hundred feet from the damaged unit. "But I like to be much further along. We'd like to get this job finished."

Some 1.2 million gallons of radioactive water has been processed. Sixty percent of the abnormal wastes generated from the accident have been shipped off-site. Workmen are scrubbing the reactor building walls, and a camera has yielded the first peek of the core.

GPU estimates that it will take five more years, two more than first thought, to remove the damaged fuel and decontaminate the basement of the containment building.

Lethal levels of radiation are present, and there is a remote chance that a nuclear reaction could occur if the core lost all of its protective boron.

Work has been delayed by lack of money, but a proposal by Gov. Dick Thornburgh to share the cleanup costs among GPU, the federal government, ratepayers of nuclear utilities, Pennsylvania and New Jersey seems to be taking shape. Insurance covers only \$300 million of the costs.

In January, the board of directors of the Edison Electric Institute, a Washington-based trade group of 190 investor-owned utilities, pledged \$150 million in voluntary contributions.

"That was probably the biggest news of 1983," said Thornburgh, whose administration was only three months old when the accident occurred.

"It would be foolish to think that the accident ended when the crisis ended. It will never be behind us until the dollars are committed and the task is accomplished," he added. "Everybody in this area worries about the fact it has not been cleaned up four years after the accident."

By mid-March, EEI had raised about one-fourth of the minimum total required. According to estimates, utilities are paying a risk factor of \$170 million a year in higher interest rates because TMI is still contaminated.

"The TMI-2 accident is the most significant negative impact on the nuclear industry that we've had," said Adrian Roberts, an official with the Electric Power Research Institute, the research arm of the electric utility industry.

"The timely, efficient recovery from this accident with the potential for requalifying this unit for service is the single most important thing the industry can do," he said.

Meanwhile, GPU's financial health has improved after its debt reached \$326 million in mid-1980. The red ink totals \$36 million, which should be paid off by year's end.

CONT. PG. 2

The Evening News,

Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, April 5, 1983

## NRC gets new TMI charges

A third engineer has questioned the safety of cleanup procedures at the damaged Three Mile Island Unit 2, specifically criticizing techniques being used to test the vital "polar crane."

In filing the critical report Monday, Edwin H. Gischel, plant engineering director at Unit 2, joined Larry P. King, former director of site operations for GPU Nuclear, and Richard Parks, a Bechtel Group Inc. employee, in charging misconduct and mismanagement in the cleanup operations at the crippled nuclear power plant.

The polar crane will be used to lift the head from the TMI-2 reactor vessel, planned for this summer.

In a reorganization of the Unit 2 cleanup, Bechtel and GPU Nuclear employees were combined into a single organization headed by Bahman Kanga, a Bechtel vice president, who became director of Unit 2.

Gischel submitted the 22-page affidavit to GPU Nuclear officials with the understanding that they would hand it over to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. He said he was prepared to give the report directly to the NRC but funneled it through GPU "as a matter of organizational respect."

In forwarding the affidavit to the NRC, Robert C. Arnold, president of GPU Nuclear, said the company is investigating the "concerns and allegations" made during the last two or three weeks, and also will be analyzing Gischel's affidavit. The affidavit was sent by GPU Nuclear to Lake Barrett, deputy director of the NRC's TMI-2 program office, who is based at TMI.

"As you know, I have been deeply distressed by the handling of safety-related modifications and tests at Unit 2, especially with respect to the polar crane," Gischel said in a cover memo to Arnold. "I am also concerned about harassment and intimidation against those of us who have expressed our professional opinions frankly."

Gischel said he is not anti-nuclear, and noted that he has been with the nuclear industry for more

CONT. PG. 2



# After TMI: The lesson unlearned

By Robert Pollard  
Los Angeles Times Service

Today marks an anniversary that many people prefer to leave unremembered: the nuclear accident at Three Mile Island. While no one expects a celebration with fireworks and champagne, it would be appropriate to have a progress report — if there were progress to be reported.

After the mishap at Harrisburg four years ago, the nation expected remedial action by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to ensure that such a milestone would never be duplicated. This expectation has proved to be overoptimistic.

What we can report today is that far too little has been done to improve nuclear-plant safety, and, unaccountably, many of the same faults that led to the accident still exist in plants around the country.

This was vividly demonstrated last month at a plant in Salem County, N.J., about 30 miles outside Philadelphia. On two occasions it failed to shut down automatically when problems arose, one of the most serious situations that can develop at a nuclear reactor.

The NRC has found poor management of the utility, improper equipment maintenance and inadequately trained operators — many of the same factors that contributed to the breakdown at TMI.

Before TMI, it had been assumed that a major accident involving a nuclear reactor was virtually impossible — in NRC terminology, "incredible." That an accident could occur was a brutal shock.

Immediately, TMI became an economic catastrophe for its utility, Metropolitan Edison Co., and ratepayers. Only in the weeks after the event was the extent of peril to public health discovered in the revelation that the overheated uranium core had come within 30 to 60 minutes of a meltdown.

Unanimously stinging assessments of the NRC by various panels followed. Most prominent was the presidential commission headed by John Kemeny, which concluded that "fun-

damental changes will be necessary in the organization, procedures, practices and — above all else — attitudes" of the regulatory commission.

Stunned and embarrassed by the TMI debacle, the agency quickly convened a "lessons learned" task force, and within a year devised a 600-page "TMI Action Plan." The document, meant to be applied to all reactors in the United States, sought to attack major weaknesses in nuclear plants, such as inadequate operator training, unreliable equipment (sticky valves), poor data display in badly designed control rooms, and faulty design (a backup cooling system vulnerable to human and technical error).

By the first anniversary of TMI, it seemed that the regulators had taken their critics' advice to heart. As each year passes, however, it becomes more apparent that the agency's implementation of the action plan is dilatory, haphazard or merely inept.

One example, among many, of NRC indolence is the action plan's recommendation for new vents in reactor cooling systems. At times of overheating, steam or hydrogen gas bubbles can form in the cooling system and prevent the flow of coolant from reaching the core. That occurred at TMI, complicating the crisis.

The TMI vents required manual operation; once the accident had occurred, nobody could enter the building to open them. The need for vents that could be operated by remote control was obvious.

The action plan set January 1981, as the installation date for new vents; the deadline was then stretched to July 1982. In its update to Congress last year, the NRC explained that, while vent alteration was "necessary," the schedule was "unfeasible." Today, the idea sits on the shelf, awaiting the convenience of nuclear-plant owners.

Dozens of other technical fixes, arbitrarily pegged with "Priority 2" or "Priority 3" status, have been put off until 1984 or 1985. Even items of central importance are undergoing

cost-benefit analysis, partly as a result of industry objections.

The very utility that suffered the accident is stonewalling "necessary" changes: At TMI-1, the idle twin reactor of the destroyed Unit 2, essential items in the action plan have not been applied, and the NRC has failed to challenge this intransigence.

The commission's stance is neither new nor surprising. It has consistently upheld the idea that the nuclear industry should be self-policing. A corresponding, and equally consequential, view is that the economic burden of temporarily shutting down plants outweighs any urgency to upgrade safety.

The White House has abetted the agency's languor. The Reagan administration's hope to accelerate nuclear-energy development is a signal to the NRC that the improvement of the 70-plus operating plants is once again a low priority.

As NRC Commissioner Victor Gilsky put it last spring, "Some of the very same senior officials who were outdoing each other three years ago in proposing new safety requirements are now competing to eliminate such requirements."

The upshot: The correctives in nuclear management and hardware that were so clearly demanded by Congress, the public and half a dozen investigations have been diluted, delayed or ignored.

The longer the administration closes its eyes to this complacency, the more difficult it will be to rectify the situation. We have few opportunities to assess a federal agency and its charges so openly and critically; now, the chance offered for meaningful reform in nuclear regulation is quietly slipping away.

Whatever the next decades hold for nuclear power, we can't say that we weren't warned. We were. Four years ago. This year, once again I'll let this anniversary pass without champagne and fireworks.

(Robert Pollard, a former project manager with the NRC, is now the nuclear-safety engineer on the staff of the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists.)

## FOUR YEARS from 1

"Our earnings are terrible, but we've stopped the bleeding as far as cash," said GPU Chairman William Kuhns, who took his first vacation in four years this month.

"We're out of intensive care. We're in stable condition, but way underweight," Kuhns said in an interview from GPU's Parsippany, N.J., headquarters. "We've been through hell."

**GPU HASN'T PAID** a full dividend in 15 quarters since the accident. And its stock, valued at 18 before the accident, now hovers around 8 after plummeting to a low of 33¢.

"They're still on the critical list. But relative to where they've been, the improvement has been nothing less than dramatic," said Dan Scotto, vice president of the New York brokerage firm of L.F. Rothschild, Unterberg, Towbin. "Things seem to be under control. I think they have a future."

GPU, which serves 1.6 million customers in two states, has added 79,500 customers since the accident. Central Jersey Power & Light Co.'s rates have gone up 101 percent; Metropolitan Edison Co.'s 80 percent; and Pennsylvania Electric Co.'s 45 percent.

## CHARGES from 1

than 25 years. For the last two years, he said, he has been involved in a central role to maintain the Londonderry Twp. plant in a safe shutdown condition as the recovery program is developed and implemented.

"My sense of responsibility forces me to speak out through this statement against misconduct at TMI-2 which violates professional standards and could threaten the public health and safety," Gischel said. "Anything less would compromise my professional integrity. Many professionals within the nuclear industry will brand me as a traitor for what I am about to report."

The GPU employee said the "present mentality" at TMI emphasizes shortcuts, expediency and disdain for professional standards.

"The same thread can be found

throughout various reports of the accident, and, indeed, throughout various internal plant records and correspondence," he said.

Gischel said that shortly after his arrival at TMI he began to see signs that "there was a gap between the publicly stated safety commitment and reality." Also, he said that during early 1982, "I began to see symptoms of widespread sloppiness at Unit 2."

However, Arnold said he was confident that all activities at TMI-2 have been conducted with safety as the paramount issue. The allegations involving the cleanup already have been subject to an ongoing review process that has been in place for the cleanup, he added.

Gischel, like King and Parks, focuses his affidavit on procedures for load-testing the polar crane.



# Nuclear power industry 'comatose' as result of TMI

By RICHARD T. PIENCIAK  
Associated Press Writer

NEW YORK — Four years after Three Mile Island, the atomic power industry is comatose, plagued not only by the ghost of the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident but also by a poor economy, construction delays and nagging safety issues.

Plans for 51 nuclear plants have been canceled since the accident — 18 in 1982 alone. A huge power project in the Pacific Northwest has largely collapsed, leaving its 88 participating utilities in technical default on \$2.25 billion in bonds.

About half the safety-related work at nuclear plants today is an outgrowth of the Three Mile Island accident, and the Energy Department estimated that TMI-prompted safety improvements have cost an average \$65 million for older units.

"It depends on if you like to call a glass half full or half empty," the Atomic Industrial Forum's president, Carl Walske, said when asked to characterize the state of the industry. "You could look at all of the problems ... or you could also look at what has been achieved, which is considerable."

The AIF and other industry groups say the efficient handling of the January 1982 steam tube rupture at the Ginna nuclear plant near Rochester, N.Y., shows how the industry has improved safety and emergency practices since TMI.

Proponents of nuclear power also boast that control room workers are better trained, managers are more involved in daily plant operations, property loss insurance has increased threefold and, contrary to prior practice, plants now share information about their operating experiences.

But the overall situation is far from ideal. One month ago, the safety system at the Salem 1 nuclear plant in southern New Jersey, meant to shut down the reactor quickly and automatically by dropping its fuel rods into a water-filled core, failed twice in three days.

Harold Denton, the federal official who directed the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's efforts at Three Mile Island, branded the system failure "the most significant accident precursor since Three Mile Island."

Rep. Edward J. Markey, D-Mass., one of the nuclear industry's most frequent critics in Congress, said events like Salem show "there has been a return to the same deadly business-as-usual as before Three Mile Island."

Markey said he was "frustrated, disappointed and alarmed" that the anticipated "lessons learned" from TMI have turned into "a story of lessons lost."

Even among positive developments, like the passage of a comprehensive federal waste management policy for disposal of high- and low-level radioactive wastes, important issues remain unresolved.

The first permanent dump site for high-level wastes won't be selected until May 31, 1987, and opposition from local and state officials may delay final approval.

A federal deadline requiring regional agreements for low-level dump sites by 1986 will not be met. Some of the regions are still fighting over which states will be members, with site selection still years away.

Another problem is the industry's inability to win public acceptance. In a 1982 Associated Press-NBC News poll, 53 percent of those people surveyed said no more nuclear plants should be built in the United States and 36 percent called for a shutdown of all plants until all safety issues are resolved.

To combat those opinions, and what nuclear proponents view as negative press coverage, the industry plans to spend \$25 million this year on seminars, speakers and advertisements favorable to nuclear power.

Behind the perception problems are nagging safety-related equipment problems such as embrittlement of reactor vessel walls, weak pipe welds and corroded steam generator tubes at half the operating plants.

To keep atop of the safety concerns, the NRC has stepped up supervision. About 125 NRC resident inspectors now work at the nation's 76 nuclear plants, compared to only several dozen before TMI. Regional NRC teams conduct thousands of inspections annually.

In fiscal 1981 the NRC penalized nuclear operators \$1.37 million. In fiscal 1982, the penalties jumped almost 70 percent, to \$2.23 million, on the same number of violations.

Since TMI, the NRC has issued about 6,000 new requirements, and 46 states have passed legislation relating to nuclear power, according to the AIF.

Taken together, the problems and the restrictions do not encourage an industry to prosper.

In 1982, the expected completion dates for 28 plants under construction were

pushed back from five months to five years. Several may never be built.

The last order for a nuclear plant was placed in 1978, even before the accident, indicating that economic hard times — and a lower than anticipated growth rate in electricity use — also contributed to the industry's predicament.

The ambitious Washington Public Power Supply System project in the Pacific Northwest, the nation's largest issuer of tax-exempt bonds, has been particularly ill-fated, with two of five planned units canceled, one mothballed, one in limbo and a fifth unit 94 percent built.

The 88 participating public utilities in the project have been in technical default on \$2.25 billion in bonds since January. Lawsuits are pending in at least four states.

Other nuclear issues have been raised in the courtroom lately, not the least important of which is who was to blame for TMI.

Earlier this year, after three months of courtroom mudslinging, General Public Utilities Corp., the plant's owner, which was suing Babcock & Wilcox, the reactor's manufacturer, abruptly settled out of court, agreeing neither party had been able to establish the other was to blame for the accident.

GPU, which had sued for \$4 billion, will be eligible for \$37 million in rebates on future purchases of B&W products over the next 10 years.

Still to be contested is a similar lawsuit filed by GPU against the NRC.

Yet the industry is far from dead. In 1982, nuclear-produced electricity accounted for about 12 percent of total U.S. output.

If the 65 reactors now under construction or on order are built, the nation's nuclear generating capacity would double. Utilities could pump an estimated \$15 billion a year into the economy through the rest of this decade in building those new plants.

Further, industry analysts estimate that the growing aftermarket — for servicing, retrofitting, upgrading and refueling — will reach \$10 billion a year by 1990.

Walske predicts a "good, sustained economic growth" will signal another round of plant orders, perhaps within three years.

"The prospects for nuclear power, in my opinion, are as good as or as bad as the prospects for the country as a whole," Walske said. "I'd say nuclear power is here to stay."

## TMI cleanup probe asked by anti-nukes

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

A coalition of anti-nuclear groups today called for a Congressional investigation of charges of quality assurance violations in the Three Mile Island Unit 2 cleanup, several hours after the engineer who made the allegations was put on a leave of absence.

TMI Public Interest Resource Center also asked the Nuclear Reg-

ulatory Commission to halt all work at TMI Units 1 and 2 except for necessary maintenance. The coalition also called for the formation of "high-level independent commission to inspect and monitor future activities at TMI."

Richard Parks, the Bechtel

Corp. engineer who made the allegations Wednesday, was notified of the forced leave of absence in a letter given him when he reported to work at TMI this morning, said Thomas Flynn, Bechtel spokesman. Parks will receive full salary while on leave, Flynn said.

Flynn said the action was not in retaliation to Parks' charges made at a national news conference in



# TMI forum: Nuke power faces 'deep trouble'

By BOB DVORCHAK  
Associated Press

MIDDLETOWN — A growing public mistrust of nuclear power has helped put the U.S. industry on hold and could signal "deep trouble" for its future, an official said Monday at the opening of a three-day public forum on the fourth anniversary of the Three Mile Island accident.

"The American public is deeply divided as to whether nuclear power should go forward and is substantially opposed to the construction of new plants in its communities," said Dr. Roger Kaspersen of the Center for Technology, Environment and Development at Clark University in Worcester, Mass.

"The trend lines suggest that nuclear power is in deep trouble with the American people," he said.

Kaspersen pointed out that no new plants have been ordered and that 70 plants had been cancelled or postponed since the accident at Three Mile Island, the worst in the

history of U.S. commercial nuclear power.

He credited the de facto moratorium to a drop in demand for electricity combined with high interest rates and "the growing public distrust" of nuclear power.

"Although the long-term impacts of the accident are still unclear, it is evident that it was a key event in ushering in a new period of public perceptions," said Kaspersen, who participated in an international panel discussion on nuclear energy and its health effects.

The forum is being financed through a public health fund created after the settlement of a \$25 million class-action suit against the owners of TMI, Metropolitan Edison Co., Pennsylvania Electric Co. and Jersey Central Power and Light Co.

About 120 people attended the opening session, held at Penn State's Capitol Campus just a few miles from where a nuclear reactor went haywire four years ago.

For most of them, their opinions

about nuclear power were formed when the reactor overheated because of a series of mechanical breakdowns, human error and design flaws, releasing radioactive material into the atmosphere.

"We do not want nuclear power. Period," said Jane Lee, a dairy farmer from nearby Etters who spoke at the forum. "The more the American public learns about nuclear power, the greater the outcry."

"We're still angry and we're frustrated," said Francine Taylor, a mother of two from Lancaster.

"We have a radioactive waste dump right here. It's a horror, an absolute time bomb," she said.

Dr. Karl Morgan, a health physicist at Appalachian State University and an original member of the Manhattan Project, which built the first atomic bomb, said the radioactive releases could have been greater than those measured.

"There is no such thing as a safe, low-level exposure to radiation," Morgan said.

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., April 3, 1983

## the FORUM TMI reminder on anniversary

EDITOR:

I THOROUGHLY enjoyed reading your editorial, "TMI issue simmers still" on Sunday, March 27. It's gratifying to see so many of my thoughts in print, but it's also scary to see some of my worst fears in print. Most of us who lived through the TMI incident and the days and weeks that followed have a vivid memory of the feelings we had at the time. I'm no exception. The recent showing on TV of "The China Syndrome" did not help to dissipate my fears.

Actually, I probably felt apathetic before the incident about nuclear power and the close proximity of Three Mile Island to the Harrisburg area. Perhaps involvement with my family kept me from attaching very much importance to TMI.

During the last few years I have rarely spoken about TMI,

but I am sure that thoughts of the place and the accident that nearly happened have been in my subconscious constantly. Your excellent editorial reminded me of the negative rather than positive feelings I experienced when seeing the GPU advertisements on television. The "non-solving" of safety problems is frustrating, terrifying, and infuriating. Thank you for awakening my subconscious thoughts. I plan to attend the Public Forum on Nuclear Power at PSU's Capitol Campus to increase my knowledge and awareness of the varied facets of nuclear power.

—Mrs. Kathleen S. Heierbacher,  
New Cumberland

### People remember

EDITOR:

MARCH 28, 1983 was the fourth year of the accident at Three Mile Island. Strangely absent were the rallies, demonstrations and vigils of the previous three years.

It appears that the anti-nuclear movement now feels that public awareness and education serves a more useful purpose than rallies and demonstrations. I am inclined to agree, however,

I would also suggest a program for educating our Legislators as well. This would include proposing legislation authorizing initiative and referendum in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. In my judgment, no useful purpose is served by a non-binding referendum question dealing with the restart of TMI-1, because the Congress and the Federal Regulatory Agencies will not be bound to take specific remedial action based on the results of a referendum, which represents nothing more than a sampling of public opinion.

TMI four years later finds a community polarized and divided, but they still haven't forgotten.

—David J. Bowie,  
Steelton

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# TMI issue simmers still

JANUARY is the traditional month for "white" sales, February is the month to sell chocolates and other sweets, and now in March, beginning a new tradition, we have the selling of nuclear power.

It seems ironic — and a bit in bad taste — that the month in which the nuclear industry suffered its worst embarrassment in its history four years ago at Three Mile Island would serve as a commemoration and celebration of all the wonderful things that nuclear power has to offer. Attempting to emulate a phoenix, the nuclear industry is trying to fly from the foul nest of TMI wearing a new plumage of safety consciousness, but the great bird looks more like a dodo grounded by recurring mishaps and cost overruns.

If the public isn't quite convinced that the old lemon has been miraculously transformed into lemonade, something called "The Committee for Energy Awareness" is prepared to correct that misperception. With \$30 million at its disposal, this industry-backed organization has launched a public relations blitz to win the hearts and minds of a dubious public to the notion that the nuclear industry has cleaned up its act and that nuclear power is now safe.

**THOUGH** there is little question that nuclear plants are safer today than they were four years ago, the question remains — Are they safe enough? It is more than a little curious and a matter which should be of considerable concern that while the nuclear industry is trumpeting a new found sense of dedication to safety, General Public Utilities is seeking to restart the undamaged TMI Unit 1 as early as mid-July without having completed a number of significant safety modifications that all agree need to be done.

According to Robert Pollard, a nuclear safety engineer with the Union of Concerned Scientists and a former employee of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, there is no evidence that Unit 1 could sustain the same type of accident that occurred at Unit 2.

He points out that "the necessity of such modifications as installing high point vents on the reactor coolant piping, upgrading the emergency feedwater system to meet the NRC requirements applicable to safety systems, and installing additional radiation shielding to protect equipment and personnel during and after a TMI 2-type accident" has been accepted by GPU, the NRC, UCS and the Commonwealth, but GPU does not plan to implement the changes until the first refueling of Unit 1 after restart, and only then if it is "feasible."

In addition, though a large amount of existing equipment at Unit 1 has been modified and new equipment installed to correct safe-

ty deficiencies, GPU and the staff of the NRC propose to run the plant even if as much as half of this modified and new equipment doesn't work.

UCS, which played a crucial role in calming public fears during the controversy surrounding the release of radioactive krypton gas from the damaged reactor in 1980, is contesting the restart of Unit 1 while these important safety steps remain uncompleted. According to Pollard, however, UCS fears the NRC will not be responsive to its arguments unless its efforts are actively assisted by the Commonwealth. Specifically, the UCS asked Governor Thornburgh in a January letter to notify the NRC that the conditions he set for restart in a June, 1979 letter to then-NRC Chairman Joseph M. Hendrie had not been met. Among the conditions the governor set for restart was that the "design flaws which may have contributed to the accident in Unit 2 have been fully discovered and corrected in Unit 1."

In March, the governor responded to the UCS appeal by writing that "you may be assured that we will pursue any unresolved issues...vigorously." He did not, however, address the request by UCS for him to notify the NRC that his previously stated conditions for the restart of Unit 1 remain unmet.

**FOR MORE THAN** a year, the people of Central Pennsylvania have been bombarded almost daily with propaganda from GPU which sought to convey the impression that the utility was doing everything possible to insure that Unit 1 would operate safely once permission for restart had been granted. The facts indicate something quite different. They suggest instead that GPU has not done all it can do to make Unit 1 safe, that it even is delaying safety work that it acknowledges should be done.

It is our contention that the people of this area, who were subjected to the nightmare of the worst nuclear plant accident in American history, have the right to expect that if and when Unit 1 is allowed to resume operation, it will be the safest nuclear plant in the country. To some extent, we have made the mistake of assuming that the NRC would insist on nothing less. Perhaps the governor has been operating under the same assumption.

In any case, it would be appropriate for the governor to reiterate his original strong stand on the conditions that must be met before restart is acceptable. And it would be appropriate for the governor to direct the Commonwealth's attorneys to play the active role necessary to convince the NRC that Pennsylvania means business when it insists on Unit 1 being as safe as it can be before returning to operation.



# Study says 27% of TMI residents live in fear

By SUSAN COLLINS  
Daily Record staff writer

Set aside a moment the debate on health risks created during the accident at Three Mile Island four years ago. Forget the questions about the competence or incompetence of company and government officials.

Think instead of the opinions — correct or incorrect — that the people living near the plant hold on these issues, for they may indicate whether the accident could cause those people to develop serious psychological problems, a scientist said Tuesday.

Henry Vyner of the Radiation Research Institute in Berkeley, Calif. addressed this issue during the second day of the public forum on nuclear power held at the Penn State campus in Middletown.

Vyner said a study he conducted

in August 1982 showed that 27 percent of the 400 people interviewed had developed a self-diagnostic belief system, which means they believe "they are living in an environment fraught with danger."

He studied another community near a nuclear power plant for comparison and found that only 6 percent had developed the self-diagnostic belief system. In the interviews, the TMI area residents were more likely to doubt the credibility of government and scientific experts and fear health effects from exposure to radiation.

"It's probably those people who have developed self-diagnostic belief systems who are at risk to develop stress," he said.

Now Vyner wants to determine whether those people are likely to develop radiation response syn-

drome" found among the victims of Hiroshima and veterans of atomic testing."

Clinical research suggests that some do, he said, but more study will be needed to determine "whether radiation response syndrome is developing into a health problem in the area."

Vyner's presentation drew angry criticism from area residents who said it made it seem as if the danger they faced were imaginary.

The term "self-diagnostic belief system" evokes an image of non-scientific, irrational thought, said Dr. Judith Johnsrud of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power.

"By saying people in this area have developed self-diagnostic belief systems you have demeaned

(them) by saying there was no radiation exposure," she said.

Vyner disagreed, saying the term was simply "a statement of what is psychologically present and not what is in fact present." The preliminary findings of the study simply showed the relation between their beliefs and stress.

"If there were something the people of this community could believe in after everything that has happened, there probably would be a lot less stress," he said. "But because this hasn't happened, the stress has been magnified."

The public is invited to the three-day forum, which ends today with a session from 8:45 a.m. to noon on planning for nuclear emergencies and a summary session from 6:45 to 10:30 p.m.

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## PROBE from 3

Washington. In his "wide-ranging affidavit" made to the U.S. Labor Department, "Mr. Parks has directly charged or implied some form of misconduct on the part of at least 20 individuals. In his present assignment, Mr. Parks would be required to interact with many of these people."

"Under the existing circumstances, we consider placing him on a leave of absence a responsible and common sense management decision. We have notified the NRC (Nuclear Regulatory Commission) and will notify the Department of Labor," Flynn said.

PIRC released copies of letters to NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino, U.S. Rep. Morris K. Udall, D-Ariz., and Gov. Dick Thornburgh, in which it sought the Congressional investigation and formation of the monitoring panel.

In his letter to Parks, Richard Wheeler, chief of start-up engineering for Bechtel, denied any harassment or intimidation occurred against Parks. He said the decision to put him on leave was made "in order to insulate you from even the appearance of such conduct" and to assure the continued effectiveness of his co-workers.

Wheeler said Parks would be contacted within 30 days with the results of the company's review of his charges.

For the last 10 months Parks has been an engineer with Bechtel, the chief contractor involved in the cleanup at TMI.

Several of Parks' allegations focused on the repair of the huge polar crane at the top of the containment building. The crane, originally built to lift 500 tons, has been put back in working order and is scheduled to be tested to lift a maximum of 210 tons. The crane will be used this summer to lift the 170-ton head of the reactor.

Parks alleged cleanup managers at the plant proposed "shortcuts" which require "rushing" the crane into service. If the crane were to drop the reactor head, the reactor vessel might be damaged and the coolant could leak out, Parks alleged.

Parks charges were made in 56-page affidavit released by the Government Accountability Project, a non-profit watchdog group frequently critical of Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the nuclear utilities.

Robert C. Arnold, GPU president, said he was "fully confident that all activities at TMI 2 have been conducted with safety as the No. 1 concern. That will continue, not only with the polar crane . . . but with regard to all other cleanup activities."

Arnold said many of Parks' allegations appear to be concerned with future procedures and not past action involving safety concerns.





Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

News Watch on the  
Harrisburg Area

**VOL. 4 NO. 6**

**MAY 1983**

York Daily Record • Thursday, May 19, 1983

## 12 demonstrators arrested at TMI



By JIM McCARTY  
Daily Record staff writer

Twelve anti-nuclear demonstrators who claim Mohandas Gandhi and Martin Luther King as their role models were arrested Wednesday when they blocked a gate to the Three Mile Island nuclear facility and refused to leave.

The protest marked the anniversary of a referendum vote last May 18 in which an overwhelming majority of voters in three counties voted against restart of the undamaged unit 1 reactor.

The demonstrators came prepared with a written statement explaining their cause and they unfurled several banners decrying restart plans.

"We are compelled to this action for the simple reason that to let this anniversary pass without a statement of conscientious dissent would

be to agree that our vote doesn't matter. We will never agree to that," announced Steve Patton, spokesman for the demonstrators.

The arrests by state police troopers were imminent once the protesters put their orchestrated act of

civil disobedience into motion at 10 a.m. Patton, who was not one of those arrested, said the protesters were prepared to block the only access gates to TMI all day or until "circumstances" stopped them.

By 11:40 a.m., the closed gates were thrown open, backed up traffic once again flowed freely to and from the island and the 12 protesters were hauled off to state police barracks in Harrisburg.

They each were charged with obstructing a public roadway, a third degree misdemeanor.

Later, the 12 demonstrators were released on their own recognizance

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York Daily Record • Wednesday, May 11, 1983

## NRC attempt to close TMI meeting foiled

Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A federal judge issued a temporary restraining order Tuesday to prevent the Nuclear Regulatory Commission from closing a meeting dealing with the restart of the undamaged reactor at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant.

But instead of opening the meeting scheduled for Tuesday afternoon here, the NRC abruptly canceled it. Frank Ingram, an agency spokesman, said he did not know when it would be rescheduled.

The order had been sought by the *Philadelphia Inquirer* on the ground that closing the meeting violated the federal government's "sunshine

act." Attorneys for the newspaper argued that the issues to be discussed were of "overwhelming importance and interest to the public."

On May 4, the NRC posted in its public document room an announcement that its May 10 meeting concerning "discussion of steps to decision in TMI-1 restart" would be closed to news organizations and the public. The NRC voted on April 21 to close the meeting, citing an exemption of the Government in the Sunshine Act.

That act, adopted by Congress in 1976, requires that federal agency meetings be open unless the agency can show that the topic to be discussed is specifically exempted from the law.

related to the initiation, conduct and disposition of a formal agency adjudication."

But in the ruling Tuesday, Judge John Lewis Smith Jr. of U.S. District Court for the District of Columbia rejected that argument. He said "there is no legal basis for the commission's action" and said that conducting the closed meeting "would severely limit or frustrate the purposes of the Government in the Sunshine Act."

The agency claimed one of those exemptions, noting that the discussion at the May 10 meeting was "reasonably expected to involve information

The temporary restraining order issued by Smith will remain in effect for 10 days. On May 20 Smith will conduct a hearing to determine if a preliminary injunction — also sought by the newspaper — should be issued to prevent the NRC from closing future meetings on the same subject.



# Anti-TMI group: 'It's going to be us against them'

By SUSAN COLLINS  
Daily Record staff writer

It's "showdown time" for the local anti-nuclear movement.

With the target restart date for the undamaged Three Mile Island reactor less than three months away, a coalition of environmental groups is preparing for a fight.

"With everything the industry and the company has at stake in the restart, you have to assume they're going to put a lot of effort into putting the reactor back on line," said Randy King, president of the Three Mile Island Resource Center.

"It's showdown time," he said. "It's going to be us against them."

GPU Nuclear spokesmen say they will be able to restart the unit 1

reactor in mid-July, provided they win the approval of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by then and no other legal complications arise. Unit 1 was shut down following the accident that crippled the unit 2 reactor four years ago.

The seven groups that make up the resource center coalition, including the York Environmental Alliance and the Newberry Township Steering Committee, plan to coordinate their efforts to prevent restart, King said.

"This is the first time we're actually developing an overall strategy," he said. "Up to now everyone has followed their own drummer."

But coordinating plans requires money and that requires fundraisers, he said.

"The major fault of the anti-nuclear movement here is that it has never done any grass roots fundraising," he said.

The groups that form the coalition draw on membership fees but the resource center has relied largely on small-scale fundraisers and donations — which have declined during the four years since the accident, he said.

The center's staff dropped from four full-time employees last June to zero, but the group hopes to change that soon.

A \$4,200 check from the Rockefeller Foundation arrived recently and supporters are being solicited for monthly donations. King said the group will first hire an organizer, then a technical researcher.

Other plans being considered include a fundraising concert and a tribunal of national anti-nuclear figures who would listen to testimony on TMI from area residents.

Both events probably would not take place until late summer or early fall, he said. In other words, after the scheduled restart date.

Asked what will happen if the reactor is restarted before then, King simply said, "There's not going to be a restart."

The money raised will be channeled into legal and political strategies that have not been chosen yet. For now, the group is writing letters to Gov. Dick Thornburgh urging him to intervene on behalf of the residents.

They have also been practicing

"civil disobedience" at the plant for two weeks. Two or three protesters holding a banner saying "Keep TMI shut" have stood before the main gate on the north end of the island from 10 a.m. to 4 p.m. on the last two Thursdays. Rather than having them arrested, GPU Nuclear closed the gate and routed traffic to the south end of the island.

Although the group's efforts are spurred by the proposed restart this summer, King said he does not think restart is technically possible.

The sulfur that caused cracks in the steam generator tubes has probably affected valves and other equipment in the reactor and repairs will have to be made before the plant is ready, he said.

GPU spokesman John T. Fidler said the company will not make any special efforts to promote the restart as the date draws near.

"We recognize there is concern in the community and we are doing everything we can to mitigate that concern," he said. "The best way we can counter (the anti-nuclear movement) is to operate the plant safely and prepare for restart as best we can."

But in case GPU keeps to its schedule, the group is bracing itself for a fight.

"GPU can pretty much outdo us in terms of resources," King said. "Our best resource is the number of people and the emotions people still feel."

"Our strength lies in the will of the people and the people don't want the plant open."

The Evening News, April 20, 1983

## TMI restart still 'iffy'

By MICK ROOD  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Tuesday's U.S. Supreme Court decision erasing psychological stress as a restart factor left at least six other potential obstacles in the way of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decision on allowing Three Mile Island's Unit 1 to run again.

General Public Utilities Nuclear Corp. claims the reactor will be mechanically ready in July, but NRC officials, who began issuing over-optimistic restart schedules in the summer of 1979 after the Unit 2 nuclear accident, aren't making any predictions on when the restart could be cleared procedurally.

Meanwhile, the high court's decision has been met with mixed reaction locally. GPU officials Tuesday acknowledged concern over the psychological stress issue, but said they were "pleased" with the decision. They said they would try to "mitigate those concerns."

Anti-nuclear groups generally expressed dismay over the decision. People Against Nuclear Energy, a Middletown, Pa.-based group, expressed an intent to pursue other avenues to ensure all safety measures are followed.

Middletown Mayor Robert R. Reid said the decision came as no surprise to him, but added, "It just bothers me that they aren't thinking about the people living in this area."

NRC spokesman Joseph Fouchard said today that "there is no fixed schedule on restart."

He described the six remaining issues to be resolved before the commission can vote on the restart.

At the heart of the decision is whether or not GPU has, to the NRC's satisfaction, completed 130 safety improvements. Last Friday, Robert Purple, NRC deputy director for reactor licensing, said 96 of 130 tasks had been completed.

About 22 of the 34 improvements await action by the utility, but most are scheduled for completion in May, according to Purple's report. A half-dozen others can't be verified until GPU is allowed to put Unit 1 through hot functional testing — a prelude to restart.

In a few other cases, such as equipment changes to assure against earthquake damage, modifications would be allowed after the restart during the next scheduled refueling shutdown. It is that procedure, allowing promised safety features to be installed after restart, that has irked parties intervening in the restart decision — particularly the Union of Concerned Scientists.

UCS has thrown up another potential barrier by contending Unit 1 couldn't adequately be cooled down in the event of a loss-of-coolant accident.

UCS has urged an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board to conclude

CONT p 6



# Stress no factor in restart: Court

By AARON EPSTEIN  
Knight-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission may permit the undamaged reactor at Three Mile Island to be restarted without considering the impact on the mental health of nearby residents, the Supreme Court ruled Tuesday.

In a surprisingly swift and unanimous decision, the justices toppled a 2-1 verdict of the U.S. Court of Appeals here that required the NRC to examine the psychological effects of the fear of another nuclear accident at TMI.

Ever since the nation's most serious nuclear accident occurred in March 1979 at TMI unit 2, residents of the area have complained of anxiety, tension and fear, sometimes coupled with skin rashes, aggravated ulcers and other physical problems.

Justice William H. Rehnquist, writing for the court, concluded, however, that federal environmental law doesn't require government agencies to assess every impact of proposed actions, but only the effect on air, land and water.

The ruling was a victory for the federal government, which feared that the appeals court's rationale, if allowed to

stand, would subject proposals for prisons, military bases, dams, low-income housing and other projects to extensive assessments of psychological impact.

The loser was the People Against Nuclear Energy, a TMI-area citizens' group that filed suit, opposing future operation of either the undamaged unit 1 reactor, or TMI-2.

"We're disappointed," PANE board member Don Hossler said, "but it isn't the end of the road. The ruling means that we have no legal basis for getting a (psychological) study. But a study needs to be done. It's in the political arena now."

He said Gov. Dick Thornburgh has been sympathetic to PANE and could press for a study to provide ammunition

against a resumption of nuclear power at TMI.

A spokeswoman for the NRC said that, even with the psychological impact question resolved, the commission still must decide several other issues before TMI-1 can be started. For example, she said, repairs to the reactor's steam generator must be completed and approved.

The Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia used this anal-

ysis in the psychological impact case, Metropolitan Edison Co. vs. PANE.

The National Environmental Policy Act requires government agencies to consider effects on health. An effect on mental health is an effect on health. Therefore, the law requires agencies to consider effects on psychological health.

Rehnquist called that argument "appealing at first glance," but said it overlooked the weakness of the link between a change in the physical environment and a psychological injury.

The direct effects on the environment of a renewed operation of

TMI-1 include a release of low-level radiation, increased fog caused by the cooling towers, and the release of warm water into the Susquehanna River, Rehnquist noted.

But psychological health damage would be triggered by the risk of another accident, which Rehnquist said was "not an effect on the physical environment."

Moreover, government officials would find it burdensome and "extraordinarily difficult" to distinguish genuine claims of psychological damage from those based on mere disagreement with a government proposal, Rehnquist wrote.

York Daily Record • Wednesday, April 20, 1983

## Ruling a disappointment to TMI-area residents, foes

By SUSAN COLLINS  
Daily Record staff writer

Lorraine Snare has one thing in common with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. She would rather not have to worry about whether the restart of the undamaged Three Mile Island reactor will psychologically harm area residents.

But as a seven-year resident of Goldsboro, the community closest to TMI, Mrs. Snare said she can't help but worry.

"You hate to think about it," she said, "but it's still in the back of your mind. What are you going to do?"

And so she said she was "disgusted" when the U.S. Supreme Court ruled Tuesday that the NRC did not have to assess psychological harm before it approves the restart of unit 1.

Mrs. Snare and others who live near the power plant say the prospect of restart only adds to the stress they suffered as a result of the accident.

"I know for myself it will be a great problem," said Joyce Corradi, board member of People Against Nuclear Energy, the citizens' group that was on the losing side of the Supreme Court decision.

"I will feel very torn about whether to stay in this community or go," she said.

"The Supreme Court entirely missed the point," said state Rep. Bruce Smith, R-92, whose district includes the area around TMI.

The court considered the issue of psychological stress as it would apply to any federal project, such as a prison or a railroad. But Smith disagreed. "The TMI situation is unique" and should be considered on its own terms, he said.

"The fears of the people who experienced the accident (at unit 2) should be taken into account," he said.

Randy King, president of the TMI Public Interest Resource Center in Harrisburg, said he is afraid a decision to restart the reactor could lead to violence.

"I think people have already been damaged enough by the accident

around here," he said. "If they reopen that reactor, I don't want to think of what will happen."

He also expects the NRC to render its decision on the restart soon, now that the high court has made its ruling on the stress issue.

But while anti-nuclear activists called the decision a "disappointment" and a "stumbling block," they are not giving up the fight. Members of the resource center will meet May 1 to rework their strategy to prevent restart, King said.

People Against Nuclear Energy's next step is to pressure Gov. Dick Thornburgh into arguing their case more vocally, Corradi said.

Technically, the reactor will probably be ready for restart in mid-July, said Dough Bedell, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear, the facility's operator. At that point, the company only will need approval from the NRC.

Bedell added that "GPU Nuclear recognizes that there is concern in the community about the restart, and we will do everything we can to mitigate that concern."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, April 13, 1983.

## Panel OKs study on TMI to coal

United Press International

A committee of the House of Representatives today approved a bill that would require a study of converting the damaged Three Mile Island nuclear power station to a coal-fired plant.

The bill was approved 15-4 by the Consumer Affairs Committee and sent to the full House for consideration.

The provision ordering the Public Utility Commission to study conversion of Three Mile Island was added to a bill that would require the use of coal in any new electric generating plant if it was shown to be economically feasible and environmentally acceptable.

Rep. William Lloyd, D-Somerset, sponsor of the legislation, said

it would also prevent TMI-owner General Public Utilities from investing in a new generating station before dealing with the damaged reactor at Three Mile Island.

Opponents of the measure, four Republicans, argued that coal burning could be detrimental to the environment and that GPU is able to determine for itself what is the most economical use of the Three Mile Island plant.



# Cleanup at TMI is defended

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Three Mile Island nuclear plant cleanup, criticized by three engineers as unsafe, was defended today by a utility executive who attributed the complaints to administrative rough edges and differences of opinion.

"The allegations do not identify even one operation that was conducted unsafely," Herman Dieckamp, chairman of General Public Utilities Corp., the plant owner, said in congressional testimony prepared for delivery today.

The hearing was called by Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall, D-Ariz., to examine what he called "pretty disturbing" allegations by Richard Parks, Lawrence King and Edwin Gischel that safety was being compromised to move ahead with the \$1 billion cleanup.

Witnesses included the three engineers, GPU and Bechtel Corp. officials, Nuclear Regulatory Commission members, local elected officials and anti-nuclear experts. Bechtel is the lead cleanup contractor.

Both the NRC and GPU are investigating allegations that federal safety regulations have been circumvented during the cleanup. The NRC report is due next month.

Two former Three Mile Island Unit 2 engineers repeated for the subcommittee their allegations that safety procedures were bypassed during the cleanup.

But several members of the In-

terior Energy and Environment Subcommittee questioned why the engineers, Richard D. Parks and Lawrence P. King, didn't fully document their charges.

For example, King was asked who had advised him that his "professional career and business will be compromised" if he didn't remain silent.

King refused to identify the General Public Utility official who allegedly said that. He said that matter should be pursued by the U.S. Department of Labor and that the subject of the hearing was supposed to be safety procedures at TMI.

Despite requests from Rep. Austin Murphy, D-Monongalela, King also refused to discuss his half-interest in a consulting firm. GPU has charged that King's conflict of interest with that firm caused his dismissal, and not safety-related issues at TMI.

Murphy said that he merely wanted to find out whether "the veracity" of King's statements were inspired by a breakdown of relationships with his employer or by improper safety procedures.

"I don't think I would have been fired if I hadn't raised these problems," King said adding that he had nothing to gain by blowing the whistle on the company.

Early in the long hearing, both King and Parks invited congressmen to read more thoroughly their

detailed affidavits about the allegedly safety violations at Unit 2, most of which involve the polar crane atop the reactor, which is to be used to remove highly radioactive pieces of the core.

Also scheduled to testify were GPU officials, local elected officials including City Council President Earl F. Gohl Jr., and members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Parks, a senior startup engineer suspended from his duties, alleged among other things that a polar crane needed to lift out the damaged reactor head was not properly tested. He said decontamination would be impossible if the radioactive head were dropped.

However, Dieckamp said the GPU and NRC investigations will "reveal the technical adequacy" of the crane.

"We believe the expressed concerns may reflect the newness of the organization, the need to better define responsibilities ... and the need to improve supervisory skills," he said, referring to GPU Nuclear, a subsidiary created to run TMI.

Dieckamp contended there is "some degree of risk inherent in making progress" on the complicated decontamination of the crippled Unit 2 reactor.

"The management at TMI-2 will continue to face difficult decisions requiring hard choices between opposing advocates," he said.

## GPU shareholders reject measures opposing restart

By SUSAN COLLINS

The annual shareholders' meeting of General Public Utilities Corp. briefly became a forum for anti-nuclear protest Wednesday when a Harrisburg attorney and a Middletown area couple introduced resolutions on the floor opposing restart of Three Mile Island's unit 1 reactor.

Attorney Eugene Stilp proposed that GPU cease its investments in the undamaged unit 1 until the Nuclear Regulatory Commission approves it for restart.

The motion was defeated by 94 percent of the shareholders' vote and Stilp was carried out by police as he tried to capture the group's attention.

"We will never allow the plant to be started again," he said, holding up a sign that read, "Keep TMI shut." In response, a shareholder yelled, "Go home."

Meanwhile, GPU Chairman William G. Kuhns told stockholders unit 1 could restart in July "if everything falls into place."

Another motion against restart

was introduced by Genevieve and Charles Emrick, an elderly couple who drove four hours from their home in Highspire, Dauphin County, to the meeting in Whippany, N.J.

To Mrs. Emrick's disappointment, she was only allowed two minutes to address the group of 550 shareholders.

She asked them to heed the results of last year's non-binding referendums held in three counties surrounding TMI. There, opposed restart by a 2-1 margin. The Emricks' resolution fared worse than Stilp's, winning only 5 percent of the vote.

"I don't think that many shareholders realize what's going on," Mrs. Emrick said after the meeting. "They're probably throwing good money after bad."

Mrs. Emrick said she made the motion because she thinks the shareholders would oppose restart "if they were aware of how people in the area feel and realized that this

might not be the fuel of the future it was promised to be."

The Emricks bought 10 shares of stock in GPU after the 1979 accident at unit 2.

They wanted information, not profit, from the company, Mrs. Emrick said. And a meeting of shareholders was the kind of forum she said she preferred to use to express her views.

"I do not believe in CD," she said, referring to the acts of civil disobedience — such as blocking the gate to TMI — used by many protesters. "And I do not plan to do it."

"But it seems we're not getting much redress in the laws of the land," she added. She and her husband are also members of People Against Nuclear Power, a local anti-nuclear citizens group.

The resolution introduced by Stilp was sponsored by Stephen Brooks, a member of TMI Alert who paid \$4.50 for one share of stock in 1981. He said the value has since risen to \$8.25.

York Daily Record • Thursday, May 5, 1983



# 'Knew too much,' says ex-TMI clerk

By JON HARWOOD  
Staff Writer

An engineer suspended from the Three Mile Island test site said today that the nuclear plant continues to present a potential threat to the area because "fundamental safeguards" are being ignored.

And a former administrative clerk to the plant's recently fired site-operations manager said that she was subsequently fired because she "knew too much" about her supervisor's concerns about safety.

The engineer, Richard Parks, and the clerk, Joyce Wenger, made their accusations at a Capitol press conference called by the Government Accountability Project, a Washington-based anti-nuclear group. Parks and Wenger plan to file affidavits specifying their allegations with the U.S. Department of Labor.

Parks, who announced he will testify Tuesday before the U.S. House Interior Committee, said he remained suspended with pay and banned from the cleanup site even though he was told last month that he would be informed of his job status by today.

He was an engineer with the chief TMI contractor, Bechtel Corp., for 10 months before he was suspended indefinitely with pay on March 24, the day after he went public with concerns about cleanup safety precautions.

He charged there had been a lack of proper testing of a Bechtel-owned crane that will be used to lift the Unit 2 reactor head later this year so damaged fuel can be removed.

Parks said today that his concerns about the crane represent "only an example of a fundamental breakdown in controls on modifications to equipment and components in the TMI cleanup."

He called the plant's auxiliary building "an accident waiting to happen." The lower level of the building has not been decontaminated, and a malfunction of the building's venting system could lead to an uncontrolled release of radiation into the environment.

Also, he said, from the March 28, 1979, accident at the plant until December 1980, there were 1,700 modifications at the plant, but fewer than a dozen "had the required test-data or quality-assurance

records."

He said there is little chance of a major release of radiation but said that the 1979 accident had "changed his thoughts" about probability.

Wenger said she worked at TMI eight years, the last three as an employee of plant owner General Public Utilities-Nuclear Corp. She was an administrative clerk for site-operations manager Lawrence King before her March 23 dismissal. King was fired Feb. 24.

GPU Nuclear "went to retaliate against me" because "I witnessed the reprisals and intimidation of Mr. King for raising serious safety concerns," and "I openly expressed to site management my belief to site management my belief that Mr. King had been 'set up' for doing his job as he was hired to do," Wenger said.

"I am also going public today to protest having been used as a pawn in GPU-Nuclear management's efforts to discredit Mr. King," she said. "Management was aware that I believe Mr. King's motivation for raising safety concerns was to protect public safety."

Wenger said she was abused and harassed by plant management during a series of interrogations that preceded her dismissal.

HARRISBURG, PA., TUESDAY, MAY 17, 1983

# Labor Dept. orders TMI engineer reinstated

By MICK ROOD  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The U.S. Labor Department has ordered in a preliminary finding that Bechtel North American Power Corp. reinstate engineer Richard D. Parks to his Three Mile Island cleanup duties and refrain from preventing him from "whistleblowing" about safety.

A Bechtel spokesman said Tuesday the large construction and engineering firm would appeal the initial order. The company will ask for a formal hearing before an administrative law judge "where we can present witnesses and evidence," the spokesman said.

Because of the appeal, the Bechtel spokesman said Parks would remain on indefinite leave with pay — his status since March 24, a day after he alleged Bechtel and TMI Unit 2 owner General Public Utilities were short-cutting federal safety rules.

Parks had charged at a news conference that GPU and its chief cleanup contractor, Bechtel, violated quality assurance, testing and engineering control rules. Many of Parks' allegations, and those of two other engineers at the island, concerned the integrity of a polar crane which GPU hopes will be used later this summer to lift the Unit 2 reactor vessel head.

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission is investigating the safety charges, while the Labor Department has been checking on claims by Parks, former GPU site operations chief Larry King and clerk Joyce Wenger that they were harassed and intimidated by cleanup superiors.

The preliminary finding was signed Thursday by

Michael J. Corcoran, area director of the department's Wage and Hour Division in Wilkes-Barre, Pa., and released yesterday by Parks and his attorney, Thomas Devine.

Devine, a lawyer with the Government Accountability Project in Washington, said Parks had "won round one, but we'd just as soon not fight rounds two, three . . . or 15. Rick (Parks) would like to get back to work."

Parks is still attempting to negotiate a settlement with Bechtel, Devine said.

Federal law protects federal workers or federally contracted workers from retribution if they raise questions about violations of federal law or regulations. Besides reinstatement, the preliminary finding, which Bechtel will now appeal, called for expunging adverse references from his personnel file and payment of legal fees.

Before it was known Bechtel would appeal, Parks released this statement:

"I feel vindicated by the Department of Labor. But there won't be any winners until the TMI cleanup is completed safely. I have offended anyone unfairly or made mistakes, and I will be the first to apologize. I just want to get back to work and help finish the cleanup properly. With all the previous violations, we have a lot of work to do."

Bechtel officials have said they placed Parks on leave with pay March 24 after he publicized his allegations because the engineer had implicated many of his fellow workers in unsafe procedures. Under such conditions, the company said it would be difficult to continue normal working relationships.



# Protestors FROM 1

pending a preliminary hearing May 26. Bail of \$2,500 will be forfeited only if the defendants return to TMI before the hearing date or if they fail to appear at the hearing, said John Robinson, a Harrisburg attorney who will represent them.

Those arrested were identified by state police as Eric Joseph Epstein of Lancaster, Mary Osborn of Swatara, Judith Ann Richard of York, Lauren Taylor of Middletown, and Eugene Paul Stilp, Michael Eugene Horgan, Randy Keith King, Laura Denise Brown, Stephen B. Brooks, Suzanne Patton, Richard Drew Kushner and Maura Cowan, all of Harrisburg.

The protest started as it ended: peacefully. Under the expectant eyes of a large contingent of reporters and TV camera crews, the demonstrators made their stand at the gate and waited.

At 10:35, less than two minutes after GPU Nuclear spokesman Gordon Tomb said TMI security officials

had "taken appropriate legal steps to maintain access" to the island, a state police cruiser drove up to within an inch of the center banner.

"You guys take this stuff out of here, now," commanded Trooper George Burgett. "I'm talking to all of you. You can't block the driveway," he said.

The protestors refused to budge. Burgett radioed for assistance, and when two plainclothes troopers arrived, the arrests began.

As more protestors were arrested and others stepped in to take their places, Patton grew increasingly ner-

vous. His wife, Suzanne, was among the final three protestors to man a banner. She was arrested shortly after.

Tomb said cleanup and restart operations on the island, site of the worst commercial nuclear accident in history in March 1979, were not affected.

"It occupied some people for awhile, but there were no serious problems," Tomb said. "We don't like to see this type of thing at all, but if it has to happen we like it to be painless."

With a U.S. Supreme Court decision earlier this year that psychological stress to residents in the area of TMI should not be a determining factor for restart, GPU Nuclear and Metropolitan Edison Co. officials have stated their intentions to work for a summer restart of unit 1.

In response, Patton said "Our actions are undertaken not out of disregard for the laws of Pennsylvania, but out of regard for the law that says in this democracy the people are sovereign... that the mandate of May 18 is the highest law in existence concerning TMI."

The vote in all three counties was non-binding. Seventy-one percent of voters in Dauphin County voted against restart, 64 percent voted against it in Cumberland County and 57 percent voted against it in Lebanon County.

York County commissioners decided against placing the referendum question on the county ballot.

Patton, who said he thought the purpose of the protest was achieved, said the demonstration was not organized by any particular anti-nuclear group.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

NON-PROFIT ORG.  
U.S. POSTAGE

## IFFY fr 2

—That pump and valve equipment needed to cool down the reactor in an accident is inadequate.

—That there has been insufficient experimental testing of Unit 1 equipment.

—And that the NRC staff did not competently justify the adequacy of Unit 1 equipment.

If the board agrees with UCS, the NRC would have to decide whether to order more testing of the Unit 1 reactor's cooling equipment, a development which could significantly delay a possible summer restart decision.

The oldest allegation that could impede the restart involves 1979 claims by a former TMI operator that the utility falsified leak-rate measurements in compliance reports to the NRC. According to an NRC staff report and testimony given during the recent GPU lawsuit trial against TMI plant designer Babcock & Wilcox, a Middle District federal grand jury is again hearing evidence on the false-report allegations.

If a grand jury investigation results in indictments against the company, the NRC could decide to check on its own whether the evidence suggests GPU management is inadequate to handle the restart. Victor Stello, NRC deputy executive director for regional operations, told the commission two weeks ago that the staff has

forwarded evidence to the grand jury. Stello said the NRC's own probe was suspended in 1979 when a previous grand jury began hearing evidence on the leak-rate charges.

Groups legally recognized to intervene in the restart also have been asked to comment on Stello's staff report that no new evidence came up in the GPU-B&W trial that should bear on the restart decision.

One of those groups, Three Mile Island Alert, has requested at least two more months to review the NRC staff report. It took four NRC officials already knowledgeable about the TMI accident technicalities 10 weeks of overtime reading to review the trial transcript.

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Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

News Watch on the  
Harrisburg Area

June '83

**VOL. 4 NO. 7**

**JUNE 1983**

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## Study: Stress still prevalent

By SUSAN COLLINS  
Daily Record staff writer

A study of more than 100 area residents shows they "suffer a tremendous amount of stress" as a result of the accident at Three Mile Island four years ago, a York psychologist told members of the Pennsylvania Psychological Association Thursday.

Addressing the association's annual meeting in Lancaster, Robert Gordon presented the results of six months of interviews with people who have filed a personal injury lawsuit against TMI's owner.

The suit, which has not gone to trial yet, focuses primarily on the psychological stress the residents say they have suffered, Gordon said.

Gordon, a psychologist in independent practice as well as a consultant at the York Guidance Center, was hired by the residents' attorney in late 1981 to examine them.

Between January and June last year, he interviewed 111 adults and 51 children and has been analyzing their responses since then.

Gordon said Thursday that many of the residents revealed "classic symptoms" of stress, such as insomnia, irritability and loss of appetite, as well as some unusual fears.

Since the accident, he said, some families bought devices to monitor radiation for their homes. Others keep a suitcase packed so they can flee quickly if forced to evacuate.

Most said they are afraid they or their descendants will suffer from cancer or other serious illnesses as a result of the accident.

"Fear was the most common thing I found," Gordon said in an interview after the presentation. "There is a constant dread there is going to be another accident again."

Some people interviewed also mentioned physical symptoms, such as skin and stomach problems, that could be related to their psychological conditions, he added.

"To the people I interviewed, (the accident) is a very serious problem that goes beyond the litigation aspects," he said. "It might sound hard to see it, but some people are literally staying up at night thinking of radiation."

Although the children did not show the same

symptoms of stress, Gordon said many learned from their parents to be afraid of the plant. Some talked of the "poisons" it might release while others said they were afraid of losing their parents or their homes if another accident occurred.

In addition to the interviews, Gordon administered personality profile tests that revealed profiles similar to those of people who have suffered a traumatic event, such as an accident or an earthquake, he said.

Because he has not testified in the litigation yet, Gordon said he could not release information about specific individuals. But he did discuss them in relation to their proximity to TMI.

Those living within 10 miles of the plant were most likely to deal with the stress by trying to block out any memory of the accident, he said, while those living between 10 and 15 miles away turned to their friends and families for support.

"That could be because for the people living very close, the fear is so great they have to block it out," Gordon said.

The subjects in the study were not chosen at random, he added, so the results do not reflect a cross-section of the area. Nearly all the people he interviewed already believed they were suffering from stress.

But he stressed that he began the study without any assumptions on his own part. He also said he thinks the subjects' accounts of their reactions "have a high degree of credibility" because "there was so much consistency in their observations."

John Fidler, a spokesman for TMI's owner, General Public Utilities Corp., said he would not comment on Gordon's findings while the case is in litigation.

A psychologist from Michigan who attended the conference said it was important to remember Gordon's study focused on a select group of people, and did not reflect everyone in the area. Joseph Sorokac said he was visiting his mother in Middletown and he found "life seems relatively normal."

But Sorokac also praised the report as thorough and said he hoped it would be published.

Earlier this year, the U.S. Supreme Court ruled that psychological stress could not be used as a factor in the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's decision to allow the restart of TMI's undamaged unit 1 reactor.

The reactor has been closed since the 1979 accident at the adjacent unit 2.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, June 3, 1983.

## Thornburgh leery of Unit 1 restart

By MICK ROOD  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has no specific plans to schedule a vote soon on the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1, agency officials confirmed Thursday.

"There are no signs of an imminent restart vote," said commission spokesman Frank Ingram, who was backed up by NRC officials speaking off the record.

They commented after Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh said "adequate safety assurances have not been fully provided" to war-

rant a vote on restarting the Londonderry Twp., Pa., nuclear plant. Thornburgh's comments came in a letter mailed Thursday to NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino.

Thornburgh said his reservations were chiefly that 1) operators implicated in several license-examination cheating episodes may be allowed to help renew Unit 1 operations; 2) two senior engineers' unresolved claims that the TMI Unit 2 accident cleanup had been conducted unsafely; and 3) the NRC staff's retreat last week from previous opinions favoring restart to a position of "no opinion."

It would be "disturbing indeed," the governor said, if the NRC acted before these safety issues were resolved.

A press spokesman said the governor wrote to Palladino because of the recent accumulation of unresolved safety issues. Thornburgh also questioned assertions from TMI owner General Public Utilities Corp. that Unit 1 was ready to operate, the spokesman said.

In the latest such statement, GPU President Herman Dieckamp

Cont. Pg. 4 - Leery



# TMI reports grow

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigator has gone on the record saying: "I can tell you for a fact that the records were falsified."

The records referred to Three Mile Island nuclear power plant cooling system reports prior to the March, 1979 accident that severely damaged a reactor.

The investigation report ties in with allegations that plant management falsified some calculations about a leaking valve to avoid shutting down the ailing reactor for repairs.

The falsification issue coincides with an NRC report that said the staff "can draw no conclusion at this time regarding management integrity" at Three Mile Island.

The inability to give a vote of confidence to management integrity is a key issue in whether to allow a restart of the so-called undamaged reactor at the Middletown plant.

However, the falsification report is not being marked urgent by NRC staffers — not when they turn around and say it shouldn't be considered alone as a reason not to allow a restart.

Meanwhile, a federal grand jury is

studying falsification charges originally made by Harold Hartman, a facility reactor operator.

Yet, NRC staffers say changes were made since the accident to supposedly guarantee practices alleged by Hartman don't recur.

We question how safeguards could have remedied the problem already — as NRC staffers say — if it took four years for them to say falsification occurred.

Integrity is a central issue since still more charges have recently been made alleging shoddy cleanup procedures. Will it take the NRC another four years to report on these?

There is no clean bill of health being stamped on the case of TMI to inspire confidence in the plant's operators.

As we said in the beginning — and through the four long years in which information and reports and charges have filtered out ever so slowly — a cleanup and a shutdown is the only course of action that makes sense. That is, if health and safety come first on the list of NRC priorities.

What you can't support with confidence, you can't support at all.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, June 21, 1983

## No restart

EDITOR:

THE FINAL decision concerning the restart of Three Mile Island will tell us whether or not we are living in a democracy.

Democracy is defined as government by the people — the common people of a community as distinguished from any privileged class.

On the other hand, an oligarchy is a form of government in which the power is vested in a few or in a dominant class or clique.

In a recent referendum, the voters living in the three county area surrounding Three-Mile Island voted overwhelmingly (2 to 1) against the restart of TMI.

We will soon know whether our concept of democratic government is a myth or a reality.

—A. L. Chapman, M.D.,  
Wormleysburg

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TMI Office Staff

### AN URGENT CALL

## Help stop the nuclear industry's \$42 million sales job.



This summer, the nuclear industry is staking its future—and ours—on a last-ditch, all-out nationwide propaganda campaign to sell us all on a nuclear future.

They have millions of dollars, clever public relations experts, slick radio and TV commercials, and dozens of utility companies on their side.

We have only one weapon: the voluntary efforts of concerned citizens like you.

Your help is urgently needed to (1) monitor and report pro-nuclear advertising on radio and TV stations, (2) help get our side of the story across, and (3) organize the safe energy response in your community.

The nuclear industry is attempting to force consumers to foot the bill for their propaganda. If we fight back now, we can make sure our side gets a fair hearing.

Get involved. Write or call the Safe Energy Communication Council right now. There's really no time to lose.



### Don't buy the nuclear lie!

Sign me up. I want to help fight the nuclear industry's \$42 million propaganda blitz right in my own hometown.

Tell me what I can do, fast.  
I don't have \$42 million, but I'd like to help make sure our side gets heard. I enclose my tax-deductible contribution.

\$15      \$25      \$50  
\$100      Other

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Mail to: Safe Energy Communication Council, 1609 Connecticut Ave., NW, Suite 4B, Washington, D.C. 20009  
Phone: (202) 483-8491



York Daily Record • Saturday, June 4, 1983

### Against restart of TMI

Twelve young people were brave enough to block the entrance to Three Mile Island. Now they must stand trial in Dauphin County Court. Their protest against the reopening of TMI should be backed up by 12,000 more protestors.

We've been doing without TMI since March, 1979, and I don't want TMI to start at all.

Nuclear power stations all over the United States are becoming rusty. Their parts cannot be replaced fast enough. They are killing thousands of our people if we only knew it. The venting into the atmosphere must surely be deadly.

Let's back up these 12 brave people and get rid of TMI forever. And stop all nuclear power stations in the U.S.

Roy Rinehart  
York



# After TMI

## Memories of strange metallic taste nag

By SUSAN COLLINS  
Daily Record staff writer

**T**heodore Hake does not remember when he first noticed the metallic taste in his mouth. A day, maybe two days after the accident at Three Mile Island four years ago. Nor does he know exactly how long it lasted.

But the flavor of it is still distinct in the York man's mind: "It was like having a penny in your mouth," he said recently.

His words echo the observations of a number of TMI-area residents who were interviewed over the last year by Mitsuru and Aileen M. Smith Katagiri, a couple who spent eight months here compiling an "oral history" of people's experiences during the accident.

Although no one seems to know for certain what could possibly cause it or whether it could be linked to radiation, reports of the odd taste have been made independently by many people in the TMI area, Katagiri said.

Some say it tasted as if they had an abscessed tooth, a freshly-filled cavity or a piece of copper in their mouths. Nearly all describe it with the same adjective: metallic.

That same taste has also been reported by servicemen who witnessed the country's early atomic explosions, according to a spokesperson for the National Association of Atomic Veterans.

Richard Bailey, York Haven RD 2, said the taste lasted with him for about two weeks after the accident occurred at TMI in 1979. Geraldine and Thomas Mantis, of York Haven RD 1, noticed the taste when they crossed the Pennsylvania line on their way home from Washington three or four days later.

A Daily Record reporter, Linda Weiner Seligson, who was in Goldsboro on the day of the accident said the taste was so strong she stopped for a drink to wash it away. When she mentioned it to people she met there, they told her they noticed the same thing every time the sirens sounded at TMI. The Goldsboro residents were supporters of TMI, she added, and several asked her to write favorable stories about the plant.

Despite the similar descriptions, noticing the taste seems to be a hit or miss affair.

Neither Theresa Brannon, Eiters RD 3, nor Lina Zeigler, York Haven RD 1, recall a strange taste, although Mrs. Zeigler said her husband does.

Kay Pickering, a member of the anti-nuclear group, TMI-Alert, said she did not notice the taste either and guessed that it may be a matter of a certain taste sensitivity or proximity to the reactor.

While suspicions may lurk about a possible connection between the taste and radiation exposure, John Fidler, a spokesman for the General Public Utilities Corp., said the official word on radiation is that it can not be tasted.

Furthermore, he said that very little radiation was released the day of the accident. Quoting a report by the government commission assigned to investigate the accident, he said the average dose received by people within a five-mile radius of the plant was about 10 percent of the background radiation they would receive during a normal year.

Dr. Donald Velkley, a radiation physicist at Hershey Medical Center, said he has never experienced such a taste although he works with radiation regularly.

"Radiation shouldn't affect taste in any way," he said. Although he added that metallic materials could be radioactive, he said he thinks "it's very likely that the metallic taste could be related to the accident."

A different conclusion was reached by Dr. Carl Johnson, a Denver physician who researches and does consulting on the effects of radiation on cancer. He has heard little about reports of a metallic taste, but he said he thinks it is feasible that is related to radiation.

Radioiodine, a normal byproduct of nuclear fission, can dissolve in water — and mucus — and could be tasted, he said.

"I would not be inclined to discount it," Johnson added. "Especially if (the reports) came from a number of people independently."

He said the people who experienced the taste should have had their thyroids checked immediately for radioiodine.

But the people who remember it no longer have that option open and the uncertainty worries some. Said Bailey, a farmer who stayed behind when others evacuated after the accident, "Surely you're concerned when you're involved in a mess like that."

\*Error: Dr. Velkley said, "it's very unlikely that the metallic taste could be related to the accident."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, June 24, 1983

## Gilinsky seeks ouster of top GPU officials

By MICK ROOD  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Shedding his role as a judge in the Three Mile Island Unit 1 restart case, Nuclear Regulatory Commission member Victor Gilinsky Thursday said three top General Public Utilities officials should go before the reactor renews operation.

The maverick commissioner, whose remarks were immediately objected to by three other NRC members and the utility, said replacements should be found for GPU board Chairman William Kuhns, President Herman Dieckamp and Robert Arnold, who heads the subsidiary set up to run the TMI power station after the Unit 2 accident — GPU Nuclear Corp.

Gilinsky cited the company's alleged failure to accurately report accident conditions in 1979, its handling of the operating examination cheating scandal and what he termed an "extraordinarily slow" implementation of safety changes at Unit 1.

Unaware of Gilinsky's salvo, Kuhns and Dieckamp were briefing Pennsylvania congressmen on TMI "progress" at a luncheon here called by Rep. George W. Gekas, R-Harrisburg.

At that affair, a spokesman for the Edison Electric Institute conceded for the first time publicly that the utility industry has fallen far short of its \$150 million goal for voluntary pledges toward the cleanup of TMI Unit 2.

John J. Kearney of EEI said 32

utility systems had pledged \$58 million since January and 6 companies that would have given \$4.6 million under the voluntary formula rejected the idea outright. EEI realizes "the response was inadequate," Kearney said, and announced the trade group would be re-soliciting members starting today.

EEI started the voluntary plan after federal legislation sponsored by Sens. John Heinz, R-Pa., and Bill Bradley, D-N.J., to force mandatory cleanup contributions, fell prey to "anti-bailout" sentiment in the Senate. Kearney said it would help solicitation if the NRC restarted Unit 1 and if EEI could obtain one of the conditions to the pledges —

Cont. Pg. 6 - Ouster



# TMI-1 repair policy questioned in House

By MICK RQOD

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission violated the intent of Congress last year when it allowed use of a potentially unreliable repair technique on corroded steam generator tubes at the Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor, a House subcommittee chairman said Wednesday.

New York Rep. Richard L. Ottinger's opinion is important to the NRC and the Unit 1 restart because his Energy Conservation and Power Subcommittee will soon mark up legislation limiting NRC procedures and spending for the next two years.

At issue was the NRC staff's decision in October to allow TMI operator GPU Nuclear Corp. to use the so-called explosion expansion repair technique on the tubes without requiring GPU to seek an amendment to its operating license.

Congress had passed a law last year allowing utilities to perform tasks without license amendment

hearings, provided no "significant hazard" to the public health and safety was involved. The idea was to deregulate the NRC and rid the agency of routine matters.

Ottinger, D-Mamaroneck, said use of the repair technique in question "clearly was not a routine matter." Consideration of the repair technique, he said, "was clearly a very important hazardous situation." The NRC had approved the procedure, which is now complete and awaiting startup testing, in "complete disregard of our (congressional) intent," Ottinger said.

He pointed out that several NRC staff members had described in memoranda last year how the explosion expansion method might not hold if Unit 1 is restarted and could lead to a not previously postulated by technical experts.

Three Mile Island Alert Inc. has petitioned the NRC to order full hearings into staff interpretation of the law and the repair technique itself before Unit 1 restart is considered. So, the question could end

up with the commission for a final decision.

At a hearing Wednesday, commissioners appeared uneasy about the staff decision despite reactor regulation chief Harold Denton's assurance that the "letter of the law" had been followed. Denton noted that the explosion expansion technique had been used "in millions of applications, although not in this particular one."

Commissioner James Asselstine said he "wondered about the wisdom" of allowing the repair technique to be used when it appeared "not permitted under the license." When GPU requests a license amendment after the fact as it eventually will have to, Asselstine said it will be "presented as a fait accompli . . . it would be better to handle it the other way around."

Commissioner John Ahearne called the question "a close call." Ahearne added, however, that "at the NRC, there's a big difference between significant hazard and significant interest."

Leery - From Pg. 1

said in another letter to Palladino on Wednesday that four years of inspections and investigations "have provided the commission with the requisite assurances that TMI-1 can and will be operated safely."

But sources here and in Harrisburg said the governor made his appeal to Palladino because of rumors the NRC was planning to schedule a vote before June 30, when Commissioner John Ahearne's term expires. NRC officials close to the restart issue told The Evening News the governor probably doesn't have to worry about a vote until late in the summer.

There had been plans to vote before June 30 on at least some of the restart issues, such as new safety hardware and emergency planning, one knowledgeable official said. The idea was to let Ahearne vote on issues with which he was familiar before he left. Only Ahearne and Victor Gilinsky on the five-member commission have served throughout the TMI accident aftermath.

But the official said those plans apparently have been abandoned, particularly since the NRC staff "went limp" May 24, giving the commission its "no opinion" view of restart.

Ahearne himself said at a meeting last month that he doubted he would be around when the restart issue was finally resolved.

NRC press spokesman Ingram said no TMI-related issues are on the agenda for the next two weeks. Palladino won't have any comment on his mail this week because he is in Paris until Monday attending a nuclear power conference, Ingram said.

Here is the status of the restart proceedings, which were begun after the March 1979 accident at TMI Unit 2, and after the NRC had suspended GPU's operating license for Unit 1:

— An Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has completed extensive findings on hardware, training, emergency planning and management competence issues, concluding that GPU should be allowed to restart Unit 1.

— An appeals board has heard appeals from restart proceeding intervenors including Three Mile Island Alert, Union of Concerned Scientists and the commonwealth of Pennsylvania. The board has affirmed the original licensing board conclusions on the plant design and emergency planning issues only.

— Appeals based on allegations involving management competence and the license-examination cheat-

ing remain unresolved. Also, charges of an unsafe cleanup, made by engineers Lawrence King and Richard Parks, and the long-standing federal grand jury investigation into TMI record falsification in 1978 could end up before the board.

Under rules the NRC set up for itself, the commission could schedule a restart vote without waiting until the appeals board finishes its work. But the commission may be concluding that its staff was correct in saying May 24 that a restart opinion should be withheld at least until investigations are completed into various remaining allegations.

In his letter to Palladino, Thornburgh said it would be "particularly inappropriate" if the NRC acted on restart before the appeals board acted on the state's contention that those operators who cheated on license exams should not be allowed roles in Unit 1 operation.

"On behalf of all who live within the shadow of TMI, all who believe that public health and safety must be the first concern of those who see a future for commercial nuclear power, and on behalf of the integrity of the commission and the regulatory process it represents, I once again urge you and your colleagues to postpone any decision on restart until these issues have been satisfactorily addressed and resolved," Thornburgh wrote.

## Funky Winkerbean





# A residents' view of TMI

*Japanese couple make oral history of mishap*

By SUSAN COLLINS

Daily Record staff writer

Far from the political tangles surrounding Three Mile Island, a husband and wife team in Japan is compiling an oral history of the nuclear power accident that shook the lives of area residents four years ago.

Mitsuru Katagiri and his wife, Aileen M. Smith, are transcribing hundreds of hours of taped interviews, testimony from area residents who spoke with them during the couple's 10-month stay in Middletown.

They plan to report their findings some time early next year.

Katagiri, an assistant professor of psychology at Kyoto Seika University, came to the area while on sabbatical last summer with his wife, a freelance writer on environmental issues.

Together they interviewed more than 230 people on both sides of the Susquehanna River about the TMI accident, which is considered the worst mishap in the history of nuclear power.

Their intent was to document the people's "collective experience," rather than gather hard scientific data. Their approach was informal, rather than statistical. The houses and farms of the subjects they interviewed served as their laboratory.

"We weren't going around asking 'what radiation level do you think you were exposed to?'" Ms. Smith said. "Our approach was to go to people's homes and ask them at length about their experiences and observations during the accident and after."

"In many ways the people in the area have not been sought after as a source of facts," she added. "But we could learn a great deal by listening to them."

Katagiri admitted some subjects' accounts may not be infallible: Some might exaggerate their accounts of the accident or fabricate stories while others might minimize their experiences, he said. But he did not think that would threaten the accuracy of the report.

"The important thing is that so many people independently perceived this and this and this," he said. When the same observations are made by many different residents, they form the people's "collective experience," he said.

Instead of using a statistical method to choose their subjects, they found them through word of mouth.

"We would meet one person and get introduced to another," Ms. Smith said. "Like they say, if you meet a friend's friend's friend, you meet the area."

The Katagiris said they would not comment on the interviews they conducted because they are afraid of alarming people with stories taken out of context. Instead, they will release their findings in the study that is scheduled to be finished some time early next year.

Yet before they left for Japan in March, they gave an informal report to Three Mile Island Alert, an anti-nuclear group in Harrisburg.

An account of that meeting cites residents complaining of problems such as shortness of breath, nausea, and a metallic taste during the accident as well as later increases in cancer and birth complications in animals.

The couple's interest in the TMI story was triggered shortly after the accident occurred.

The Japanese media covered the event heavily because nuclear power has long been an issue there. The densely populated country, which is about the size of Montana, has more than 20 nuclear power plants.

Katagiri came to this area in the summer of 1979 and, while talking with several residents, heard observations about the atmosphere and their health that had never made the news back home.

"I thought I knew everything about the accident," he said. "I thought I was very well informed through the media and the scientists and the anti-nuclear activists. But being in the area, I realized that was not true."

Surprised that no one here was documenting the area residents' experiences, he decided he had to review them for himself.

Cont. Pg. 6 - View

## Leak Rates Falsified, He Says NRC Aide Backs Charge

By MICK ROOD  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A second Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff member has unequivocally supported allegations that valve leak rates were falsified at Three Mile Island Unit 2 late in 1978 and says the leaks contributed to the nuclear accident several months later.

Harold L. Ornstein, a lead engineer in the NRC Office for Analysis and Evaluation of Operational Data, said in a June 6 memorandum released this week that the leak rate allegations "were correct."

He and other NRC officials were asked to comment by Commissioner Victor Gilinsky about how much they knew about the May 24 assertions of Timothy Martin, a King of Prussia regional office engineer, Martin had startled an NRC meeting that day by saying he "knew for a fact" the leak rate data prepared by Unit 2 operators for the NRC had been falsified.

A central Pennsylvania federal grand jury and the NRC staff have renewed investigations of the charges since Unit 2 operator Harold Hartman "went public" in 1980. The Hartman allegation probes are among a cluster of management integrity issues the NRC is weighing before it decides on letting General Public Utilities restart TMI Unit 1.

Aside from Ornstein and Martin, however, other NRC officials have responded to Gilinsky that they either knew nothing or had little knowledge of strong staff convictions regarding the leak rate allegations. NRC General Counsel Herzel H.E. Plaine, in response to an inquiry from TMI owner General Public Utilities, characterized Martin's comments this week as "personal views." Plaine cautioned that the NRC staff had not reached a conclusion.

NRC reactor regulation chief Harold Denton said no one in his division knew that Hartman "investigators had formed a final opinion." He also reported that he had interviewed Martin several months ago about the allegations. Denton remembered some of the allegations seemed to be justified, but that, "I do not recall Tim saying records had been falsified."

Ornstein had taken a deposition from Hartman in October 1979 and reported the ex-Unit 2 employee's accusations to senior NRC officials assigned to the Rogovin Special Inquiry Group, one of the major TMI accident investigations. The material, which he later forwarded to two other major NRC offices after Hartman made his charges public, was never used in the Rogovin report to the NRC.

No senior NRC officials have ever asked him since about the Hartman allegations until Martin spoke up, Ornstein said.

"My deposition of Hartman and the exhibits associated with it provided a clear picture of what transpired," Ornstein said in his memo. "I believe that Hartman's allegations, which were given under oath, were correct."

Separately from Ornstein, Martin had nearly completed an NRC investigation of the Hartman matter when the Justice Department intervened in April 1980. By then, he and other NRC officials believed there was sufficient evidence to turn it over to Justice for criminal investigation, so they did.

Nothing was ever written down, Martin said, and he was told not to discuss it.

Asked about his own silence, Ornstein said in an interview yesterday he had not been given a similar "be quiet" warning.

"All I've heard was there was something ongoing . . . I just assumed that what I put together was a pretty complete package. I figured sooner or later it would hit the fan. I have been ready, willing and able to contribute, I think we all should be," Ornstein said.

Ornstein said "my most important feedback to my superiors" was "my contention that the leaking relief valve was an important factor which affected the course of the [Unit 2] accident."

According to quotations Ornstein released from his deposition of Hartman 3½ years ago, Hartman said, "That leak rate had to be fudged every time we got, just about everytime we got it, we had to do something to make it right." Ornstein said Hartman "mentioned" that all shift foremen and shift supervisors the operated the plan in the three months before the accident knew of the leakage. Hartman was told, he said, to "get a good leak rate."

The slow leak — reactor licensees are required to report any leak in excess of one gallon per minute — caused high than normal temperatures in primary system pipes, Hartman has said.

"The fact that the plant operated for several months with the leaking valve which resulted in an elevated tailpipe temperature, hindered the operators' ability to recognize the open pilot operated relief valve during the accident," Ornstein said in his memo response to Gilinsky this week.

(The Rogovin Special Inquiry Group report quotes one Unit 2 operator as saying he ignored higher-than-normal temperatures partially because he had seen them before.)

Asked last month to describe the connection between the leak rate charges and the Unit 2 accident, Martin told reporters only that the tie was "theory."

General Public Utilities officials were angered by Martin's verification of the Hartman charges in view of the fact investigations so far have yielded nothing. They also differed with the NRC engineer's claim that a GPU consultant had reached the same conclusion about operators falsifying reports.



Internal Revenue Service approval of a deduction for utilities' contributions.

Several hours after the congressional luncheon, GPU officials had a chance to read the Gilinsky "tentative opinion" on Unit 1 restart and a spokesman issued a statement of "regret."

GPU said Gilinsky "seems to persist in holding to his opinions despite findings" reached by several major investigations, which, while critical of company officials, did not take such a severe approach to the management integrity.

The utility echoed the opinion of a "dismayed" NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino and colleagues James Asselstine and John Ahearne, who said Gilinsky had "chosen to disregard the collegial process." (Normally, the commissioners refrain from stating outright opinions when considering

licensing decisions until all five members are ready to reach a conclusion together.)

"I will take whatever time is necessary to reach an objective decision on whether or not to restart TMI-1 and, if it is restarted, under what conditions," Palladino said.

Gilinsky said he realized "the commission's role in licensing proceedings is in some ways similar to that of a court..." But he said the adjudicatory role is not well defined and that the distinction has been blurred by four years of deliberations.

"In my view, the only sensible way of resolving management problems which affect GPU is to replace the top management of the company — and by that, I mean the chairman of the board of GPU (Kuhns), the president of GPU (Dieckamp), and the president of GPU Nuclear (Arnold)," Gilinsky said in the statement.

After three more visits, he returned last summer to research the accident with his wife, who is half-Japanese and half-American. Although Katagiri said he has never undertaken a project of this size, Ms. Smith is co-author of a book, *Minamata*, on mercury pollution in Minamata, Japan.

They lived in Middletown for 10 months and still did not have enough time for all the people they wanted to interview, Ms. Smith said.

Although the report is far from ready — the two are transcribing all the recorded interviews themselves — it has already sparked a good deal of interest on this side of the ocean.

Many people, especially those interviewed, have asked for copies of the report and Ms. Smith said she wonders how they will afford the cost of making duplications.

It also has met with skepticism.

Jim Fidler, a spokesman for TMI's owner, General Public Utilities Corp., questions their word-of-mouth method for choosing their subjects.

If the Katagiris interview people who noticed strange occurrences during and after the accident, they should also make an effort to interview the people who did not notice any complications, Fidler said.

But Katagiri said he never intended to interview a scientifically random sample of the population. He simply wants to document the strange phenomena reported after the accident so it will be on record "for our future atomic generation," he said.

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Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

News Watch on the  
Harrisburg Area

**VOL. 4 NO. 8**

**SEPT 1983**

York Daily Record • Saturday, August 27, 1983

## NRC approves hot tests for TMI-1 reactor

KING OF PRUSSIA (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Friday it has approved a series of "hot functional" tests to check repairs made to parts of Three Mile Island's unit 1 nuclear reactor.

Meanwhile, GPU Nuclear Corp., which operates the plant, said tests will begin today and some steam may be visible from the plant's cooling towers.

During the 40-day-long series of tests, the plant will be brought to near operating temperatures and pressures, but without starting the nuclear reactor. Pumps on the plant's coolant system will be used to produce the necessary temperatures and pressures.

TMI spokesman John Fidler said temperatures and pressures will be raised and lowered to check seals made to steam tube generators,

which had to be repaired after they were damaged by sulfur contamination during the plant's long shutdown.

TMI-1 was closed for refueling when the adjacent unit 2 reactor was severely damaged in the March 1979 accident, worst ever at a U.S. commercial nuclear plant.

The NRC ordered unit 1 to remain closed while safety reviews were conducted.

GPU Nuclear has completed a \$45 million repair program to seal cracks in the tubes. Controlled explosives were set off within the tubes to reseal them against a metal sheet that holds the tubes in place.

It was the first time the process was used in a plant that had previously been in service.

The NRC staff said there were no significant hazards in permitting the

tests, which required an amendment to the plant's operating license.

The test results must be submitted to the NRC before it will consider allowing unit 1 to restart.

Opponents to the restart said they are not so concerned with the tests as they are with their request for a hearing on the repairs before any decision on restarting the plant.

"In our opinion there are serious faults with the repairs," said Joanne Doroshov of Three Mile Island Alert, a Harrisburg-based group.

She said a prehearing conference is set for Oct. 17 but the NRC has not decided whether to hold the full-scale hearing before or after a restart decision.

"The earlier we get the hearing, the better for all parties concerned," Ms. Doroshov said.

*The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, July 20, 1983*

## No TMI restart decision seen likely this year

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission decision on the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1 does not appear likely before next year if the review of management integrity issue moves into full-scale evidentiary hearings.

Staff Director William J. Dircks said a Sept. 1 deadline to finish the integrity review "does not appear realistic ... if the commission intends to have a staff position on management integrity prior to the commission decision."

The September deadline had

been based on separating the management competence of GPU Nuclear Corp. as an institution from the competence of individual GPU employees accused of license examination cheating, covering up cheating and various safety violations.

However, the commissioners June 28 said a judgment on the integrity of GPU, the institution, and of GPU employees could not be divorced.

GPU Nuclear had no comment on Dircks' memo, spokesman

Douglas H. Bedell said today. But, he said, "We continue to be hopeful that the NRC will continue to seek a reasonable, complete and prompt review of the facts necessary for a decision on restart of TMI Unit 1."

Meanwhile, NRC Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino has pledged to Gov. Dick Thornburgh the NRC will not act on the Unit 1 restart until the regulatory body has considered the results of several investigations, including allegations of unsafe practices at Unit 2.

"The commission does not plan

Cont p5

*The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, August 6, 1983*

### Engineer Rapped Safety Procedures

## TMI Critic Going Back to Work

By KATHLEEN KLEIN  
United Press International

An engineer suspended after he publicly criticized the cleanup at the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear power plant is going back to work at a plant 3,000 miles away, his attorney said yesterday.

The new job for Richard Parks, former senior start-up engineer at the TMI Unit 2 reactor in Londonderry

Twp. resolves a complaint he filed with the U.S. Labor Department. He alleged harassment by Bechtel North American Power Corp., chief contractor on the TMI cleanup.

Parks will work as senior start-up engineer at Bechtel's coal gasification project in southern California, the company said.

A Bechtel spokesman termed the settlement "mutually amicable."

Despite the agreement, Parks will continue to cooperate with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's investigation of allegations regarding safety at the TMI cleanup, said Thomas Devine, an attorney for Parks.

Parks is one of three engineers who publicly criticized Bechtel and plant operator GPU Nuclear Corp. for allegedly ignoring safety procedures

Cont F5



# Unit 2 control unit to be removed

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

Technicians at Three Mile Island plan to remove an 800-pound control-rod-drive mechanism from the center of the Unit 2 reactor this week as preparations continue for the retrieval of the first samples of the damaged core.

During normal operation, the control-rod-drive mechanism — 4½ inches in diameter and 17 feet long — propels the control rod into the core to stop the nuclear reaction. The 24-foot-long leadscrew, normally inside the control-rod-drive mechanism, was removed during an inspection last year.

A manual hoist constructed atop the missile shields — giant concrete blocks above the reactor — will be used to lift the mechanism, which will be pulled out in one piece, Gordon W. Tomb, GPU Nuclear Corp. spokesman, said. Six inches of the leadscrew guide tube at the base of the mechanism will be cut off for analysis.

Tomb said this stainless steel tube has been near the reactor's plenum and "we're interested in knowing what the nature of the area is . . . what material is deposited in that area."

The plenum is a 55-ton cylinder used to guide the control rods and press down on fuel assemblies to maintain a proper alignment.

After the drive mechanism is removed, a manipulator tube will be installed in the channel. The 4-inch diameter tube will be used to guide instruments into the reactor during upcoming experiments and surveys, Tomb said.

Preparatory work for the project aimed at obtaining the first samples of the core in September began July 25. The reactor coolant system has been depressurized from about 60 pounds per square inch to atmospheric pressure — about 15 pounds per square inch.

Coolant in the primary system has

been lowered to the top of the reactor head, Tomb said, adding that the system has been vented and injected with nitrogen, an inert gas, to prevent corrosion of metal parts.

An entry into the Unit 2 containment building was planned today. Others are scheduled for Tuesday, Thursday and Friday. If the control-rod-drive mechanism is removed and associated work completed this week, the stage will be set for radiation surveys and television inspection during the remainder of August.

This will be followed by mapping of the topography of the core with a sonar device. The sonar instrument will be composed of six pairs of detectors arranged to transmit two frequencies at different angles. The instrument will make a 360-degree survey of the five-foot void at the top of the core. The void was formed when the center of the 12-foot-deep core collapsed into a bed of rubble during the accident.

Cont p6

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Aug. 31, 1983

## Last of wastes shipped from TMI

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

Gary and Virginia McKillip loaded up their gear Tuesday in Londonderry Twp. and took to the open road. Their destination is the Pacific Northwest. Their ETA, early Friday.

The young couple was given a bon voyage party attended by 150 businessmen, municipal and federal officials, citizens, members of the news media and a U.S. assistant secretary of energy. There were trays of cookies and cold lemonade to take the edge off the 86-degree heat and glare bouncing off the Susquehanna River.

The McKillips, you see, are not your ordinary young couple on vacation. The vehicle they are driving is a green low-boy trailer pulled by a red sleeper cab. White, yellow and black signs on the trailer's sides are imprinted with a single word — "Radioactive."

Their only "luggage" is a steel and concrete cask fastened to the trailer bed by steel guy wires. Inside the cask is a two-foot by four-foot stainless steel cylinder containing the last radioactive waste from 600,000 gallons of contaminated water that spilled into the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building on March 28, 1979.

The shipment of the container of sandy zeolite resins was an "extremely significant event in the progress of the cleanup of TMI 2," said Robert C. Arnold, president of GPU Nuclear Corp.

But to Gary McKillip it was no haul of fame. Just another load. No, he had no qualms about the trip; he just didn't like being in the spotlight, posing for photographs and

answering questions. "There's just too much publicity," he said, standing beside his wife at the TMI North Gate.

Yes, Virginia McKillip said, "I'm the relief driver."

The trip is non-stop with no sightseeing. "It will take about 60 to 70 hours to get to Washington," McKillip said. Their destination is the U.S. Department of Energy Laboratory in Richland, Wash.

"We have to call Idaho every four hours to check in," his wife added, referring to DOE's Idaho National Engineering Laboratory near Idaho Falls. DOE is taking the waste for a research and development program.

The McKillips are independent drivers from Oklahoma City, Okla., whose truck is under contract to Tri-State Trucking. They have been driving for about four years.

DOE already has taken 12 other containers of zeolite resins from the submerged demineralizer system which was used to process the highly radioactive water. DOE's assistance in the cleanup, in the words of Dr. Shelby T. Brewer, assistant U.S. secretary of energy for nuclear energy, was "one of the rare cases where the federal government was part of the solution instead of part of problem."

"The next step is to take control of the (Unit 2) core," Brewer said. The core is scheduled for removal in 1985-86.

"When this accident occurred, many said it would be the end of nuclear power," Brewer said. "The response of this government, this company (GPU Nuclear) and this community to clean it up and get it solved has been enormous. This was not the end of nuclear power."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, Sept. 6, 1983

## Few TMI fuel assemblies found intact

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

Preliminary analysis of sonar mapping of the Three Mile Island Unit 2 core has found "very few intact fuel assemblies" remaining inside the damaged reactor, GPU Nuclear Corp. said today.

However, initial radiation readings indicate that conditions inside the reactor would be conducive to removing the head by the planned method, GPU said. That would involve lifting the 160-ton head "drv" without flooding the adjoining fuel-transfer canal.

"Flooding the canal, while still an available alternative, would require the canal to be decontaminated before the reactor is defueled, adding a time-consuming operation before the defueling. Preliminary radiation readings from the current studies indicate that the head can be safely removed dry."

GPU also said engineers plan to retrieve 1-cubic-inch samples of the core later this week.

"Preliminary results of the core topography, or mapping phase of

the studies indicate that the 5-foot-deep void shown during last summer's "quick-look" into the reactor extends virtually to the edge of the core and that there are very few intact fuel assemblies in the core," GPU said. The "quick-look" involved an inspection with a miniature, underwater camera and showed the 12-foot-deep core had collapsed during the accident into a bed of rubble, leaving the 5-foot void.



# Unit 1, plan OK, N-monitors say

GPU Nuclear Corp. has received a good report card from a nuclear industry group after a two-week evaluation of Three Mile Island's Unit 1, a GPU spokesman said today.

"TMI Unit 1 is in an acceptable material condition and is being effectively maintained by qualified personnel," concluded the report by the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations, an Atlanta organization that monitors nuclear power plants. INPO inspects each power plant in the nation every 1½ years.

A copy of the INPO report has been submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the spokesman said.

In an unrelated matter, the NRC Thursday found GPU Nuclear's emergency plans for Unit 1 "adequate" and gave the company partial approval to restart the reactor, which has been shut down since February 1979. However, the commissioners noted "this order does not authorize restart," because other issues remain unresolved.

During its May inspection, the INPO team reviewed station organization and administration, operations, maintenance, technical support, training and qualification, radiological protection and chemistry.

The team found four areas of achievement

and four needing improvement, the spokesman said. Beneficial practices and accomplishments included:

- A well-defined program focused on operational planning and preparation for start-up, including the start-up qualification program.

- A strong commitment to management self-assessment activities, including the operations quality assurance program, the radiological assessment program and the off-shift tour program.

- Station personnel well qualified with their morale, positive attitude and motivation reflecting commitment to improved performance.

- An overall improvement in station house-keeping.

The INPO inspectors' recommendations for improvement are:

- Strengthening the overall station chemistry program, including coordination between on-site and off-site activities.

- A need for more first-line supervisory involvement in unlicensed operator and chemistry activities.

- Upgrading the warehouse program to ensure adequate inventory and quality of spare parts.

- Increased emphasis on the industrial safety program to reduce the number of lost-time

York Daily Record • Thursday, September 1, 1983

## Met-Ed denied new funds for TMI-2 cleanup

HARRISBURG (AP) — Metropolitan Edison Co., one of two utilities that own Three Mile Island, cannot use more money from customers to pay for the cleanup of unit 2 until unit 1 is restarted, an administrative law judge has ruled.

The recommendation by Public Utility Commission Judge Joseph Matuschak was part of a decision trimming rate hike requests by Pennsylvania Electric Co. of Johnstown and Met-Ed of Reading.

Met-Ed owns 50 percent of the TMI reactors and Penelec owns 25 percent.

The utilities had asked that an additional \$16 million a year in money from customers be shifted to pay for the cleanup of unit 2, which was damaged in the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident in March 1979.

Under a settlement of a rate case last year, ratepayers are already contributing \$22 million a year toward the cleanup. The total cost of the cleanup is estimated at \$1 billion.

"A signal must be given by this commission to state and federal authorities and to all other parties concerned with TMI-2 cleanup that any increase in the level of ratepayers' contribution ... is contingent upon TMI-1 restart," Matuschak wrote.

Unit 1 has been shut down since the 1979 accident.

The change proposed by the utilities, while not affecting current customer rates, would have a "significant" impact on future rates, the judge said.

Matuschak also recommended the two utilities not get all of their proposed hikes for current rates.

Met-Ed had asked for a \$52 million increase, but the judge called for a \$37 million hike. He recommended allowing only \$57 million of Penelec's \$69 million requested increase.

No figures were available on the impact of Matuschak's decision on the average customer.

Under Penelec's request, a typical residential customer's monthly bills would go from \$33.70 to \$39.05. Met-

The Evening News,  
Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, Sept. 9, 1983

## Tube-repair testing on TMI Unit 1 moves into 2nd of 3 phases

GPU Nuclear Corp. has entered the second phase of a three-part program to test repairs to tubes in the two steam generators at Three Mile Island Unit 1, according to a GPU Nuclear spokesman.

The testing program involves heating up the steam generators to close to normal operating temperature and pressure, holding them in a steady state and cooling them down.

The first heatup-cooldown sequence was completed Wednesday evening, and the second heatup was finished early Thursday, the spokesman said. During the current second cycle, the steam generators will be held at steady-state temperature and pressure — 530 degrees temperature and 2,100 pounds per square inch pressure — for about 11 days.

The generators are heated and the temperature maintained by heat produced from the operation of the Unit 1 reactor coolant pumps. The reactor is still shut down.

TMI officials said they were pleased with the steam generator's performance during the first phase of the testing program in which the two generators were held at steady-state temperature and pressure for seven days.

The spokesman said the leak rate into the generators was considerably less than the allowable leak rate of one gallon per minute under federal regulations.

The tests are being conducted to check repairs to the upper ends of 31,000 heat-exchange tubes in the steam generators which had to be resealed after cracks were discovered in late 1981.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, Sept. 1, 1983

## TMI Unit 1 restart case is reopened

From Our Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A Nuclear Regulatory Commission federal law panel today decided to reopen the Three Mile Island Unit 1 restart proceedings based on allegations that water-leak reports from Unit 2 reactor had been falsified in 1978-79.

It is the first time an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board has responded to an appeal in the Unit 1 case. The falsification of leak-rate reports to the NRC have been alleged by former Unit 2 operator Harold Hartman. His charges are still being investigated by the NRC and a Central Pennsylvania grand jury.

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, which conducted lengthy hearings in the Unit 1 case, had ruled GPU Nuclear Corp. management was competent to operate the plant. However, the licensing board reached its conclusions subject to the outcome of investigations of the Hartman allegations.

The restart case will be returned to the licensing board for action.

Unit 1 was not involved in the accident which seriously damaged the Unit 2 reactor in 1979. However, Unit 1 has been off-line since February 1979 — initially for refueling and later for modifications required by "lessons-learned" from the accident.

Tests are currently under way to determine the success of repairs to tubes in the Unit 1's two steam generators. The tubes had corroded, with many of them developing cracks.

Cont p5

Cont p4



# TMI 'rubble bed' due 1st sampling

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

Two types of 6-inch stainless steel devices will be used later this week to pluck the first samples from the "rubble bed" in the Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor to aid in the design of tools and equipment for defueling in 1985-86.

Six 1-cubic-inch pieces of debris will be removed, leaving just under 2 million cubic inches of damaged fuel pellets, shattered rods and other mangled innards of what was once a pristine 12-foot-deep, 10½-foot-diameter core.

Preliminary analyses of a mapping program using a sophisticated sonar device support earlier indications that the core collapsed as a result of the March 1979 accident, causing a 5-foot-deep void that extends virtually to the periphery of the core, said Jack DeVine, technical planning director for Unit 2.

The purpose of the multi-phased testing program, which began July 25, is to "learn as much about what's going on inside the reactor before we start lifting the head," DeVine told a press briefing Tuesday at the TMI Media Center in Middletown. "We want to know if there is any distortion in the major pieces that have to be removed," DeVine said.

One of the core-sampling tools resembles an elongated clam shell and will be used to scoop debris

from the "rubble bed" surface. The other, a pointed bore with a rotating center, will capture subsurface debris.

Three samples will be taken at two locations in the debris bed — at the center and midway between the center and the edge. Working from the service structure above the 60-foot reactor, technicians will attach the devices to 45-foot-long rods.

Each sampling foray will require a separate tool head and manipulator rod because as each sample is withdrawn from the reactor, the tool head and debris will be encased in a rectangular transfer cask fitted over the reactor top. The sample will then be deposited in an 80-pound, shielded, cylindrical handling cask.

The handling cask will be attached to two poles and carried away from the service structure by two workers. The handling cask is shielded, officials said, so that even if an entire single sample is composed of atomic fuel, radiation readings on the cask's exterior surface would be in the 200 millirem per hour range, which is considered within safe limits.

Officials said the actual dose rate to workers carrying the handling casks will be half the surface reading, since workers will not be near the container.

Officials said further it would not be possible for a piece of debris to go "critical" in the loaded sampling tool because, even if the entire sample were fuel, the amount would be too small to support a chain reaction.

After transfer to shielded transportation casks, the samples will be sent to off-site laboratories for analyses — five pieces to the U.S. Department of Energy's National Laboratory at Idaho Falls, Idaho, and one to Babcock & Wilcox Co. in Lynchburg, Va. The samples will be analyzed for fuel content, particle size and isotopes.

The sonar mapping produced 500,000 data points of which about 25,000 were used by a computer to form a preliminary three-dimensional "picture" of the core composition. DeVine said a more definitive picture of the core using all the sonar data is not expected for four to six weeks.

Preliminary results of radiation surveys done during the current round of tests found the "levels under the head are predictable and manageable," DeVine said. Readings of 140 to 700 rems per hour are about 1½ times higher than projections made prior to a survey last December.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, June 30, 1983

## Investigation into undersized welds under way at TMI polar-crane tripod

The Associated Press

An investigation is under way into apparent undersize welds on equipment that will help lift the 170-ton head off the damaged Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor.

About 10 percent of the 100 welds on a six-ton, 13-foot-high tripod connected to the plant's polar crane may be smaller than specifications, said TMI spokesman Gordon Tomb. All of the problem welds are concentrated in one section of the tripod, he said.

The crane, object of recent controversy over possible shortcuts in the plant cleanup, will be used to lift off the reactor's top.

If the welds on the tripod fail, the crane could drop its load, said William Travers, acting deputy program director for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's TMI office.

"This thing has to be copacetic before we go ahead with plans to lift the head," he said. "This is an important item."

The crane has been used to lift some steel beams since the March 1979 accident, worst ever at a U.S. commercial nuclear plant. A combination of malfunctions and operator errors allowed the nuclear core to lose its water covering and overheat then.

Travers said the welds should have been 1 3-16 inches thick but in some places were only five-eighths of an inch thick. However, some welds were oversized and were as much as 1 7-8 inches thick.

Tomb said the welds may be stronger than once believed because their stress limits have been increased 30 percent in recent years. The tripod was manufactured by Babcock and Wilcox between 1970 and 1972. B&W also made the TMI reactor.

"It might be a problem, but on the other hand it might not be," Tomb said.

Data on the welds have been sent to B&W and results are expected back within a few weeks, Tomb said. In addition, the NRC and TMI are investigating.

The undersized welds were found by TMI inspectors after a similar problem came to light at a nuclear plant in Crystal River, Fla. The welds there were replaced.

The NRC and TMI are already looking into concerns raised by TMI engineer Richard Parks that shortcuts were taken in the process to prepare the crane for the head lift.

Asked why the undersized welds had not been found before, Tomb said he didn't know the answer.

Tomb said the discovery will not mean any additional delays in the plant cleanup, since work involving the crane is already on hold pending NRC reviews. A load test on the crane is at least several months away, he said.

### CASE fr 3

accidents.

According to the INPO report, the recommendations in each area are based on best practices rather than minimal acceptable standards or requirements. Therefore, areas where improvements are recommended are not necessarily indicative of unsatisfactory performance, the report noted.

Philip R. Clark, GPU Nuclear executive vice president, said "The findings and evaluations offered by INPO will be helpful to us in our continuing efforts to achieve excellence. Each finding has been carefully reviewed and our responses provide a plan and schedule to make improvements."

Thursday's NRC order concerning emergency planning follows an earlier NRC decision to go along with an Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board's approval of the bulk of the plan. Thursday's printed order dealt with one narrow, but important, difference the NRC staff has with GPU:

Should the utility be allowed to conduct radiological assessments and public evacuation decisions for up to four hours after an accident from the Unit 1 control room? Or should GPU be forced to move radiology and public-protection decision-making to an emergency operations facility built a half-mile from the plant specifically to house those functions?

The commission voted 3 to 2 to order GPU to move radiology and public protection out of the control room and into the emergency operations facility within one hour after the declaration of a site emergency.



## RESTART fr 1

to act on restart of Unit 1 until it is satisfied from the relevant parts of those investigations that Unit 1 can be safely operated," Palladino said in a letter to Thornburgh released Tuesday.

"The commission plans to consider the integrity of the individuals responsible for operating TMI 1 prior to authorizing any restart," Palladino said.

Dircks said the longer review on Unit 1 should include a formal staff safety evaluation on operator integrity and renewed evidentiary hearings on the issues. Formal hearings were "inevitable," Dircks said in his July 15 memo released Tuesday.

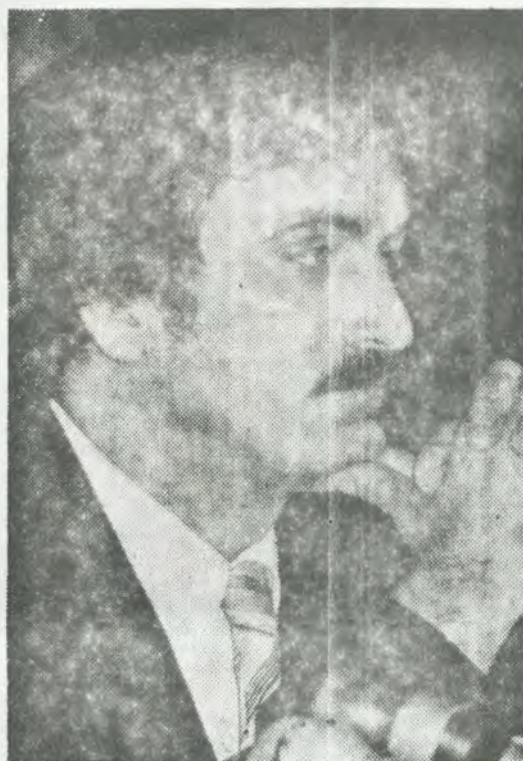
Dircks said the completion of the staff position would be "many months away" and take "considerably beyond" September, likely delaying a final NRC restart decision until next year. GPU Nuclear expects to have Unit 1 operationally ready by September.

The commission also had ordered the staff June 28 to re-check the massive record of the General Public Utilities Corp. lawsuit against TMI-designer Babcock & Wilcox Co. for integrity issues and report by Sept. 1.

An NRC spokesman said Tuesday the staff is now taking the position "it can't do it" on the integrity review.

Palladino told Thornburgh the parties in the Unit 1 restart proceeding "will be provided an opportunity to comment" on the staff reports "before the commission reaches a final decision on restart."

GPU President Herman Dieckamp pledged June 10 that no operators who had been found to have cheated on examinations would be allowed to operate Unit 1. The company's pledge has been formalized into a signed stipulation and made a part of the formal record.



**Richard Parks**  
To Work in California

## FUNDS fr 3

Ed's proposal would raise a typical monthly bill from \$41.68 to \$45.86.

If unit 2 resumes operation, basic rates should be allowed to go up an additional \$4 million for Penelec and an extra \$10 million for Met-Ed, the judge said.

The restart would raise rates because utilities can recoup from customers the costs of building a generating plant only when the plant is running. But since the restart would save energy costs, part of the increase in basic rates would be offset by reductions in the utilities' energy cost rates, the judge said.

The PUC is expected to begin making a final decision in the cases Sept. 20.

## WORK fr 1

in the cleanup and trying to remove employees critical of the operation.

"Mr. Parks wanted to go back to work and didn't see a need for further publicity about the issues he raised," Devine said. "He made a point and the NRC is investigating very thoroughly now."

Parks was suspended with pay March 23, the day after he went public with charges that safety was being sacrificed by plant officials determined to complete the cleanup within five years as scheduled.

"Early this year the NRC resident staff weren't doing their jobs so we felt the need to go public," said Devine, legal counsel for the Washington, D.C.-based Government Accountability Project, which aids employees who expose alleged wrongdoing on government-funded projects.

"We have extreme confidence in the objective and conscientious nature of the investigation now being conducted by the NRC office of investigation. We feel they're on top of the issue now," added Devine.

The Labor Department ruled in May that Parks should resume his duties on the billion-dollar cleanup of the TMI Unit 2 reactor, damaged in the worst accident in commercial nuclear power history March 28, 1979.

Bechtel had appealed the Labor Department directive, which also ordered the company to purge his personnel file of "adverse references" related to his public criticism of the cleanup.

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The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, Aug. 30, 1983

# Hochendoner urges radiation standard

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

Dauphin County Commissioner Lawrence J. Hochendoner said today the intent of adopting standards for radiation emissions released from facilities in the county is not to shut down Three Mile Island.

Rather, it is "to protect the health and safety of our residents, as well as our environment" and "to establish local control and accountability over TMI operations," said Hochendoner, who plans to sponsor a resolution setting up a task force to develop the standards.

Hochendoner further said it would be the decision of the task force to determine whether the standards would apply to radiation emissions from nuclear power plants solely or all electric generating facilities and manufacturing plants that might emit radioactive elements.

A spokesman for an anti-restart group, which is spearheading the campaign to get the ordinance passed, said last week the group

wants the standards directed at nuclear power plants and set so low to prevent TMI from restarting.

While the operation of nuclear power plants comes under the Nuclear Regulatory Commission and the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, two sections of the federal Clean

Air Act as amended in 1977, permit local governments to set radioactive emission standards provided they are stricter than the federal or state standards.

Hochendoner said he plans to introduce the ordinance setting up the task force in about a month, if public response favors the action. He urged residents "to write letters, call, schedule meetings or attend" the weekly county commissioners meetings to express their opinions. (Commissioners meet Thursdays at 1:30 p.m. in the courthouse.)

"... After studying this issue for over five months, I have come to the initial conclusion that an ordinance is not only reasonable, moderate and responsible, but to do

anything less is a disservice to the future of our community and families," Hochendoner told a news conference.

He said the "wishes" of county residents "expressed by a 3-to-1 margin on the TMI referendum" in May 1982 have been "largely ignored" by the NRC, Congress and GPU Nuclear Corp., plant operators.

Hochendoner said Dauphin County "would be on extremely firm legal grounds" in passing a clean-air ordinance to "set reasonable but strict measures to guarantee that our families are not exposed to health hazards as venting continues with Unit 2 or with the possible restart of Unit 1."

(The daily venting of the Unit 2 containment building freshens the atmosphere inside the structure for personnel working inside. About one curie of krypton-85 is released daily, compared with the 44,000 curies vented in 1980.)

Hochendoner said he envisions a nine-member task force with each commissioner proposing three members.





THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

## CONTROL fr2

With the assistance of a computer, the instrument will provide three-dimensional images of the void.

The core sampling will involve removing six specimens of debris. Samples will be taken at two different depths in two different locations in the rubble bed.

Using long-handled tools, technicians plan to remove 1-cubic-inch pieces from the rubble bed. Each sample will be placed in an 80-pound shielded container. The container later will be placed in a shipping cask for delivery to offsite laboratories for analyses.

The outcome of the analyses will help engineers determine the design of tools and equipment to be used in defueling the reactor.

Additional radiation and camera inspections then will be conducted under the head of the reactor, in the area of the plenum and in the core.

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Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

News Watch on the  
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VOL. 4 NO. 9

NOV./DEC. 1983

Tuesday, Nov. 8, 1983 Philadelphia Inquirer

## Met Ed Indicted in TMI Probe

By Susan FitzGerald  
and Jim Detjen  
*Inquirer Staff Writers*

**HARRISBURG** — A federal grand jury accused Metropolitan Edison Co. yesterday of deliberately falsifying key safety records and violating operating procedures in the months leading up to the March 1979 accident at its Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor.

In its 11-count indictment, the grand jury charged that the company routinely falsified tests showing whether excessive water was leaking from the plant's cooling system, and that the company systematically destroyed records of those tests beginning before Oct. 18, 1978, and continuing until March 28, 1979, when the accident occurred.

Investigators say that if these tests had not been falsified, federal law would have required that the plant be shut down to discover the cause of the excessive leakage. The plant, they say, would have been shut down on the day of the accident, considered the worst ever at a commercial nuclear power plant.

The indictment against Metropolitan Edison, a subsidiary of General Public Utilities Corp. (GPU), marks the first time that criminal charges have been brought against a utility holding a license for a nuclear plant, according to legal experts at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC).

If convicted of all 11 felony counts, a maximum fine of \$85,000 plus prosecution costs could be levied against the utility. But more importantly, GPU Nuclear, the GPU subsidiary that now operates the plant, could lose its operating license. Although the Justice Department did not rule out the possibility of indictments against individuals, the indictment handed up yesterday does not cite any individual for criminal acts.

GPU has for four years been seeking permission from the commission to restart Unit 1, which was closed down for repairs and refueling at the time of the accident. The company, which has assets of more than \$5 billion, says the restart of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor is vital to its financial health and is needed to generate funds to pay for the \$1 billion cleanup of Unit 2.

John Fidler, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear Corp., the GPU subsidiary that now operates the Three Mile Island reactors, said yesterday that the company had not yet studied the indictment and that it could not comment in detail. But, he said, "the policy of the Metropolitan Edison Co. has always been to operate in accordance with the conditions of its license and applicable regulations."

The indictment charges Metropolitan Edison with five counts of violating provisions of its license to oper-

ate a nuclear power plant, five counts of violating NRC regulations and one count of making false statements to federal regulators.

The indictment charges that Metropolitan Edison "knowingly and willfully falsified, concealed, and covered up by trick, scheme, and device," from the commission the fact that its leak-rate tests did not accurately measure leakage in the reactor's cooling system.

These tests measure the leakage of cooling water, which keeps the reactor from overheating. If these tests show that leakage exceeds specified rates, the plant must be shut down within 36 hours for repairs.

The indictment came 4½ years after Harold W. Hartman Jr., a former control-room operator at Unit 2, first told federal investigators that he and other control-room operators had routinely falsified leak-rate tests in the months before the accident. He said that his supervisors had encouraged him to falsify those records so the management of the facility would not have to close down the reactor.

The NRC also has been investigating Hartman's allegations of falsified leak-rate data and expects to complete its investigation by April. In addition, the agency is investigating whether similar safety records may have been falsified at the Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor from March 1978 to March 1979.

See PROBE-Page 4

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, Sept. 17, 1983

### Speaks for County

## Shut TMI Forever, Minnich Asks NRC

By MICK ROOD  
Washington Bureau

**WASHINGTON** — The chairman of Dauphin County (Pa.) commissioners shattered four years of neutrality on Three Mile Island yesterday and urged the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to close both reactors at the plant forever.

Commissioner John E. Minnich, in announcing what he called his "bombshell," at an NRC meeting here, said he spoke for fellow Commissioners Lawrence J. Hochendoner and Norman P. Hetrick.

Minnich said a report this week

of an NRC investigation that confirmed poor adherence to safety procedures in cleaning up the damaged Unit 2 reactor was "the last straw."

Minnich was concluding a 90-minute meeting with the NRC in his role as chairman of the commission's Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI-Unit 2.

After an extensive discussion of what he perceives as continuing public mistrust and fears over TMI conditions, Minnich asked if he could take off his hat as advisory panel chief and don his Dauphin County hat.

NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino nodded.

Minnich then told the hushed meeting that he had "maintained neutrality" on most TMI issues for the last 4½ years because he thought that would be the best way to gather public opinion and advise the NRC.

Even though he does not agree with "all the critics and all the activities that have been going on," he had to speak up, Minnich said.

He said he had made it a point to speak to Dauphin County residents who do not live in the immediate

See SHUT TMI-Page 5



# Lebanon voices 'frustration' at slowness of TMI cleanup

From Our Lebanon Bureau

**LEBANON** — The Lebanon County commissioners Thursday voiced their "frustration over the slowness of the cleanup project at Three Mile Island."

"They should get it started or close it down," Commission Chairman Thomas A. Behney said, contending that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission "is leaving the operators of TMI hanging out there in never-never land."

After a long discussion with two representatives of GPU Nuclear Corp., operator of the nuclear facility in Londonderry Twp., who offered an updated report at the meeting, commissioners said they will send a letter to the NRC telling of the county's concern about "the delay in decision-making" on the startup of the undamaged Unit 1 and the cleanup of Unit 2.

GPU's Daphne Lucas complained that the delays also are frustrating to the operators of TMI. "It's come to the point where we can't control our own destiny," she said.

Expanding, she said, "What

(the NRC) is dealing with now is old information. They've been playing with it for five years now. Unit 1 could have been restarted several years ago, but there are so many ways to appeal and drag out the decision."

"Let them (NRC) make a decision to either restart Unit 1 and clean up Unit 2 or shut them down," Behney said. "As it stands now, they take one step forward and two steps back. It's a never-ending situation and it may turn out to be a lingering death" for TMI.

The commissioners said higher electric rates being paid by Metropolitan Edison Co. customers and the uncertainty about the future have an adverse effect on industrial development in Lebanon County. Met-Ed is a subsidiary of GPU and a co-owner of the plant.

"We're very alarmed about the cost of power at a time when our economy locally is barely staying afloat," Behney said.

Commissioner Edward Arnold said he cannot understand why the rest of the nuclear power industry doesn't share in the costs "as a way

to clean up the industry's image."

A recent ruling of the state Public Utility Commission prohibits charging ratepayers extra for cleanup costs. Behney said, "If they can't charge the ratepayers, the industry won't do the job, and Congress won't act (to appropriate the money), how realistic is it to believe the job will ever get done?"

Lucas said GPU is exploring the possibility that funding might be forthcoming from other nations involved in generating electricity by nuclear power. Japan, France and West Germany are possible sources, she said, with the funding justified by the research knowledge they are gaining through the problems at TMI.

Commissioner Harry W. Fisher said, "The public's getting disgusted with it. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission should be given a deadline to make a decision."

The Evening News

Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, Sept. 20, 1983

## Cumberland board backs call to close both units at TMI

**CARLISLE** — Cumberland County commissioners Monday put their support behind Dauphin County commissioners' call for the closing of both units at Three Mile Island.

The commissioners' action comes after John Minnich, chairman of the Dauphin County commissioners last week asked for the closing of both units after a report of a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission investigation confirmed poor adherence to safety procedures in cleaning up the damaged Unit 2 reactor.

Minnich told the NRC, "We want Unit 2 closed and decontaminated. We want Unit 1 closed and decontaminated." Minnich also said his constituents do not trust GPU Nuclear Corp., the plant operator.

The two female members of the Cumberland board were vocal about their feelings. Minority Commissioner Rosemarie C. Peiffer, who asked the board to adopt a resolution supporting Dauphin County, said, "My interest in considering a 'second chance' for this facility has chilled. Much faith has been lost in GPU Nuclear, the NRC and other federal agencies."

Commissioner Marcia Myers said, "The public was told in the late '40s and '50s that nuclear power would be cheap and safe. We have lived through dramatic evidence that it is neither. Our people have been through enough."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Sept. 28, 1983

### EDITOR:

I AM writing in response to your Sept. 4 editorial regarding Three Mile Island and your belief that the citizens should now write to their representatives to get some action.

Just for your information, over the past 4½ years I have written to President Carter, President Reagan, my U.S. representatives and senators, my state representatives and senators, the NRC, my local government officials, Met-Ed and the PUC. Rarely did I receive a reply.

But probably the most important letters I have written are the 10 or more to the governor of our state and I have never once received a reply — not even from an aide.

You may be forgetting that the citizens of Dauphin County did the most democratic thing an American can do: The majority of us voted to keep Three Mile Island closed and no one paid any attention. So you tell us what to do now!

—Patricia C. Burkholder,  
Harrisburg

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, Nov. 18, 1983

## 'Unusual event'

A fire Thursday night damaged a Metropolitan Edison Co. substation near Three Mile Island, and prompted officials of GPU Nuclear Corp. to declare an "unusual event" for 17 minutes.

GPU spokesman John Micka said the fire started at 8:40 p.m. in a capacitor bank at Met-Ed's 500-kilovolt substation along Route 441 in Londonderry Twp., just south of the TMI visitors center.

Micka said firefighters from Londonderry Twp. and the TMI Fire Brigade placed the fire under control at 8:57 p.m., at which time the "unusual event" status was canceled.

An unusual event is the lowest category of the four emergency classifications used at TMI. Micka said all state and local officials were notified of the incident, which had no effect on normal electrical service to the nuclear plant.

A Met-Ed spokesman said the fire did not affect power to any of the company's customers.

Tuesday, September 20, 1983 York Daily Record

### TMI and the York County commissioners

Dauphin County Commissioner John Minnich speaks out for the safety and well-being of the people of his county. He wants TMI cleaned up and shut down permanently.

The York County commissioners did not even want to know the opinion of the majority of the people. What were they afraid of? Did they think they would have to support the peoples' opposition to the TMI restart? What would be wrong with that?

We need commissioners with courage to speak out for the protection of the people in York County.

Alice A. Herman  
York RD 5



# TMI monitoring system proposed

*Smith pushes nuclear insurance*

From local and wire reports

HARRISBURG — A \$785,000 study of ways to involve neighbors of Three Mile Island in improved radiation monitoring around the crippled nuclear power station was proposed Friday.

U.S. District Judge Sylvia Rambo must approve the use of trust funds from the \$5 million TMI Public Health Fund, established by settlement of a \$25 million class action suit against General Public Utilities Corp., owner of the plant in nearby Middletown.

The suit was filed after the 1979 accident at the unit 2 reactor at TMI.

Meanwhile, state Rep. Bruce Smith, R-92, has proposed a bill that would require insurance companies to provide coverage for homes and businesses damaged by a nuclear accident.

David Berger, the administrator of the trust fund, said the proposed research program would improve radiation monitoring and reduce stress in residents who live in the TMI area.

He said ways will be found to increase public involvement in an attempt to reduce suspicion and stress around the site of the worst commercial nuclear accident in history four years ago.

The proposed allocation would not be used to buy new monitoring equipment, he said.

Fund officials said they have no specific examples of weaknesses in the present system but said they believe it examines only "end results" and does not attempt to trace through the environment the effects of radioactive releases.

The public is suspicious of federally supervised monitoring being done by GPU and other government agencies, Berger said at a news conference.

The new system would be independent and objective and would measure radiation exposure, if any, to the public from cleanup of the damaged unit 2 reactor, transportation of wastes and resumption of plant operations, he said.

Completion of the entire proposed study, to be conducted by independent "world-class" scientists, would take about two years, fund officials said.

But some recommendations probably would be available in a matter of months once the program is started, they added.

Berger said health fund officials hope the findings of the study will be applicable throughout the commercial nuclear industry. A public hearing will be held on the proposal.

Under the bill proposed by Smith, homeowners and business owners would be eligible for more insurance after a nuclear accident than that provided by the federal Price-Anderson Act.

The act limits protection to a total of \$560 million, an amount that is "almost laughable," Smith said.

The value of property within 25 miles of TMI totals \$9.6 billion, Smith said.

He said his bill, which he will introduce next week, would require that all homeowner insurance policies include a clause providing coverage for nuclear accidents.

"Pennsylvania, because of its notoriety as the site of the worst commercial accident in the history of nuclear power in the United States, should be a pioneer in solving problems of living near nuclear power plants," Smith said.

"Unfortunately, Pennsylvania is still a babe in the woods," he added.

The state House Select Committee that investigated the 1979 accident at unit 2 said the lack of insurance coverage was one of 11 specific problems stemming from the incident, Smith said.

"The House Select Committee recognized this lack of insurance coverage as one of the 11 major problems resulting from the accident," Smith said.

York Daily Record • Tuesday, November 15, 1983

## Area emergency officials set for nuke accident drill

By SUSAN COLLINS

Daily Record staff writer

Local, state and utility officials will stage the most elaborate drill yet at Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Station Wednesday.

A mock nuclear power accident will test emergency management plans in four counties within 10 miles of TMI, including 12 communities in York County, said John Comey, spokesman for the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency.

The drill, which will be kept secret until it unfolds Wednesday, will be the 10th one since the March, 1979 accident at TMI-unit 2.

"It will be the largest in terms of the number of people and municipalities participating," Comey said. It will probably require a simulated evacuation in the 10-mile radius, he said.

But Randy L. Curry, director of York's emergency operation center, said no one will actually be moved. Even in a real emergency, the quick-

est way to evacuate a community is to have people drive out in their own cars, he said.

Instead, local officials will "walk through" their emergency management plans with federal officials, who will critique the exercise.

In York County, all 34 emergency warning sirens will be sounded and the Emergency Broadcast System will be activated. William C. McKinley, president of the county board of commissioners, will tell radio listeners what station they should turn to if there were an emergency.

Local officials will practice route alerting, which involves driving fire trucks and police cars up and down streets while using a public address system to tell residents to turn on their televisions or radios.

The officials will drive the routes with a prepared message but will not announce it through a public address system, Comey said.

"We don't want to confuse anyone," he said. The drill is designed

to give officials practice in handling a crisis without alarming the public, he said.

At York Hospital, the staff will receive a victim who has supposedly been injured and undergone decontamination and show how it would treat him, he said.

A representative of Central York School District will discuss how he would handle the students in an emergency and the York County Red Cross will set up a shelter in Susquehannock High School.

General Public Utilities Nuclear Corp., TMI's operator, will open its news center and give briefings as the drill progresses.

The 12 communities from York County participating in the drill are East Manchester Township, Manchester, Mount Wolf, Goldsboro, Newberry Township, Dover Township, Hellam Township, Manchester Township, Springettsbury Township, York Haven, Lewisburg and Warrington Township, Comey said.



## PROBE From 1

Hartman, who lives in Columbia, Lancaster County, has repeatedly refused to talk about the case.

The charges listed in the indictment fall into seven categories. The indictment alleges that the company:

- Operated the reactor even though its leak-rate tests did not accurately measure the amount of cooling-system leakage. In 1978, the company was put on notice of this.
- Intentionally manipulated its leak-rate tests.
- Failed to follow proper procedures.
- Failed to make and maintain adequate operating logs.
- "Systematically destroyed, discarded and failed to retain records relating to leak-rate test results."
- Failed, as mandated by law, to notify the Nuclear Regulatory Commission that it had not followed proper procedures.
- "Concealed and covered up" the fact that the leak-rate tests did not accurately measure the amount of coolant leakage.

At the time of the March 1979 accident, in which radiation was released into the environment and the Unit 2 reactor came within 30 to 60 minutes of a meltdown, the Three Mile Island nuclear station was operated by Metropolitan Edison.

But under a corporate reorganization plan, which took effect last year, Three Mile Island is now operated by GPU Nuclear Corp. The plant is still owned by Metropolitan Edison, Jersey Central Power & Light Co., and Pennsylvania Electric Co., all GPU subsidiaries.

Yesterday's indictments were returned by the second grand jury that has investigated allegations of falsified leak-rate tests. The first, also sitting in Harrisburg, expired in late 1981 without handing up any indictments. David D. Queen, U.S. attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania, who has been handling the case, since he assumed office in March 1982, refused yesterday to comment on the activities of the first grand jury.

No individuals were named in the indictment against Metropolitan Edison, but Queen said that evidence of improper activities by specific individuals would be brought out when the case went to trial. He refused to say whether control-room operators had been granted immunity in exchange for their cooperation in the case.

Queen said he expected a federal judge in the Middle District of Pennsylvania to be assigned to the case within the next two days. He said he would not allow the company to plead nolo contendere, in which a defendant — in this case, a corporation — declares that it will make no defense but does not admit guilt.

Guy Cunningham, executive legal director for the commission, said that under a provision of the federal

Atomic Energy Act, which regulates the nuclear industry, GPU Nuclear Corp. could lose its license if Metropolitan Edison were convicted of the charges.

Jim Lieberman, another commission lawyer, said the indictment yesterday marked the first time in which criminal charges had been brought against a utility for violations of the Atomic Energy Act.

Joanne Doroshow, a lawyer with TMI Alert, a group opposed to the restart of Unit 1, said yesterday that the indictment was further evidence that GPU should not be allowed to resume operation of the Unit 1 reactor.

"If there ever was any doubt in anyone's mind that this company should not be permitted to operate a nuclear power plant, this should remove all doubt," she said.

Robert Reid, mayor of Middletown, Pa., where the Three Mile Island reactors are located, said the maximum penalties that could be levied against Metropolitan Edison should be stiff. "An \$85,000 fine is nothing," he said. "A multimillion-dollar company will have no trouble paying that. . . . You have a company with the potential of killing thousands of people."

Under technical specifications for Unit 2 approved by the NRC, plant operators were required to test the leak rate every 72 hours.

If the leak rate of unidentified sources of water exceeds a gallon per minute, there may not be sufficient cooling water to keep the reactor at a safe operating temperature; in that case, federal regulations require, the plant must be shut down.

Hartman told investigators that in the months before the March 1979 accident, plant operators manipulated the leak rate, which was calculated with a computer, by improperly adding hydrogen and sometimes water to a vessel called the makeup tank, which feeds into the cooling system. He said these additions were being made without recording them in the plant log, as required by regulations.

Hartman, 35, told investigators that he himself had obtained "bad," or excessive, leak rates 50 to 100 times. He said that those "bad" tests were routinely thrown into "file 13" — the wastebasket — and that the tests were then repeated until operators obtained one that met specifications.

In one interview with NRC investigators, he recalled someone saying: "Make sure you destroy those sheets. We don't want them lying around."

At least one other control-room operator has testified that "bad" leak rate tests were obtained and routinely thrown out in the months before the accident. Theodore F. Illjes, who was a control-room operator at the time of the accident, has told investigators that he knew of this practice and that the management of Metropolitan Edison also was aware of it.

The indictment came in the midst of a politically and financially troubling time for GPU, which in the last two months has suffered serious setbacks.

• GPU had hoped for Nuclear Regulatory Commission approval to restart Unit 1 this fall, but the agency recently announced that it might not be able to make a decision on restart until 1985. Meanwhile, with Unit 1 out of service, GPU has had to spend about \$180 million a year to buy replacement power for its 1.6 million customers in Pennsylvania and New Jersey.

• NRC investigators reported in September that the companies doing the cleanup of the crippled Unit 2 reactor have routinely circumvented proper procedures and adopted techniques of questionable safety in their work. The commission supported many of the allegations made earlier this year by three engineers employed in the cleanup by GPU Nuclear Corp. and Bechtel North American Power Corp., the principal contractor in the cleanup.

• Funding for the cleanup — uncertain since the day of the accident — is more uncertain than ever. At a meeting in Harrisburg in September, GPU Nuclear Corp. president Robert Arnold announced that the utility may have only \$45 million to \$50 million to spend on the cleanup in 1984 — half the amount originally anticipated. This would bring the already bogged-down cleanup to a near standstill.

The problem with funding the massive cleanup effort stems from a number of factors. Nearly all of the company's \$300 million in insurance money has been used up. Other utilities have been reluctant to contribute money to GPU's cleanup fund. The U.S. Department of Energy, which has been funding various cleanup projects, has said it will have to withdraw its 1984 funding unless GPU comes up with more of its own funds. Moreover, the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission ruled last month that additional customer revenues could not be used for cleaning up the crippled reactor.

The commission issued another report in September in which it enumerated seven concerns about GPU's "management integrity," including the Hartman allegations. The report was issued after a team of NRC investigators scoured 70,000 pages of documents stemming from the settlement last January of a civil suit between GPU and Babcock & Wilcox Co., the manufacturer of the damaged reactor.

The team's findings prompted Victor Gilinsky, a commission member who has been an outspoken critic of GPU, to suggest publicly that the time has come for the company to step aside and allow an outside company to take over the operation of Three Mile Island.

The grand jury investigation was coordinated by First Assistant U.S. Attorney James J. West, Assistant U.S. Attorney Sally A. Lied, both of the Middle District of Pennsylvania, and Stanley A. Rothstein, an attorney from the criminal division of the Department of Justice.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Sept. 28, 1983

## Clean air

### EDITOR:

I THINK it is time to recognize a simple fact that has been established since the development of nuclear energy. The nuclear power industry has always operated under the misguided assumption that only the technical and scientific participants in the nuclear program know what is safe and reliable.

We now know that this false

concept was part of the nuclear program when questions were raised about radiation levels and the effects on the public health. I urge the Dauphin County commissioners to pass a clean air ordinance as it applies to TMI and radiation emissions.

If GPU and TMI can meet a minimum standard, then even they should welcome such an ordinance. If it is safe and clean as they say, it should be easy to comply with.

—John J. Kovalic,  
Middletown

### STAFF THIS ISSUE:

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vicinity of the Londonderry Twp., Pa., plant and who are not active in pro- or anti-nuclear groups.

Minnich said he asked them "what their reaction was to TMI." Invariably, he said, people would answer, "We don't want it. Close it down. Don't let them restart Unit 1."

"It's time," Minnich said, looking across the meeting table at Palladino, "to take this thing off our backs. We want Unit 2 closed and decontaminated. We want Unit 1 closed and decontaminated."

Palladino quickly interjected that Unit 1 should not be discussed. That reactor is not part of the advisory panel's mission, and the NRC is prohibited from conducting substantive discussions on it unless all parties to Unit 1-restart legal proceedings are notified and allowed to comment.

Minnich said his constituents simply do not trust GPU Nuclear Corp., the plant operator, or the NRC or other federal agencies.

He said the late Jake Myers — a veteran Cumberland County commissioner who died recently of cancer — never blamed his disease on TMI, "but he feared it."

"I was with him once during a TMI site alert, and he nearly went berserk," Minnich said. "The people fear it."

Until yesterday, only the speed and financing of the Unit 2 cleanup had been at issue for Minnich's committee.

General Public Utilities Corp., which owns the nuclear plant, has said revenue created by electricity sales from the Unit 1 reactor, once reactivated, would be vital to financing the cleanup of Unit 2.

Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh's cost-sharing plan for the cleanup is predicated, in part, on Unit 1 revenues, and the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission is scheduled to decide whether restart of Unit 1 should be tied to cleanup.

Minnich said his decision to speak out was "difficult."

"You have to be impressed with the fact that people are tired of [the TMI controversy]," he said.

Palladino then adjourned the meeting without comment, and he and the other four commissioners filed out.

Earlier, Minnich and eight of the other 12 members of the advisory panel extracted a promise from Palladino that the NRC would provide some funds to the panel to hire independent consultants.

The panel had threatened to disband a month ago unless funds were received to hire consultants to provide advice independent of GPU and the NRC.

Palladino said the NRC will draw up guidelines and attempt to obtain an unspecified amount of funding. He warned that due to federal guidelines, the commission only could pay for a consultant's travel costs and, perhaps, the consultant's other expenses.

Several members of the panel also expressed concern about a shortfall in contributions received from "partners" in Thornburgh's cost-sharing plan for the Unit 2 cleanup.

Pledges toward the \$1 billion cleanup are short by an estimated \$250 million or more, primarily because the electric utility industry has been unable to agree on its \$190 million share and the federal commitment is considerably short of a matching amount.

"It doesn't appear [the cost-sharing plan] will ever be what it was proposed," Minnich said.

As Palladino told the panel more than a year ago, there are federal limits on how much "lobbying" the NRC can do in attempting to seek cleanup funding. But he promised to try.

"Maybe we have to serve as an important catalyst," said Palladino, who promised to schedule a commission meeting soon on the cleanup funding shortfall.

Palladino yesterday thanked Minnich again for serving as coordinator and master of ceremonies during a stormy public meeting when the NRC members visited Harrisburg, Pa., last November.

In Harrisburg, the TMI Public Interest Resource Center issued a statement saying it was "thrilled" by Minnich's stance.

"We involved in the struggle for safe energy wholeheartedly endorse the comments made today in Washington by Dauphin County Commissioner John Minnich," said TMI PIRC staffer Randy King.

"We, too, believe the people of this area have suffered long enough, and we join him in his call for the cleanup and decommissioning of the twin reactors at Three Mile Island.

"The steady stream of press releases from GPU's media manipulators will never alleviate the fear, discomfort and suffering felt by the people of this area. They [GPU] have repeatedly demonstrated just how bad a neighbor they can be, and we are thrilled that Commissioner Minnich has called for the ouster of this bad neighbor from our midst."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, Nov. 18, 1983

## NRC gives TMI green light

# Polar crane tests OK'd

By MARY O. BRADLEY  
Staff Writer

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff today approved GPU Nuclear Corp.'s plans to test the polar crane in the Three Mile Island Unit 2 containment building.

The purpose of the test will be to verify that the huge crane can ultimately lift the 163-ton reactor vessel head and place it in a storage location.

"The NRC staff has concluded that there is reasonable assurance that the polar crane tests will not endanger workers in the plant or the health and safety of the public," Dr. Bernard J. Snyder, director of the TMI Program Office, told a new conference in Middletown.

Snyder said without the polar crane test, the "cleanup can't proceed." He added the NRC continues to believe "unnecessary delays (in the cleanup) are not in the public interest."

Snyder stressed the NRC staff approval concerns load-testing the polar

crane. The approval, however, doesn't cover plans for lifting the head of the reactor.

Lake H. Barrett, the NRC's top man at TMI, said NRC personnel will be in the Unit 2 control room during the tests and will be authorized to stop the procedures if necessary.

GPU said the polar crane testing program probably will not begin until early 1984 because of a shortage of funds in the company's 1983 cleanup budget, a spokesman said today.

In addition, more tests will be necessary to verify the weld integrity of a tripod assembly. This device is a platform which hangs from the polar crane hook and is used to lift objects in the containment building.

Barrett said the review of the polar crane testing program has been "going on for multiple months."

Fifteen NRC staffers at TMI and several experts participated in the review,

which included "detailed inspections" of refurbishments made to the crane since the March 1979 accident.

Initially the polar crane test will involve the lifting of a six-ton object and will progress to the lifting of large missile shields.

The missile shields, made of three-foot-thick reinforced concrete, are located over the reactor vessel and range in weight from 32 to 40 tons. They eventually will be combined for lifts to provide loads of up to more than 200 tons.

Before the accident the polar crane had been certified to lift up to 500 tons.

The load test originally had scheduled for last March, but was delayed after TMI employees alleged safety procedures hadn't been followed in the crane refurbishment.

An NRC investigation subsequently concluded that although procedures weren't followed entirely, there was no evidence of safety violations.



# Hearings urged for tube repair

By SUSAN COLLINS  
Daily Record staff writer

HARRISBURG — Anti-nuclear activists asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission Monday to hold full hearings on new repair techniques used to fix cracked steam generator tubes at Three Mile Island unit 1.

Joanne Doroshow of Three Mile Island Alert told the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board there is not enough information to prove the repair process is safe.

Defects caused by sulfur contamination were found in some of the unit's 31,000 steam generator tubes during testing in 1981.

General Public Utilities Corp., the plant's owner, repaired about 29,000 tubes by setting off controlled explosives that resealed them against a metal sheet that holds them in place. Another 1,200 tubes have been plugged.

GPU is seeking to restart unit 1, which has been shut down since the March 1979 accident that crippled unit 2.

At Monday's pre-hearing conference, the company argued that TMI Alert's contentions were not specific enough to warrant an NRC investigation.

But Ms. Doroshow said TMI Alert could not form specific judgments on the reliability of the repairs because GPU withheld 60 pages of documents on the repair process.

"Unless we see those calculations, we won't be able to come to any definite conclusions," she said. "Though we think their conclusions are highly suspicious."

George F. Trowbridge, an attorney for GPU, countered that the

confidential documents need not be released because there is enough information available in public documents to examine the repair process.

If the hearings requested by TMI Alert are held, GPU would have to make the confidential documents public.

Ms. Doroshow also questioned whether GPU's method to test for leaks will adequately detect ruptures or breaks before radiation is released.

GPU conducted several tests on the repairs. In addition to laboratory tests, it brought the plant to near operating temperatures and pressure, then cooled it down, subjecting it to greater than normal stress.

"The crack detection process infers considerable reliability," she said. "All that is needed is one or two tubes to break and we'd have a serious safety problem."

In addition, Ms. Doroshow said there is no proof the tubes might not continue to corrode after restart.

GPU cannot be sure that sulfur was the agent that caused the cracks, she said. And because the process proposed for cleaning the tubes is expected to remove no more than 50 to 80 percent of the contamination, she questioned whether the remaining contaminant might corrode the tubes farther.

In GPU's written response, the company said TMI Alert ignores the fact that it investigated and rejected other possible contaminants.

Trowbridge also pointed out that an NRC's Safety Evaluation Report shows the contamination would be gradually removed under operation.

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