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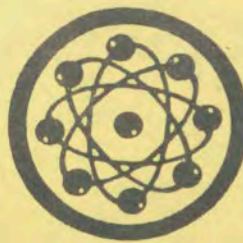
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Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the
Harrisburg Area

VOL. 7 NO. 4

MAR. — SEPT. 1988

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Sunday, August 14, 1988

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, August 31, 1988

Panel OKs TMI hearing on N-water

By Denise Laffan
Patriot-News

A three-judge panel has cleared the way for a hearing on the pros and cons of evaporating radioactive water at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant, handing a minor victory to the environmentalists opposed to the plan.



Frances Skolnick

nor for the Susquehanna Valley Alliance and TMI Alert, two anti-nuclear groups.

"I'm really pleased about that," she said. "Nobody has ever had a hearing on health effects of TMI."

The judges rejected GPU Nuclear Corp.'s request to dismiss the objections raised by SVA/TMIA and, in a 92-page ruling, stipulated which issues would be discussed at the hearing, to be held in October or November.

The hearing will focus on whether evaporation of the radioactive water, much of which was generated by the 1979 accident at Unit 2, is preferable to letting it sit in tanks on the island and decay naturally.

Also, the two sides will argue how much tritium, a radioactive element, is in the water and the health impact of releasing tritium to the air through evaporation.

"I am pleased and confident that those issues which have been provided a forum for discussion will show that evaporation of the accident-generated water and the release of radioactive vapor into the air is not in the best interests of the health and safety of the population," Skolnick said.

The ruling last Thursday by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will, in part, provide a forum on the possible health effects of evaporating the 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water, said Frances Skolnick, intervenor for the Susquehanna Valley Alliance and TMI Alert, two anti-nuclear groups.

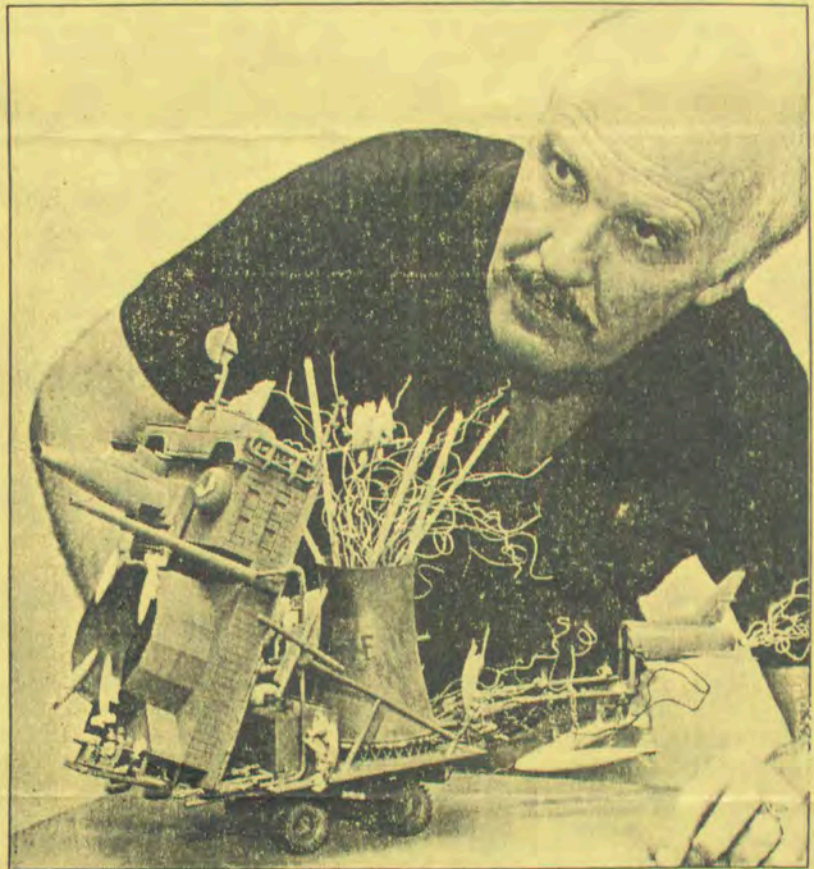
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Von Barann looks at 'Take It Straight Back to Hell' by Don and Swan, a piece about TMI

THURSDAY, SEPTEMBER 8, 1988

Plan to let TMI alone rejected

NRC panel asks speedy cleanup

By Tony Perry
Patriot-News

Efforts to put the failed Three Mile Island Unit 2 in mothballs indefinitely hit a roadblock last night when a federal advisory panel said unanswered questions left it frustrated with the proposal.

At a meeting of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of Unit 2, held last night at the Holiday Inn Center City, the panel approved 8-2 a motion advising

GPU Nuclear Corp. to "proceed expeditiously" with cleaning up the nuclear power plant.

At issue was what GPU refers to as "Post-Defueling Monitored Storage," a proposal the company introduced last December. GPU officials have said the plan is to remove 99.7 percent of the damaged fuel left behind in the wake of the 1979 accident.

Unit 2 would then be closed for an indefinite length of time — panel members said it could be anywhere from 20 to 60 years — before the remaining contaminant was removed and the area made safe for unrestricted access.

The advisory panel's motion, introduced by Joel Roth, said the panel sees "no compelling reason" for the proposal, and that the argument for it is blurred by uncertainty.

Gordon Tomb, a GPU Nuclear Corp. spokesman, said last night the efforts to remove fuel and core debris at the plant are to be completed next year, at which point the monitored storage would begin.

But GPU isn't required to — and apparently doesn't intend to — provide a plan to fund disassembly of the plant until July 1990.

NRC report tells of TMI rail mishap

By Denise Laffan

Patriot-News

A rail car carrying a cask of nuclear debris from the core of Three Mile Island Unit 2 lost its brakes and rolled a short distance before gravity brought it to a halt.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported the incident at TMI in its most recent status report on the Londonderry Twp. plant, but did not indicate if it would issue a notice of violation.

GPU Nuclear Corp. already has reprimanded two employees for failing to set the hand brake and issued a procedure clarification requiring the hand brake to be set any time an engineer leaves the train, said Doug Bedell, company spokesman.

The cask was not damaged and did not leak any radioactivity in the July 26 incident, Bedell added. The casks are used to transport the core debris from the Unit 2 accident to an Idaho waste site.

The incident occurred when GPUN workers were placing impact absorbers on the ends of the fully loaded cask. Impact absorbers are the huge disks that are attached to either end of the cask and give it the appearance of a barbell.

The crew was interrupted by a sudden electrical storm while attaching the second disk with a crane, Bedell said. Regulations forbid crane operations during an electrical storm, he added.

The crew left the rail car, which was hooked up to an engine on which the air brake was set but the hand brake was not.

"They had determined they would be back after the rain," Bedell said.

About one hour later, the crew returned but it was still raining. A decision was made to put off completing the job until the next day.

Within 1½ hours of being set, the air brake bled off to the point where it released and the rail car began to roll, Bedell said. About the time it started to drift, a manager was driving on a nearby road and noticed the unmanned train moving.

Bedell said that, by the time the manager made a call for help, the car had been stopped by a natural incline. It had rolled about 60 yards.

Three Mile Island Alert, an anti-nuclear watchdog group, was quick to criticize the oversight.

"I wonder what would have happened if the track was going down instead of up?" asked TMIA spokesman Eric Epstein.

Epstein cited three cases within the last three years when the company has received NRC notices of violation for improper transportation of nuclear waste, including two times when waste shipments were temporarily barred from waste sites.

"This is a clear illustration that GPU has a programmatic problem safely transporting nuclear waste," Epstein said.

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, August 31, 1988

Unit 2 operator fired for drug, alcohol use Result of 11-day probe

By Denise Laffan

Patriot-News

A Three Mile Island control-room operator, who tested positive for drug and alcohol use, was fired yesterday after an 11-day investigation.

GPU Nuclear Corp. reported that medical tests showed the licensed operator, who was not identified, had been drinking and taking drugs either before he reported to work or while he was at work. The company refused to identify the drugs taken.

No details about the employee, who was suspended without pay Aug. 18, were released because personnel matters are kept

confidential, said Gordon Tomb, GPU Nuclear spokesman.

GPU Nuclear policy prohibits employees from reporting to work under the influence of alcohol or drugs. However, those who have tested positive are not always fired.

In June 1987, eight employees were suspended without pay for 30 days after they tested positive for drug use. Two other employees, including a contracted worker, were fired after refusing to cooperate with the investigation, and a third resigned.

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, May 19, 1988

GPU cited in violation of fire rules

By Denise Laffan

Patriot-News

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued a notice of violation against GPU Nuclear Corp. and expressed concern that the quality of Three Mile Island's fire-protection program has dropped.

In the notice issued earlier this month, the NRC requests that GPU not only correct specific flaws in its fire-protection program for TMI Unit 2, but review the entire program.

"We are concerned that there has been a degradation in overall control of your fire-protection program," said Lee H. Bettenhausen, an NRC chief in the Division of Reactor Projects, in a letter to GPU. "We request that you review your fire-protection program implementation and provide

the results of that review and any corrective actions that you plan."

The notice of violation is rated Level 4 on a scale of 1 to 5, with 1 being the most severe violation. No fine is levied with a Level 4 violation.

The violation notices came after two fires in the Unit 2 reactor building last February.

According to a GPU news release, one fire occurred when sparks from a welder's torch ignited rags, a plastic bucket and a hose inside a room used for tool decontamination. The second occurred five days later when sparks from a welder's torch ignited a canvas curtain.

The NRC noted four deficiencies in the handling of those fires:

— The work area was not clear of combustible material.

— In the first fire, "High Efficiency Particulate Absolute"

duct work was not appropriately covered.

— A fire extinguisher failed to operate because it was empty for the first fire. GPU said a worker extinguished the fire on his own.

— In the second fire, an "inappropriate carbon dioxide extinguisher" was used. GPU said an extinguisher from outside the room was used after the one inside failed due to a damaged activation pin.

GPU has until June 4 to respond to the violation notice and present the NRC with a review of its fire-protection system.

Eric Epstein, spokesman for the anti-nuclear group TMI Alert, said the violations are another indication of the company's "sloppiness and inattention to detail."

GPU spokesman Gordon

Tomb said the company acknowledges there were deficiencies and has instituted reforms, including monthly inspections by a fire-protection engineer and twice-monthly inspections by a industrial safety inspector. The company also has fire-training session for employees, Tomb said.

This notice marks the second NRC citation GPU Nuclear has received this year regarding its fire-protection program. In February, the NRC cited the company for failing to institute a roving fire watch when the Halon System for the cable and transformer rooms became inoperable.

Regulations say a roving watch should be established within an hour of system failure, but the NRC said five days elapsed without a watch being established.

TMI pledges plan to mothball reactor

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Three Mile Island officials told the Nuclear Regulatory Commission yesterday that they are preparing their most detailed plan yet on how they propose to mothball the contaminated Unit 2 reactor next year.

The plan "is basically a document that will explain in considerable detail what we will be doing to bring the plant to safe and stable storage," TMI spokesman Doug Bedell said in a telephone interview after the meeting.

Michael Masnik, an official with the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation who attended the meeting between TMI managers and the commission staff, said the document was to be submitted in the next few months.

Masnik said it would provide the most comprehensive look yet at plant conditions when the cleanup is over next year and the plant is placed in storage indefinitely.

Masnik and Bedell said it remained uncertain whether the NRC would hold public hearings on the shutdown plan, which is called "Post-Defueling Monitored Storage."

Bedell said there was "no indication that hearings will be necessary."

But Eric Epstein of Three Mile Island Alert said in a telephone interview that the citizens' group was considering intervening because it believed the reactor may be mothballed before the cleanup is finished.

He said the group was bothered by reports that relatively high levels of contamination would remain in the reactor building basement during the estimated 20 years of storage.

"In our minds the cleanup isn't finished. We say finish it now while you have the economic resources and workers at hand, don't wait 20 years from now," Epstein said.

He noted a committee of citizens, scientists and elected officials that advises the NRC on the cleanup is scheduled to meet on the storage plan in Harrisburg on July 14. The group is headed by Arthur Morris, the mayor of Lancaster.

In December 1986, TMI officials announced their plan to put Unit 2 into "safe, stable and secure" storage after most of the damaged nuclear fuel and loose radioactive components from the 1979 accident were removed. It is unclear what would happen to the plant after the storage phase ended some 20 years later.

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, June 24, 1988

GPU asks support for sealing Unit 2

Lebanon board skeptical

By Garry Lenton

Lebanon Bureau

LEBANON — Representatives of GPU Nuclear Inc. yesterday asked Lebanon County commissioners to support the company's bid for permission to seal the damaged Three Mile Island Unit 2 plant until it is dismantled around the year 2030.

GPU has asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission for permission to seal the plant and monitor it for the next 30 to 40 years, a process known as "post-defueling monitored storage."

"We'd like to ask you to let the NRC know that you would support moving to the PDMS phase," said Lisa Robinson, GPU's public affairs representative. "Getting to this phase enables us ... to put the accident and the cleanup behind us."

GPU has been meeting with officials of communities within a 10-mile radius of Three Mile Island, asking for a show of support, she said. So far, company representatives have met with Dauphin and Lancaster County officials and Middletown Borough Council, she said.

All three Lebanon County commissioners said they wanted more time to study the issue.

"What are our choices?" asked Commissioner Philip H. Feather, who was a commissioner when the 1979 accident occurred.

"I sat here 10 years ago when they [Metropolitan Edison Co. officials] came in here and said they had everything under control," Feather said. "I'm a little bit skeptical anytime GPU asks me to support something."

Robinson said the cleanup at Unit 2 will be completed next year. At that point, she said, the company wants to shut the plant down. It does not want the facility "decommissioned," or dismantled, however, until Unit 1 is decommissioned.

If the NRC approves GPU's request for PDMS status, the plant will be monitored by a staff of 50 into the 21st century, Robinson said.

Opponents of PDMS have urged that Unit 2 be dismantled immediately after the cleanup is completed. Robinson said the company opposes immediate dismantling because it would be more difficult to do while Unit 1



"I sat here 10 years ago when they came in here and said they had everything under control. I'm a little bit skeptical anytime GPU asks me to support something."

— Philip H. Feather
Lebanon commissioner

is operating.

The company also believes early dismantling would expose workers to unnecessary risk.

"The plant will be safe, stable and secure" during the monitored years, Robinson said.

Commissioner William G. Carpenter suggested that dismantling the plant now would save GPU money by eliminating the expense of 50 employees to monitor the dead facility for 40 years.

GPU is doing a cost study, Robinson said.

Asked whether GPU had interest in restarting Unit 2, Robinson said no. However, she did not rule out the possibility that the company could change its position.

"We have no plans to restart Unit 2," she said, but "we can't second-guess what the energy needs of the future will be. There may come a time when somebody may want us to use Unit 2 to generate electricity."

24 who helped falsify TMI tests are eligible for Unit 1 jobs

By Peter Kelley/Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has opened the door for 24 workers who helped falsify coolant leak tests 10 years ago at Three Mile Island's damaged Unit 2 reactor to take jobs at the restarted Unit 1 reactor.

While weighing the safety of restarting Unit 1, the commissioners in 1985 banned 35 workers from transferring to the operating unit as the cleanup of Unit 2 wound down.

The commissioners voted 5-0 last week to partly lift the ban, saying in an eight-page decision that enough time has passed and "the importance of the leak-rate surveillance testing issue has certainly been driven home for those involved at TMI."

They said the ban still applies to James R. Floyd, however, the preaccident supervisor of operations at Unit 2 and the only one found guilty in court of "material false statements" in faking leak-rate data.

The 24 workers who may now apply for transfers held jobs ranging from control room operators to a company vice president, who was not identified, when Unit 2 overheated and released radiation in March 1979.

Douglas Bedell, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear Corp., which operates the Londonderry Twp. electrical generating plant, said 17 of the 24 already have faced company disciplinary measures from reprimands to loss of pay and possible promotions.

He said most remain on the payroll at Unit 2 or elsewhere in the General Public Utilities system.

"The findings of the NRC are consistent with the internal investigation we made," Bedell said. "We plan to consider the future assignment of people here on a case-by-case basis."

The commissioners left intact a separate ban that prevents the rest of the original group of 35 from transferring to Unit 1 because they were at Unit 2 on July 9, 1987, when allegations were made about sleeping on duty.

The NRC acted after 33 days of hearings produced more than 5,000 pages of testimony and a hearing board's May 1987 decision that "culpable neglect" was involved in tests of coolant leakage at Unit 2.

The hearing board found that operators discarded more than half the leak-test results and manipulated or falsified the recorded results.

In its decision the board stated that nearly all the operators misunderstood the leak rate technical specifications and that their shift foremen showed "remarkably unprofessional" conduct.

Told of the NRC decision, Louise Bradford of Harrisburg, who has fought the TMI management in court since 1980, responded, "I'm just amazed ... that they would have allowed them unrestricted access to safety positions."

Bradford said in other cases of misconduct at TMI the commissioners have blocked those involved from returning to operating the plant.

The NRC commissioners in their decision said "given the time that has passed and the fact that the leak rate surveillance testing irregularities directly flowed from management shortcomings in training and procedures, there is no clear reason to continue the restriction."

They cited "significant and substantial changes in management and operating procedures" at GPU Nuclear since the Unit 2 accident.

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, March 17, 1988

Judge orders TMI fund unit to file report

A federal judge has ordered the administrators of the Three Mile Island Public Health Fund to file a radiation-monitoring report with the court within 15 days.

U.S. District Judge Sylvia H. Rambo also denied a contempt motion filed last fall by local legislators and two former Dauphin County commissioners against the fund and its administrators. The public officials wanted the court to find the administrators guilty of contempt because they failed to obey Rambo's earlier order directing them to file the study by Oct. 9.

In a three-page memorandum attached to the order, Rambo wrote that she had been advised repeatedly by attorneys for the fund that portions of the report, authored by Dr. Bernard Franke of the Institute for Energy and Environmental Research, were inappropriate for publication.

Rambo wrote that David Berger, in his capacity as liaison counsel, was entitled to withhold the report until it met with the approval of the fund's experts. By waiting to publish the report until it "exhibits a high degree of quality," the public is better served, she wrote.

She said the situation was not one in which fund personnel were attempting to conceal the report.

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, August 25, 1988

Agency freed from TMI-linked suit

By Tom Dochat
Patriot-News

The state Department of Health has been dismissed from a defamation suit filed by a Lake Placid, N.Y., couple over a 1985 news conference on the health effects of the Three Mile Island accident.

Dauphin County Judge Sebastian D. Natale agreed with the argument that the department is immune from the suit, which was originally filed in Lancaster County by Norman and Marjorie Aamodt. The suit was transferred to Dauphin County earlier this year.

Remaining as defendants in the suit are former Secretary of Health Dr. H. Arnold Muller and two members of the department's

Division of Epidemiology and Research, George K. Tokuhata and Edward Digon.

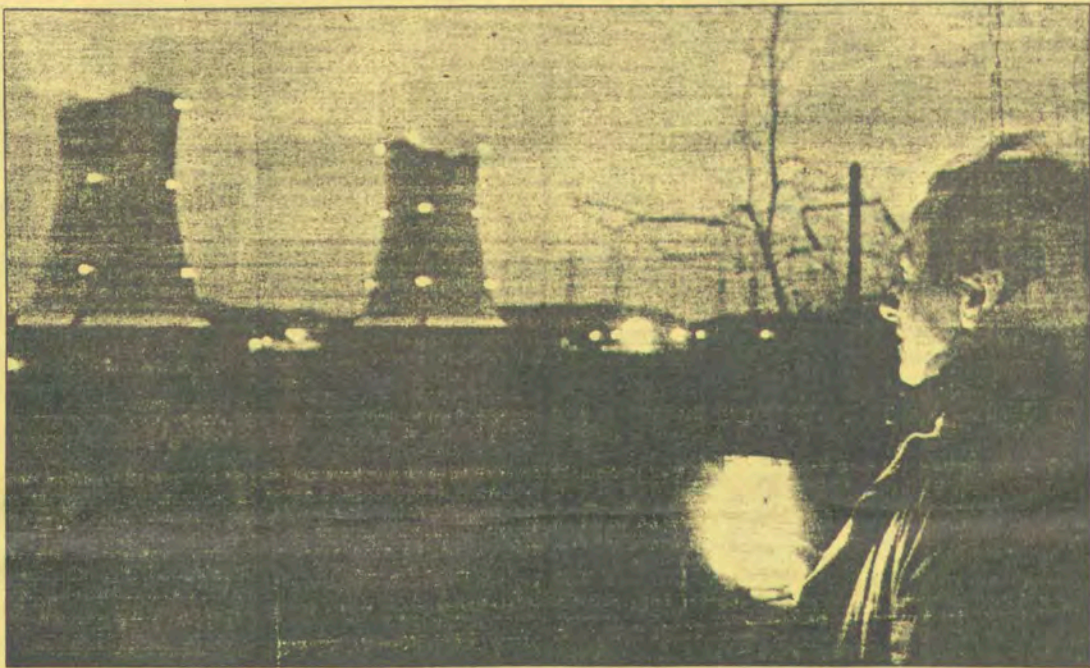
The Aamodts charge in the complaint that they were defamed during a Sept. 5, 1985, news conference at which health officials discussed results of a cancer study conducted in the aftermath of the TMI accident. Health officials said the cancer rates were not out of the ordinary in areas surrounding the Londonderry Twp. plant.

The news conference also criticized the Aamodts for a study they conducted linking the March 28, 1979, nuclear accident to a higher-than-normal incidence of cancer in some northern York County communities hit by a radioactive plume. State officials said the Aamodts' study was flawed scientifically and in methodology.

The Aamodts said the news conference held them up to ridicule and ruined their reputations. Norman Aamodt is an engineer who once worked with Bell Laboratories, and his wife is a psychologist who also formerly worked at Bell.

While Natale dismissed the health department from the suit, he denied a request from the defendants to reject the Aamodts' claim of invasion of privacy. His order also noted that the defendants had previously agreed to withdraw their request to dismiss the Aamodts' claim of defamation.

Spero T. Lappas, attorney for the Aamodts, said a decision has not been made on whether to appeal Natale's decision dismissing the health department as a defendant.



DAWN PROTEST AT THREE MILE ISLAND

Gene Stilp of Harrisburg holds a candle Monday during an early morning protest at the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant near Middletown, Pa. Protesters gathered at the plant to mark the ninth anniversary of the nation's worst commercial nuclear plant accident, which occurred there in 1979 when radioactive gases escaped through the plant's venting system.

GPUN report faults TMI's management

Management response to allegations that a shift supervisor at Three Mile Island Unit 2 had been sleeping on the job contained "inadequacies," according to an investigation.

An investigative report commissioned by GPU Nuclear Corp., owners of the plant, said management reaction to the allegations led to inaccurate or distorted information being reported to TMI-2 and GPU Nuclear officials and to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

Results of the investigation by Edwin H. Stier, former director of the New Jersey Division of Criminal Justice, were forwarded to the commission recently.

In November, after an investigation into allegations against a TMI-2 shift supervisor, Stier confirmed that the individual had, on a number of occasions, slept or been otherwise inattentive to his job. Stier said in his November report the pattern was "unique" to the supervisor in question.

GPU Nuclear dismissed the supervisor.

Stier's further investigation began in July 1987, after the allegations were sent anonymously to GPU Nuclear and to the commission. Stier found specific charges from the individual's crew had been made to a TMI-2

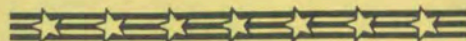
TMI anniversary

To the Editor:

The vigil commemorating the ninth anniversary of the incident at Three Mile Island was indeed small. My family's failure to attend was based upon our inability to position ourselves so very close to the facility. Standing at the gates with two young children is simply impossible.

Though the horror of the incident is repressed, it is not forgotten.

Myra Werrin Sacks
New Cumberland, Pa.



manager as early as the fall of 1986, but that he conducted an inadequate investigation and did not fully inform his superiors of the allegations.

Unit 2 was not in use during the period.

Stier's further investigation into management response to the allegations revealed inadequacies in management response to the allegations that the shift supervisor slept or was otherwise inattentive to his duties. These inadequacies led to inaccurate or distorted information reported to higher levels of TMI-2 and other GPU Nuclear management and to the NRC, Stier said.

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa.,
Wednesday, March 30, 1988

GPU Nuclear gets notice of violation

GPU Nuclear Corp. has received a notice of violation for shipping low-level radioactive waste that was not ready for disposal to South Carolina.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission this month issued a Level 4 violation, the next to lowest of five categories.

Shipments were suspended for about a month in December after South Carolina officials discovered the sludge had not properly hardened and instead was "moist and puttylike," said Karl Abraham, NRC spokesman.

The waste was sediment from the basement sump of Three Mile Island Unit 2's auxiliary building. Ammonia gas, believed to have been generated by organic material in the waste, may have interfered with the solidification process, according to a GPUN newsletter.

GPUN stated it is venting the waste containers before shipping the waste to ensure that it has solidified.

Abraham said the violation notice did not carry a fine and would not require a response because the NRC is satisfied with the company's response to the problem.

In a separate incident, the NRC issued a Level 4 notice of violation to Unit 1, citing five instances when work was not done according to an approved procedure.

The Patriot-News

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— A Free Press — Armor of the Republic —

TMI water

GPU sees NRC nod on disposal plan

THREE MILE ISLAND operator GPU Nuclear is gambling \$800,000 that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission will accept its proposal for disposing of 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water left over from the 1979 accident at Unit 2.

But as bets go, this is about as safe as one can get. As a spokesman for the federal agency noted, it is common for utilities to make major expenditures for equipment before the commission grants its use. And the reason they can do that with abandon is that the NRC so rarely finds sufficient fault with the nuclear industry it regulates to say "no."

The agency does, however, invest a lot of time and effort in the pretense that it takes an independent and in-depth look at the issues before it prior to rendering a well-considered decision in the public interest. Indeed, if the sheer amount of time spent in considering an issue counted for anything, then the NRC would rank among the all-time greats in prudence, diligence and attention to detail.

But the utilities know the score. Unlike Yogi's famous dictum that "it isn't over until it's over," when a utility proposes something to the NRC, it's over. It's just a matter of waiting for the NRC to shuffle through the motions of guarding the public's safety. Sometimes the bureaucratic lethargy gets downright ridiculous. Consider that it has been nearly nine years since the TMI accident and it may not be until December before the commission actually decides whether the water contaminated by radioactivity as a result should be disposed of by evaporation.

WE DON'T CONSIDER ourselves technically competent to judge whether evaporation is a proper and acceptable method of disposing of the water or not. But we are sure of two things. One is that it shouldn't take forever for the NRC or any other agency of government to make a decision.

THE SUNDAY NEWS, March 27, 1988

Taking on TMI: A woman fights 'hot' water plan



Sunday News/Marshall Dussinger

Frances Skolnick works a 9-5 day on TMI matters.

This is an issue that should have been resolved years ago. Second, there is something basically wrong with a regulatory system when it is commonplace for those that are regulated to assume — with justification — that in the end the decision will go their way to the point of gambling substantial sums of money on a favorable outcome.

Both of these features of NRC regulation are an affront to the public, which has a right to expect that the regulation of something as important as nuclear power is done in a fair and timely fashion. But what confidence can the people have in a system that takes years to make a decision yet is so predictably company-oriented that a utility can anticipate a ruling in its favor and act accordingly? In our view, none at all.

MORE NUKE - NEWS

DUE TO LIMITED SPACE, MANY INTERESTING AND INFORMATIVE ARTICLES THAT APPEAR IN HARRISBURG'S LOCAL NEWSPAPERS CANNOT BE REPRODUCED IN "ISLAND UPDATES." A FILE CONTAINING MANY SUCH ARTICLES IS KEPT AT THE OFFICE OF THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT. FOR MORE INFORMATION, CONTACT "ISLAND UPDATES" EDITOR, DAN WELLIVER, AT THE OFFICE:

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LANCASTER, PA., NEW ERA— FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1988

Our Ideas

Complete Cleanup at TMI Before Mothballing Reactor

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, July 1, 1988

Attorneys seek prior review of periodical on TMI

LANCASTER, PA., NEW ERA— FRIDAY, JULY 15, 1988

What Will Assure TMI Cleanup in 30 Years?

**Local Officials Doubt Future Generations
Will Want to Pay Bill**

The Patriot-News,
Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, July 27, 1988

Counties near TMI to have cancer study

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Sunday, March 20, 1988

**Suit settled for \$1.25 million;
TMI to help with bills of poor**

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, June 24, 1988

Met-Ed may put end to TMI cleanup fund

The Patriot-News
Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, March 10, 1988

NRC to look at the threat of truck bombs

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Sunday, June 12, 1988

Law firms seek compensation from TMI case

**GPU units
to refund
millions**

"ISLAND UPDATES"

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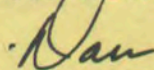
A Note From The Editor...

Printing and mailing costs for "Island Updates" are currently being paid for by funding from the THE TMI LEGAL FUND. This funding has been offered for all issues of "Island Updates" through 1988.

Friends and readers are encouraged to continue to support our work. If you find "Island Updates" to be informative, useful, or just downright awe-inspiring, let us know with a note and a contribution.

Back issues of "Island Updates" are now available at a cost of only 50 cents per issue. Use the cut-out form below to order back issues, to send a contribution, or to put a friend on the mailing list.

For Three Mile Island Alert,



Dan Welliver

Editor, "Island Updates"

The Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, July 23, 1988

TMI operators issued notice in worker's fall

By Denise Laffan
Patriot-News

The operators of Three Mile Island nuclear power plant have been cited for leaving an opening on a work platform through which a worker accidentally stepped into radioactive water.

The U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently issued the notice of violation against GPU Nuclear Corp. for failing to ensure that a worker could not fall through an unguarded opening. The violation was a Level 4, which is the second least severe

and involves no fine.

On May 23, a member of the defueling team in Unit 2 stepped backward and fell partway into the reactor vessel.

The worker, an employee of Catalytic Inc., a Unit 2 contractor, was immersed up to his knees in the radioactive water, and received a dose that was far below federal limits, according to a GPUN spokesman. The worker, who wore protective clothing, received minor bruises and underwent decontamination for the exposure.

NRC rules require all person-

nel to be "tied off" when working adjacent to any unguarded opening over the reactor vessel.

At the time of the incident, GPUN reported that the worker had disconnected his safety harness to replace a tool and then inadvertently stepped backward. He was pulled back onto the work platform by co-workers.

The NRC citation ordered the company to reply within 30 days with details on what corrective steps it has taken or plans to take.

The NRC also cited GPUN for

failing to adequately evaluate what kind of radiation hazard would be caused by a cleanup procedure.

This Level 4 citation was issued after an April 4 incident in which a highly contaminated block wall in the basement of the reactor building was being cleaned.

The procedure involved grinding away the surface of the wall, but no assessment was made of the effect the process would have on the level of airborne activity in the building.

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