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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 2, No. 9

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

January 1981

START OFF THE NEW YEAR RIGHT! RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP!

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP... TMIA cannot afford at this point to keep sending THE ALERT to readers whose memberships have lapsed. If the date above you name and address falls in 1980, please cut out all of this information and return with your check so that we may keep you on THE ALERT mailing list. Thank you.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

By Mary Hartnett

The Steering Committee meets every Monday evening at 6:30. In the event you have a problem, you may request it be put on the agenda for that evening by calling the office or one of the members of the committee.

Barb Smith has resigned from the Steering Committee, so we have an opening for a position plus an opening for an alternate. Any suggestions would be appreciated.

Areas of responsibility have been assigned to the Steering Committee members. Louise Bradford and John Murdoch will oversee education and revision of our speaking panel, which were tremendous last year. Paul Makurath will be working closely with Ruth Gentle on finances. We will consider hiring a CPA to prepare our books for tax purposes and other forms which are mandatory. Paul will also be helping with the newsletter. John Murdoch and Joel Roth will be setting up a media committee to keep the press informed.

We have so much more to accomplish this year, and it appears that it may be more difficult with Reagan in office. Anyone interested in sharing their talents or just plain hard work, call the TMIA office at 717-233-7897 and ask to be put in our volunteer book.

CONGRESSIONAL TASK FORCE

By Bev Davis

Fears that MetEd might go bankrupt and walk away from a dangerous TMI-2 caused the PUC to meet in August with the Pennsylvania congressional delegation to urge contingency plans.

Eight Pennsylvania congressmen - Ertel (chairman), Goodling, Walker, Yatron, Ritter, Bailey, Kostmayer, and Atkinson - set up a task force in response. During the past few months, they have met with the PUC, utilities, bankers, and citizens. In January they expect to propose legislation based on the suggestions they got.

Briefly, the utility was pessimistic. Citizens had mixed feelings. Bankers were confident MetEd could survive because they were confident Unit I would go back on line and provide revenue. (TMI was not asked to testify.)

At the same time, the staff of the NRC recommended to its commission a shopping list of options, among them, turning the plant over to the Department of Energy to operate and allowing Unit I to reopen. GPU's answer to the problem was a plan to have utilities and their ratepayers across the U.S. chip in.

The Ertel task force has come up with a seven-point plan which it will consider soon and will use to draft legislation. The items getting most attention seem to be a Chrysler-type guaranteed loan

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and a National Nuclear Property Insurance.

The task force is still open to citizen comments, which can be sent to your congressman or to Chairman Ertel in Washington, D.C. A copy of the seven options is also available from there or can be seen at the TMIA office.

THE TMI LEGAL BOARD

By Sam Milkes

This is the first in what will become a regular column in the newsletter on activities of the Legal Board. The TMI Legal Board is a coalition of a number of anti-nuclear groups in the TMI area. I am the representative from TMIA.

The primary purpose of the Legal Board is to distribute funds to the anti-nuclear groups for litigation. The funds come mainly from nationwide direct mailing efforts and grants. While the Legal Board distributes these funds, the Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC) is primarily responsible for raising them.

Until about one month ago, the Legal Board had a fair amount of money to distribute and it has now all been distributed. Now, with funds low, we are using our twice-monthly meetings to develop priorities for distributing the limited future funding. We're assessing what forms of litigation seem to have the best chance of success, and which seem most important. We're hopeful that by developing this priority system, the future funding decisions we'll be having to make will be easier ones. Probably the hardest, but of course most necessary thing we have to do is to sometimes say no. Obviously there is always more of a need for money than money available.

Next month I hope to be able to discuss how these priorities are developing.

DID BOB ARNOLD MEAN TO TELL US THAT WHEN THEY'RE OPERATING, OUR TMI PLANTS DISCHARGE A MINIMUM OF 100 CURIES OF RADIOACTIVITY EACH MONTH? HE SAID IT WHILE TRYING TO REASSURE THE PUBLIC THAT 10 OR 15 CURIES PER VENTING WAS NOTHING TO WORRY ABOUT. LET'S SEE - 100 CURIES TIMES TWO REACTORS TIMES HOW MANY MONTHS...

FUNDRAISING REPORT

By Mary Osborn

TMIA and PIRC representatives met with Charlene Devoky to discuss fundraising methods and ideas. She covered many ways to make money: personal gimmicks, such as giving up the use of electricity for a day, or not sending holiday cards to friends and instead, donating the money saved to TMIA or PIRC. Another possibility mentioned was "corporate giving," or donations of large sums of money to various needy organizations. In order to be helped by this funding, an organization must be tax-exempt. (PIRC is working on this.)

Ms. Devoky, having some contacts with funders, gave us some very important do's and do not's: Do have a plan of proposals; give funders a good background of what has happened to us and what is still going on here. Do tell what our accomplishments are, as well as our problems and goals. Do make personal contacts - they are a must. Do not assume that a funder knows what is happening here. They just know a little. (The same goes for people in our area - what is a matter of fact to you may be totally unknown or misunderstood by your neighbor!)

PIRC is planning to have Ms. Devoky back early this year for a more detailed fundraising meeting. This would be an excellent opportunity for each of us to come to grips with one of the most difficult areas any organization has - RAISING MONEY. It just might be easier to tackle this problem if we have the know-how. Ms. Devoky has and she is willing to help us help ourselves.



UPDATE ON HEARINGS

By John Murdoch

With TMIA sidelined, other intervenors now are carrying the ball against Met Ed in the continuing hearings on whether TMI Unit 1 should be allowed to re-open.

The prestigious Union of Concerned Scientists, with Robert Pollard as witness and questioner, has been hammering away at numerous issues related to plant design. Equipment, UCS contends, was not designed with "environmental qualifications" in mind, and so would be incapable of coping with Class 7 or 8 accidents, much less a major, "Class 9" accident such as happened March 28, 1979 at Unit 1's ill-fated twin.

While the emergency core cooling system and the "scram" system are "safety grade", the 3-member Atomic Safety and Licensing Board has been told by witnesses, turbine and switch controls, for example, are not "safety grade" but should be.

As expected, NRC staff has opposed all these contentions as unnecessary, as has Met Ed, which doesn't want to spend the money required to upgrade equipment, even though it would assure greater safety margins. (For example, Met Ed for months has vehemently fought NRC orders to install a monitor to record water levels.)

Steve Sholly, another intervenor, well-known for his work with the TMI Public Interest Resource Center (PIRC), has continued to question an integrated control system, involving safety analyses. He points out that a new plant computer system is partially installed, but that no back-up system is provided! Vital in-core temperature readings, he points out, will still feed into the computer and will then have to be "called up" each time, short-circuiting any chance for immediate direct read-out.

Although there is an evident crucial need for a safety-grade

radiation monitor on the reactor building purge system, Sholly has presented evidence that Met Ed remains content with a less reliable monitor, hoping it will do the job if emergencies arise.

The basic fault, Sholly contends, is that Unit 1 is "grandfathered" on lots of safety requirements. This means that Unit 1 meets the standards required at the time that it went on-line in 1974 but couldn't (and isn't required to) meet the stricter requirements imposed since. And Met Ed, he contends, isn't interested in doing anything more than meet the barest minimum requirements.

In spite of this, Herman Dieckamp, GPU president, in a critical letter published in the December 18 Lancaster "Intelligencer Journal" insists (with, it can be imagined, something less than a straight face) that "GPU has and will continue to work diligently to protect the public's health and safety."

By mid-January, it is probable, Met Ed and the NRC will be giving their rebuttals before the Board to the management incapacibilities arguments so devastatingly brought to light by TMIA's attorneys.

Emergency planning, Met Ed's financial capability, and further design contentions will be spelled out later as other intervenors have their opportunity to be heard.

The drama of Unit 1 continues almost daily in the austere courtroom-like setting of the Court St. hearing room, in Harrisburg, but the hundreds of thousands of persons whose future well-being very much may depend on the outcome of those hearings appear oblivious or unconcerned.

RATE BOYCOTT CAMPAIGN

By Jack Knake

The rate boycott campaign was devised to encourage people to take direct action against their electric utility company -- people who are angry about the dangers of nuclear power and the uncaring attitudes of

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the companies. We need to have people actively attempt to get others to join the boycott. We want folks to send in their names and addresses to TMIA so that we can keep track of how many people are boycotting and how much money we've withheld.

So far the response has been slow, but the numbers are growing. We've printed about 2,500 Rate Boycott leaflets. Our list of boycotters is far from complete. Based on personal contacts and telephone calls to the office, there are a lot of people who don't know that we are encouraging boycotting and trying to keep track of rate boycotters. If you are currently withholding, send a postcard to the office telling us so. If you're not withholding, seriously consider it.

MetEd has responded to the boycott with a form letter of their own. About 50 letters were sent from MetEd to people who have been withholding part of their electric bills. Basically the letter was a scare tactic. They threaten to request an additional deposit, inform us of the late payment charge of 1 1/4% monthly, and state that "the continued existence of an unpaid balance can ultimately result in the termination of service." We knew all that! The best part of the letter was, "We would urge you to reconsider your position with regard to the withholding of a portion of your billing." I reconsidered and resolved that I would like to get even more people withholding -- 500 or 5,000 would be real nice!

No one that I know of had their power terminated yet for withholding. The best advice is to pay up when you receive the termination notice and start boycotting again with the next month's bill. You will have at least ten days to pay after you get the notice. If you want to hassle the company some more, file a complaint with the PUC.

Edith and Frank Brown filed a complaint. They have been boycotting since the summer of 1979. They are PP&L customers and claimed that since there is no permanent method of nuclear waste disposal, PP&L should not be able to operate the nuclear plant that they're building near Berwick, Pa.

The PUC regulations give the PUC the power to set standards of safety for public utilities. The PUC ruled that they lacked jurisdiction as the NRC has taken over jurisdiction of nuclear facilities. The Browns did succeed in getting some attention drawn to the problem. I applaud their efforts! Edith has told me that they will continue with the boycott.

I realize that we can't all make the time to file a formal complaint with the PUC, but boycotting a portion of your bill takes very little time at all. Simply write two checks when you pay your bill - one to your utility and the other to put in your savings account so that you'll have the money to pay when you receive your termination notice. Now surely we all have the time to write one more check each month!

There is great potential for the boycott. At a recent PUC hearing, a petition was presented with 7500 signers who are willing to withhold payment of their electric bill should MetEd be granted their most recent request for an increase. Pat Smith of Newberry Township had presented 5,000 signatures at an earlier hearing.

An article in the December 15th issue of the Harrisburg "Evening News" reported that there is \$5,000,000 in outstanding bills owed to MetEd; 47,000 customers are behind in payments. A company representative stated that it is especially important to get payment as MetEd is in dire need of cash. The representative said that the percentage of customers withholding part of their electricity due to TMI is insignificant. Would you expect them to say anything different? The companies are being hurt and we can hurt them even more. We don't have to accept nuclear power! We can fight it every way we can. Hit them in their pocket-books! Let Central Pennsylvania be a model of how to stop the nukes. Get involved in the boycott. Join us with your next bill!

EDITOR'S NOTE: Jack Knake's Rate Boycott leaflet is available at the TMIA office, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg.

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

The following article appeared in the December 17, 1980 issue of the Harrisburg "Evening News."

NUCLEAR SUBSIDIES OF \$37 BILLION CUT ELECTRIC COSTS

The government has poured about \$37 billion in public subsidies into nuclear power since 1950, which has resulted in a savings today of as much as 2.5 cents a kilowatt hour, a draft report says.

The Energy Department draft, written by Joseph Bowring and obtained by United Press International Tuesday, adds up 30 years of public subsidies to reactor design, nuclear exports, uranium production, federal atomic fuel enrichment and waste management.

"The total constant dollar value of these subsidies since 1950 is just over \$37 billion," it states. "A kilowatt hour of nuclear electricity would cost about 2.5 cents more than its current cost in the absence of government subsidies."

David McNichol, an official of the Energy Department's Energy Information Administration, said he had "signed off" the draft and "it is indeed in the final stages of the

clearance process."

A spokesman for the Atomic Industrial Forum trade group said he expected substantial revisions before the report is issued. He challenged the subsidy figure, saying his group's estimate is \$15 billion to \$17 billion.

And he charged that government has spent \$77 billion to subsidize oil, \$6.8 billion on competing coal, \$15 billion on gas, and \$9.2 billion to \$17.5 billion on hydroelectric power.

The draft report, which drew on Battelle Institute statistics, did not consider subsidized nuclear insurance rates under the Price-Anderson Act, which limits industry liability.

It listed total public nuclear research and development expenditures since 1948 as \$23.6 billion. The public paid another \$237 million to encourage foreign reactor sales, it said.

Commercial uranium production got \$2.5 billion and government-run fuel enrichment \$7.1 billion. Waste-disposal subsidies accounted for the rest.

"Each of these subsidies has reduced the cost and/or uncertainty to private firms of investing in nuclear power," it states. "The result has been that current production of electricity from nuclear power is substantially larger than it would have been in the absence of such subsidies."

"The exact rationale for subsidies to nuclear power is not clear," it added, questioning a few oft-cited reasons like the alleged ability of atomic power to replace imported oil.

"This benefit is probably not as significant as frequently suggested, primarily because the baseload electricity supplied by nuclear plants cannot substitute for oil in many of its uses," the draft states.

The question of subsidies to energy producers has taken on new importance since the election, because some of President-elect Ronald Reagan's economic advisers think they should be eliminated. Energy subsidies and regulatory price controls encourage wasteful use and discourage conservation, they argue.



ANYTHING EXCITING HAPPEN AT
THE NUCLEAR POWER PLANT TODAY? 5

PUBLICATIONS CORNER

Looking for some good reading for those long winter nights? The following is a partial list of paperback books available on loan from the TMIA office, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg:

1. Arms Control and Disarmament Agreements. Texts and Histories of Negotiations. 1980 U.S. Arms Control And Disarmament Agency 239pp.

2. Energy We Can Live With. Approaches to Energy that Are Easy on the Earth and Its People edited by Daniel Wallace 150pp.

3. Gegen den Atomstaat (a book of photographs documenting the German anti-nuclear movement) 320pp.

4. "Irrevy" An Irreverent, Illustrated View of Nuclear Power John Gofman 248pp.

5. Liability For Nuclear Accidents Oversight Hearing before the Subcommittee On Energy And The Environment of the House Committee On Interior And Insular Affairs 214pp.

6. No Nukes: everyone's guide to nuclear power Anna Gyorgy and friends 478pp.

WHITHER LEAKS?

By Bev Davis

It took from November 27 to December 11, but Bob Arnold finally told the public that MetEd had found a mildly radioactive spot in a cork expansion joint around a door leading to a tunnel under the auxiliary building. He does not know how it got there.

In the DER briefing at the Forum last month, Arnold termed such leaks, "Footprints of the Accident," and told the public to prepare to hear about more of them as cleanup proceeds.

The resin canisters are also giving off radioactivity in the interim storage building built to store Epicor II products, Arnold reported.

At the briefing, he also reminded the audience of the tritium leaks in the "wells" around the reactor, which MetEd suspects come from the borated water tank which keeps the core cool.

But he mentioned only offhandedly 6

the second radioactive spot which was described more fully in John Collins' December 8 report to his bosses, Bernard Snyder and Harold Denton. This additional spot is in an expansion joint "contiguous to the first (joint) and which circles the reactor building." That second expansion joint runs through the seal injection room. "The seal injection room is currently inaccessible because of high radiation levels as a result of previous reactor coolant system leakage," Arnold said.

MetEd is digging out edges of the cork where they can reach them. If the edges don't become radioactive again, then MetEd can rule out the guess that the leak could be coming from the containment building. The contamination could also be coming from scrub water used to decontaminate the auxiliary building or from water which stood in that area sometime after March 28.

RECYCLED RADIOACTIVE METALS

By Bev Davis

The industry has learned to get rid of radioactive gases by venting them into the atmosphere, and radioactive water by dumping it into the river. Up to now it has been harder to get rid of solids.

Under rules which will go into effect unless there are serious objections from the public, NRC plans to allow reprocessing plants to throw radioactive metals into the smelting pot and recycle them into our daily lives. Mixed with ordinary metals, the resulting product will now be possible to be reused instead of buried, saving the industry 40 million dollars. This metal can turn up in cooking utensils, the coins in our pockets, or in IUD's. One metal, nickel, has a radioactive life of 1.5 million years!

If you dislike this handy-dandy idea, you can write the NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555. Even though the official comment period has expired, they will apparently take your ideas into account.

HOW COME EVERY TIME METED ENTERS THE CONTAINMENT BUILDING, WE HEAR THAT THERE IS LESS CONTAMINATION THAN EXPECTED, BUT IT IS GOING TO COST MUCH MORE THAN PLANNED TO CLEAN IT UP???

UPCOMING ACTIVITIES

JAN 5 - Adams County Community Group meeting.
Regularly scheduled news release by EPA.

JAN 6 - TMIA Planning Council meeting at the Friends Meetinghouse at 7:30 p.m.

JAN 14- Regular meeting of Newberry Township Group at the Newberry Elementary School at 7:30 p.m. Topics include the rate strike planned for March. Public is invited. (Directions: Take Exit 13 off of Interstate 81).

JAN 17- Harrisburg Area Trade Unionists meeting at HACC.

JAN 18- Regional Labor meeting at HACC at 9:30 a.m. Subject will be "Safe Energy and Full Employment." Public is invited.

JAN 19- Adams County Community Group meeting.

JAN 21- DER briefing on status of & 22 decontamination of TMI Unit 2 at the Forum at 7:30 p.m.

JAN 25- March 28th Coalition meeting at Friends Meetinghouse at 7:00 p.m. Topics include non-violent civil disobedience activities and March anniversary activities. All are invited.

EDITORIAL BOARD: Cathy Musser, Bev Davis, Paul Makurath

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Sue Olmstead, ed., Paul Makurath, Cathie Musser, Bev Davis, Jack Knake, Mary Hartnett, John Murdoch, Sue Shetrom, and Mary Osborn.

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: January 15, 1981

TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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_____ 200 club member

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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102

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THAT MISTAKE
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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 2, No. 10

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

February 1981

ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S FINAL MEETINGS

The Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI Unit 2 will hold a series of working meetings to draw up a set of recommendations on the cleanup of Unit 2. The meetings will be held on February 4, 11, and 19 at the Forum Building, Commonwealth Avenue and Walnut Street, Harrisburg. The meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The panel, formed as a result of Congressional concern, is empowered by the NRC to provide citizen recommendations on the cleanup and the PEIS. Previous meetings have dealt with the questions of the waste problem, water dumping, and other cleanup activities.

Joel Roth, former TMIA chairman and a member of the panel, said, "We have all been disappointed by the lack of citizen input to date. Since the first meeting in November, very few area residents have taken the time to attend these important meetings."

While the 4th and 11th meetings are important, the 19th should become a major effort for people to express their concerns and their fears about the cleanup.

A TMIA effort is underway to insure a large turnout for that meeting. Louise Bradford, acting chairperson of TMIA, said, "People all over the area are questioning whether anti-nuclear sentiment in this area is dead. This is our chance to show that we still feel strongly not only about the safe cleanup, but about the restart of Unit 1."

The lack of citizen input seems to indicate that not even TMIA members are responding. These meetings are an opportunity for you to speak to someone about your concerns - someone who is there for the specific purpose of listening to you.

Anyone interested in helping to develop a major push to get people to the meeting on the 19th, contact Chris Sayer at the TMIA office, phone: 233-7897.

-Chris Sayer

PROJECT WOODEN NICKEL

It is not often that someone is generous enough to donate something of substantial value. But Jerry Dubois of Schraeder Stoves of Pa. has donated a Schraeder wood/coal stove to us to be used in a raffle to raise funds for the local anti-nuclear movement.

Here is an opportunity for all local groups to pull together, reach out, raise funds, and say there is an alternative to nuclear energy.

CAN WE AFFORD TO LET THIS GIFT GO UNANSWERED?

Enclosed with this newsletter, you received five raffle tickets to sell or take a chance yourself. Please give this your immediate attention and don't let the tickets sit unsold. We need 100% response to be successful. So do your part, sell the tickets, and then return the stubs and money to TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17102. If you need more tickets, call or write the TMIA office.

Let's turn our wooden nickels into paper dollars. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

-Al Mirando

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Steering Committee has accepted with regret the resignation, for personal reasons, of Mary Hartnett as chair and colleague. Mary's dedicated leadership will be greatly missed and we hope that she will be able to rejoin us in the future.

There are now two vacant positions on the Steering Committee, and we expect to present candidates for them to the TMIA membership, via this publication, next month. If you would like to serve on the committee, or nominate someone else to serve, please call the office at 717-233-7897 as soon as possible.

In other news, the Steering Committee has named Kay Pickering as Staff Coordinator of TMIA. This action means that Kay will be able to take greater initiative and will have more authority to make decisions and speak for the organization than she has had as Office Volunteer.

Finally, the Steering Committee has retained Theodore R. Kobrin, CPA, to perform an audit of TMIA's books. The audit will cover the years 1979 and 1980 and is required of TMIA as a non-profit organization. Mr. Kobrin will also help us apply for federal tax-exempt status, which, if the IRS grants it to us, should make it somewhat less difficult to raise money. Assisting Mr. Kobrin in his work will be Ruth Gentle, Paul Makurath, and Kay Pickering.

-Paul Makurath

TMI UNIT 1 RESTART HEARINGS

TMIA, now without enough funds to retain legal counsel or to present expert witnesses, intends to continue as an active intervenor in the TMI Unit 1 restart hearings underway in Harrisburg.

The decision to press ahead with TMIA's contentions of Met-Ed's management shortcomings and financial inadequacies has been made by the Steering Committee and the Planning Council.

Louise Bradford, Vice-Chairperson of the Steering Committee, aided by a number of TMIA volunteers, will represent TMIA at the hearings before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Volunteers are needed to help in the work of reviewing and indexing hearing transcripts, in reading correspondence, etc. They should call 233-7897 and leave a message for Louise Bradford.

Recent hearing sessions have concentrated on on-site and off-site emergency planning, major interests of Newberry Twp. Steve Sholly's contentions deal largely with control room design safety. UCS (Union of Concerned Scientists) has now withdrawn a number of its remaining contentions as not being paramount to the central issues of the hearings.

Whatever the ultimate outcome of the hearings in the way of a report and recommendations to the NRC Commissioners from the Board, intervenors with strong cases (and the resources to do so) will have the option of pursuing legal remedies through the courts.

-John Murdoch

TMI LEGAL FUND

The purpose of the TMI Legal Fund (TMILF) is to raise and distribute funds to various anti-nuclear organizations for legal actions concerning the Three Mile Island plant.

The TMILF Board met last month to consider further allocations. Facing the Board was the difficult task of developing standards for setting priorities for further disbursements. Funds, as you all know, are exceedingly low.

All Board members, with the assistance of Judy Johnsrud, worked hard to develop these standards. The

Continued

overriding concern of all was whether funds exist for completion of projects proposed by any group.

The Board must be careful not to pump a lot of money into projects and litigation if it appears that insufficient funds exist for completion, or that the project has little or no chance of success.

That's the hard reality. None of us in this movement can be happy with the situation, especially since the utility never seems to have problems coming up with money to pay their attorneys and experts.

Funds are fairly low now. As a result, the TMILF will not be considering any major allotments. Proposals were presented, however, by A.N.G.R.Y., Newberry Twp. Steering committee, TMIA, and PANE. The Board, at the next meeting, will consider which, if any, of these groups should receive funds for use in February.

-Sam Milkes

PROJECT DAVID RATEPAYERS STRIKE

TMIA has initiated a ratepayers strike for the month of March, the second anniversary of the TMI Unit 2 accident. As a protest to Met-Ed and PP&L (Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant to go on line in 1982), all utility customers are encouraged to send a letter similar to the statement below indicating their objection to rate increases to finance nuclear power plants.

"I cannot, in good conscience, lend approval and financial support to the use of nuclear power plants which threaten the lives and health of myself, my family, and my fellow citizens. In addition, the decision by MetEd to use nuclear power plants has resulted in significantly higher costs for my electric service. Therefore, I am withholding payment of my bill which I received in the month of March from Metropolitan Edison until such time that they decide to keep TMI closed forever as a nuclear generating facility."

Cooperating in this area-wide strike is the community of Newberry



Township, represented by the Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee. Of the more than 3,740 households, 1% made a commitment at the public meeting on January 17 to withhold their utility payment to Met-Ed for the month of March. The overall goal is positive identification and participation of 5% or more of the households.

Those who participate in Project David are asked to make a copy of the top portion of the bill and then bring the top tear-off to the Capitol Steps on March 28. At some point during the rally, all the bills will be burned and then the ashes will be delivered to Met-Ed.

Call or write the TMIA office for additional information and a one-page flyer, "Your Rights as a Met-Ed Customer."

MORE TO COME IN THE MARCH NEWS-LETTER!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Watch for these two programs coming up on your local public television station...

NUCLEAR STRATEGIES is about decisions and decision-makers in the nuclear armament field.

THINKING TWICE: LIVING IN THE NUCLEAR AGE is the story of one family's adjustment to the realities of existence in the nuclear age.

Keeping reading The Alert for further information.

LIMITED APPEARANCE STATEMENTS & LETTER-WRITING EFFORTS

The rules and regulation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission make provision for two types of participation by the general public in NRC licensing hearings. The first type of participation is intervention, which involves formal participation in the hearing process.

The second type of participation is by making a limited appearance statement. According to the NRC's Rules of Practice, members of the public may, at the discretion of the presiding officer (the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board), make an oral or written statement of their position on any issues in the hearing at any session of the hearing.

A coordinated effort by all area groups is underway for a mass Limited Appearance Statement, scheduled for Thursday, March 5 (Snow Date - Wed., March 11) at the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg, beginning at 7:15 p.m. We are asking the Board to come hear our statements at the session we have set up. This will be the only evening session during the entire hearing and the only time for presentations.

For those who have written requests to the Board, please advise TMIA or TMI-PIRC. Please show up and be prepared, even though the Board does not officially notify you of the date and time.

Remember, the statements may be written or verbal.

Another way to make your voice heard is by writing letters to key individuals. Information from many sources reveals that the NRC is getting huge volumes of mail from stockholders, GPU employees, and other local citizens to restart TMI Unit 1.

Two or three times a month, send letters or postcards to:

1. Congressman Allen Ertel, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 - Ask him to send a copy to the NRC commissioners.

2. Governor Richard Thornburgh, Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 4

17120 - Ask him to send a copy to Congressman Ertel and Senator Arlen Specter.

3. Ivan Smith, Chairman, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, TMI-1 Restart Proceeding, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.

WRITE NOW!

LABOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The effect of nuclear power on jobs and health was discussed at meetings of the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment on January 17 and 18 in Harrisburg.

Plans were made to sponsor a rally in Harrisburg on March 28, the second anniversary of the accident at TMI.

The safe energy education event brought together representatives of more than 25 labor unions and numerous anti-nuclear groups, from a number of states.

The message was clear, and best described by economist Charles Komanoff, who urged that the country get off nuclear and substitute coal for oil for the interim period until alternative energy is ready to carry the load.

Speakers included national coordinator Jerry Gordon; nuclear physicist Michio Kaku; Tom Twomey of the Mine Workers; Ed Clinch of the Machinists Union; Robert Pollard of the Union of Concerned Scientists; Judy Johnsrud of ECNP; farmer Jane Lee; Mark Widoff, former consumer advocate; and Chauncey Kepford, ECNP.

Jane Perkins of the Pennsylvania Social Services Union braved possible expulsion from the Central Pennsylvania Building and Trades Council in organizing the Greater Harrisburg segment of the conference.

In four workshops, leaders told of the high cost of nuclear construction, the impact on jobs, the risks to human and animal health, and the Big Oil corporation control of our energy choices.

Slides and movies showed radiation victims, damaged fuel cores, bomb testing casualties, and a nuclear debate.

CLEAN-UP PROBLEMS

A recent article in Science, entitled "Debate Over Waste Imperils Three Mile Island Cleanup," discusses the amount of radioactive material currently present at TMI, and continually being created by the clean-up effort. The author concludes that the lack of disposal sites capable of accepting this material has created a serious problem.

The accident itself generated quantities of radioactive wastes of all levels. In addition to severe damage to the core, one million gallons of water, the containment building and all the equipment in it, were heavily contaminated.

Now the clean-up is increasing this load of radioactive debris. A report by the Bechtel Power Company estimates the materials that will be contaminated by the clean-up. The thousands of decontamination workers will be outfitted with one million pairs of plastic coveralls, boots, and gloves, and thousands of breathing masks and oxygen tanks. In addition, an estimated 10,000 sponge mops, 10,000 concrete blocks, 12,000 sq. ft. of lead sheeting and as much as 350,000 gallons of decontamination solution will be required.

All these materials will have to be securely disposed of. However, a shortage of disposal sites for low and intermediate waste may leave the stuff sitting on Three Mile Island. Currently there are three U.S. sites capable of accepting TMI wastes. However, the Beatty, Nev. site may have its license revoked by the governor, and the Barnwell, SC site will not accept TMI wastes. Prior to the November election, wastes were being trucked to the Hanford, Washington site. A statewide referendum indicated 60% of Washington citizens favored restricting the site to in-state use. If legal and jurisdictional issues are resolved in the citizens' favor, this site too will be closed to TMI wastes.

If on-site storage becomes the only option, the issue is sure to become a controversial one. As the author observes, "In the past, the disposal of radioactive waste has been

a problem that policy-makers have put off until tomorrow. But the Three Mile Island cleanup is here today, and, should there be a failure to cope with the waste that it generates, the whole nuclear enterprise may suffer."

Another article, entitled "Three Mile Island Cleanup - Problems, Problems," reaches similar conclusions. The author reviews the NRC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the clean-up and discusses the radioactive exposure of clean-up workers. Although the NRC limits regular workers to 3 rems of whole body radiation annually, TMI decontamination workers can be exposed to 3 rems per quarter.

The author further discusses the lack of sites for the huge quantities of waste and concludes that radioactive waste disposal may become the new "state's rights" issue of the 80s. She concludes, "Pennsylvania may find it has no friends when the disposal of radioactive waste is concerned."

Copies of both of these articles are available at the TMIA office.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

By Georgianna Nyce

We all know by now that there are many alternate sources of energy. Nuclear power is not necessary. We are on the verge of permanently destroying our environment and jeopardizing any future our children might have. It's that simple.

I'd like to share with you a number of alternate energy projects about which you may not have heard.

Sweden's Scaniainventor Company claims the ability to make pollution-free and economical fuel from coal. It is called Carbogel and has the consistency of fuel oil, yielding almost as much energy as coal when burned, according to available information. It is transportable in conventional oil-distribution systems.

A Heat Cell made by Texxor Corporation, 9910 N. 48th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68152, absorbs heat when placed in a sunny area. It absorbs the heat at 81 degrees F. and

Continued

releases it for hours when the temperature drops. This can be used for solar-heat storage and waste-heat recovery.

The use of undersea turbines is possible. The constant motion of the gulf stream and other areas could be used to supply energy. The mechanism of the ocean turbine is a two-stage axial-flow turbine, consisting of a pair of counterrotating rotors, which are driven by the ocean current. In large units, the turbine blade tips are mounted to stiff circular rims which turn the friction wheels. The wheels drive electrical generators. Research into the effects on currents, land, people, animals, and fish is on-going. It was found that small, less expensive units appear most cost-effective rather than large units. Some funding from the U.S. Solar Energy Research Institute is expected. The name of the system is the Coriolis System.

A geothermal power plant in California's Imperial Valley uses a new kind of heat exchange called "direct contact," inside a tall steel tower. Hot brine pumped from the earth supplies heat involved in producing electricity. A project now operating in Klamath Falls, Oregon, is one of 25 planned to demonstrate that geothermal heating is technically and economically feasible. According to DOE, the potential for geothermal space heat is great because 35 million people in the U.S. live within 50 miles of a source of geothermal energy.

Invented by Sir Christopher Cockerell, the Hovercraft, a three-section hinged raft operating hydraulic motor driving an alternator is in an experimental stage. The project is being funded by the British Dept. of Energy.

Solchem (begun in 1973) is a thermochemical solar-energy transport and storage system. Solchem was developed at the Naval Research Lab and is in place in White Sands, N.M. In this system, a gaseous working fluid changes its chemical form and absorbs and transports solar energy. Individual solar concentrators and receiver converters produce a gas which is energy-rich. Energy-storage boiler tanks store the heat. Heat is used

to produce steam to drive turbines to generate electricity. According to people at the Naval Research Lab, the Navy's entire demand for energy could be met by using this system on less than 25% of the real estate at the weapons center in the Mojave Desert. By deliberate design, the materials used to construct Solchem are abundant in the U.S. and are inexpensive. It was originally predicted that this source wouldn't reach the hardware stage until the year 2015, but it is now at the small demonstration stage, to be followed by the large demonstration project and released to the utilities.

Photovoltaic cells use sunlight somewhat like plants do. They convert sunlight directly into electricity. The use of photovoltaic shingles is a possibility. In an article in the June, 1980 issue of Atlantic Monthly, the author mentions that a reputable scientist with a friend at one of the national labs was told that they had found a way to purify silicon cheaper than any way yet devised. This process was being kept secret by the government, says the article, because of "patent" considerations. Keep in mind the history of DOE. The Atomic Energy Commission became the Energy Research and Development Administration which then joined up with the Federal Energy Administration and became DOE.

The Morton Hearth Furnace is a device you can put in your fireplace to increase the efficiency of the fireplace. It works.

The Martin-Marietta Company reportedly will design, build, and operate the world's largest solar photovoltaic power plant under a \$16.5 million contract with DOE's Solar Energy Research Institute. Where will it be built? In America? In an underdeveloped country? Sorry. The answer is in Saudi Arabia, sitting on the world's richest oil fields. The plant is to be completed by July, 1981.

*****CALENDAR OF EVENTS*****

FEB. 4, 11, & 19 - Citizens Advisory Panel Meetings, Forum Building, Commonwealth and Walnut Sts., Harrisburg, 7:00 p.m.

FEB. 2 & 16 - Adams County Community Group Meeting.

FEB. 17 - TMIA Planning Council Meeting.

FEB. 20 & 21 - East Shore Area Bake Sale, Colonial Park Plaza, All day and evening.

PUBLICATIONS CORNER

Here are some more paperback books available on loan from the TMIA office, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg:

1. Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do! Dr. Helen Caldicott 120pp.

2. Poisoned Power. The Case Against Nuclear Power Plants Before and After Three Mile Island John Gofman & Arthur Tamplin 353pp.

3. Shut Down. Nuclear Power On Trial (Testimony of Experts in Federal Court) 191pp.

4. The Accident Hazards of Nuclear Power Plants Richard E. Webb 228pp.

5. The Shape of Events to Come Gopi Krishna 201pp.

Editorial Board: Bev Davis, Cathy Musser, Paul Makurath

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Sue Olmstead, Ed., Chris Sayer, Al Mirando, John Murdoch, Georgianna Nyce, Sam Milkes, Kay Pickering, and Sue Shetrom.

TMIA OFFICERS: Joel Roth, Chair; Louise Bradford, Vice-Chair; Paul Makurath, Treasurer; and Mary Osborn, Secretary.

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 315 Peffer Street
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IT COULD BE A NIGHTMARE!!!

What if you had to depend on the Harrisburg area print and broadcast media as the only sources of information on the anti-nuclear movement? It would be like sitting in the dark! IT COULD BE A NIGHTMARE! And it could happen to you if you don't renew your TMIA membership. We cannot afford to keep sending THE ALERT to readers whose memberships have lapsed. If the date above your name and address falls in 1980 or January of 1981, please cut out all of this information and return with your check so that we may keep you on the mailing list. THANK YOU.

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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 2, No. 11

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

March 1981

MARCH 28TH RALLY

March 28's Second Anniversary will see a rally in Harrisburg of labor and anti-nuclear groups joining hands to assure no more TMI's and a national safe energy policy.

The March will start on City Island at noon and move to the back of the Capitol, where there will be speeches and music from 1:00 to 4:00 p.m. William Winpingsinger, feisty head of the International Association of Machinists, will be the principal speaker.

Eleven national unions and 21 Pennsylvania labor and anti-nuclear groups are sponsoring the rally. United Mine Workers, whose contract comes up on March 27, will play a prominent role.

TMIA will be one of the sponsors in the coalition dedicated to:

- No more Three Mile Islands
- No opening of Unit 1
- No dumping of radioactive water in the Susquehanna
- Support for the United Mine Workers for a decent contract
- Jobs for all through a shorter work week and massive public works
- Guaranteed alternative jobs for nuclear workers at union rates

Project David sponsors will burn MetEd electric bills in a protest on March 27 at 7:00 p.m. on the Capitol steps.

Rather than pay their March electric bills, residents of Newberry Township have held the money in their bank accounts.

The ashes from these bills will be mailed to officers and shareholders

of MetEd, Governor Thornburgh, and the PUC members.

For additional information on the March 28th events or the Project David Strike, call the TMIA office at (717) 233-7897 or the Greater Harrisburg Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment at (717) 232-0396.

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

In the Steering Committee news this month, Joel Roth has been elected TMIA chairman. He replaces Louise Bradford, who was interim chair following the resignation of Mary Hartnett. Louise continues as vice-chair. Mary Osborn continues as secretary and Paul Makurath as treasurer.

Louise Bradford is also TMIA's Legal Representative in the Unit 1 restart hearings and has been working very hard to sustain our intervention. If you would like to help her, please call 233-7897 and leave your name.

The Steering Committee tapped Chris Sayer to be volunteer coordinator of the effort to turn out a large number of people for the February 19th meeting of the advisory panel on the TMI cleanup.

TMIA has received a \$1000 grant from the Pacific Alliance in California. Portions of this have been applied to the unpaid balance of our account with our former attorneys, Widoff and Adler, and to the debt owed the consulting firm that testified for us before the PUC last spring.

Continued

It has not been decided how the rest of the grant will be spent, but part could go to help pay for the audit of TMIA's books now in progress. More on the audit next month.

-Paul Makurath

PIRC REPORT

TMI Public Interest Resource Center, of which TMIAAlert is a member group, has continued to run with what promises to be a very active 1981. In order to keep the membership of TMI Alert informed on what PIRC is doing, this article will highlight significant issues raised in PIRC meetings.

Two issues immediately stand out: one is the national Labor Rally that will be held here on March 28, and the second is the possible development of a scientific resource group that will access anti-TMI groups to studies and data regarding the future of the Island.

As most of you know, the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment met in Harrisburg a month ago with the result being a commitment to have a rally in Harrisburg on the two-year anniversary of the start of the accident. Active solicitation of anti-TMI groups has begun; people are needed to serve in a variety of capacities for the rally. TMIAAlert will be needing people for a booth at the Rally, so call the office to volunteer your time at this most important event. An interesting note on the Labor support that has developed for our movement has been the intent to use the Rally as a starting point for more organizing to prevent TMI from reopening.

Also, PIRC has begun exploring the resources available for a scientific "institute" that will lend support and credentialing to the anti-TMI groups in the Central Pa. area. While details are still vague, PIRC is requesting anyone with questions regarding any technical/scientific aspect of TMI, to contact Sue Shetrom at the PIRC office, and she will be able to forward the request to the contact in New York. Further details will be in the next Alert.

In addition to these issues, the following have been discussed: persons desiring to make limited appearance statements before the AS&LB should contact TMIAAlert or PIRC to let folks know what you want to say and for how long; PIRC is also exploring a meeting with Richard Kinane (Washington) to discuss strategies regarding the federal bailout question.

If anyone has ideas or questions that they would like to see the PIRC address, please contact Ed Nielsen through the TMIAAlert office.

-Ed Nielsen

FUEL TRANSPORT

With the announcement that spent fuel rods were being transported through Harrisburg from New Jersey last month, the problem of radioactive transport drew more attention from local residents.

Allan Chen of the Critical Mass Energy Project has come up with some interesting facts about such transport.

The number of accidents in 1979 totalled 122, a 23% increase over 1978. Eighty-four percent of the 1979 accidents occurred during highway transit.

The shipping company which reported the most accidents (92) was the Joplin, MO, based Tri State Motor Transit Company, the same company which is hauling waste from TMI-2.

Copies of this CMEP report can be obtained by writing to: Critical Mass Energy Project, Box 1538, Washington, D.C. 20013.

LEGISLATIVE VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

A proposed statewide network of volunteers willing to serve as "educational conduits" in each State Assembly district, to maintain close contact with both state senators and representatives, is being formed by the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power and some of its member groups. Republicans, Democrats, and Non-Partisans are needed. If you would like to volunteer, please contact Ed Charles through the TMIA office at (717) 233-7897.

MET-ED and PP&L RATEPAYERS
ON STRIKE

Don't Pay March Electricity Bill

Join Your Neighbors

A Gathering of Ratepayers

BILL BURNING & TEA PARTY

Friday, March 27, 1981 7:00 P.M.

CAPITOL STEPS

SEND, the top, tear-off section of your electric bill (the one you would normally pay in March) to TMIA by March 23rd or bring it with you to the RATEPAYER GATHERING, March 27. If you do not wish to part with any portion of your electric bill, write a short note explaining why you will not pay the bill in March and sign the note. Send the note to TMIA or bring it to the Capitol Steps on March 27th.

**PROJECT
DAVID**



A PROJECT OF:

TMI Ratepayers Congress

Newberry Twp. TMI Steering Committee

Three Mile Island Alert

For Information : TMIA, 315 Pepper St., Harrisburg, PA 17102

(717)233-7897

(Labor Donated)

ADVISORY PANEL MEETINGS

The Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI-2 was due to wind up its first five meetings on February 19 and to send its recommendations to the NRC by the end of the month.

Declining to take an integrated approach to the cleanup, it broke its deliberations into consideration of disposal of the water, low level and high level waste. It heard from experts from the Department of Energy, NRC, Met Ed, and a congressional committee. By our deadline, they had completed only one recommendation, that on water.

All water should be stored on the Island prior to a decision being made about eventual cleanup, the group agreed. Met Ed has tanks capable of storing up to the two million gallons projected to be generated. However Met Ed, in a surprise move, had attempted to have the panel plan only disposing of "accident-generated" water and ignore scrub water. This plan would have allowed Met Ed to store or dispose of the remaining water in any way it wished, as long as such disposal met EPA and NRC standards. Much of the scrub water is expected to be recycled water processed from the reactor building.

The Submerged Demineralizer System (SDS) which is proposed for processing of this water has not yet been approved by NRC. Met Ed has spent more than \$8 million so far on the system, but is still answering safety questions from NRC. The Susquehanna Valley Alliance has obtained federal court permission to sue to stop the use of SDS if it is approved, but has not said definitely that it would sue.

The panel refused to call for "non-processing" of the water on the belief that pipes and valves which help control core temperature might disintegrate if left in the reactor water.

As now proposed, the SDS would separate radioactive isotopes by running it through ion exchangers much like a home water softener and similar to Epicore II. It cannot remove radioactive tritium, but removes all but traces of other isotopes.

The water in the reactor building before processing contains, according to a New York Times article, "radioactive isotopes - sometimes several - 4

of strontium, plutonium, chromium, manganese, cobalt, zirconium, niobium, cesium, ruthenium, silver, tin, antimony, americium, and curium."

"HOT" CANISTERS

The "hot" canisters of radioactive resins which are left after processing have created a new category of commercial waste and a dilemma for those in charge of disposal.

Up to now the nuclear industry has used a catchall definition for waste - spent fuel rods (plus some transuranics created in reactor operation and reprocessing and uranium mine tailings) were called High Level Waste. Everything else - no matter how high its radioactivity - was termed Low Level Waste.

Commercial spent fuel rods, ever since President Carter wisely closed all reprocessing plants, are stored on site in borated tanks euphemistically called "swimming pools." Unit I has four loads of fuel stored in its tank on the Island. No permanent disposal site exists in the U.S., but DOE has been charged with creating one by 1990.

Low Level Waste, such as tools and clothing, is trucked to Washington state, South Carolina, or Nevada and buried.

Never before have we had resin liners with High Level Waste in them. Do they go in the "swimming pool," or should they be shipped to a LLW site? They are already showing signs of disintegrating. Met Ed admitted in December that the sump of the outbuilding in which they are stored shows traces of radioactivity. At hearings in August 1980, they were predicted to have a two year stability.

The liners used first in processing the water are High Level. Those used in the latter stages are classified Low Level. While presently in bead or sand form, they could become jelly-like or liquid, Brookhaven Lab has predicted.

Because of their instability, the Advisory Committee called for NRC to lift its order insisting that all these wastes be solidified in concrete or some other medium before shipping. Get them off the Island now, the panel urged.

Continued

SPENT FUEL

Spent fuel rods from TMI-2 also pose unique problems. The panel would like to remove them from the Island even though the Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement of the NRC calls for storing them in Unit 2's "swimming pool."

No one knows what condition these rods are in until the head of the reactor is unbolted. Estimates place the number of damaged rods as high as 90 percent of the total.

Greg Cunningham of the Department of Energy offered to take some or perhaps all of the damaged rods to a military DOE High Level Waste site because of their value for research, a suggestion the committee welcomed. Since his appearance before the Advisory Committee, Mr. Cunningham has resigned from DOE. His successor has attended the panel meetings as an observer, but has not commented publicly whether the offer is still open. The Nuclear Safety Oversight Committee, working under appointment of the NRC, has asked President Reagan to use DOE sites for TMI waste.

Whether DOE can do this is largely a political decision. DOE has traditionally said "no" to mixing commercial and military wastes because Congress has indicated it clearly feared NRC control of the sites if this occurred. In response to panel questions, Mr. Cunningham cited an Idaho dump which has for years comingled waste and which could set a precedent for congressional approval.

LOW LEVEL WASTE

Where Low Level Waste will go has also become an urgent question. Washington State, almost 3,000 miles of travel away, has been the principal repository, but voters there agreed to close their dump in June 1981. South Carolina has severely limited TMI waste since the accident. Bernard Snyder, NRC Program Office Director, told the panel that he expected Beatty, Nevada, to assume the responsibility for LLW if Washington is closed. Nevada has been reluctantly accepting this waste again since pressured by the feds to do so.

Andrea Dravo of Congressman Udall's committee, explained to the panel that a law passed in December 1980 requires every state to establish its own commercial low level waste dump by 1986 or enter into a compact with other states to establish such sites. Governor Thornburgh indicated in his public television call-in show on January 29 that he is searching for such a site in Pennsylvania now.

Governor Thornburgh has withdrawn his cabinet members from the panel, saying he did not want them voting on issues which only the Governor can decide. Their deputies remain as non-voting delegates.

Although rumors exist that the 1980 Congress wished to discharge the whole advisory panel, no such action was initiated. The group was never created by law although such a proposal was anticipated by the NRC when it appointed the members.

Even though the NRC has asked the Advisory Panel for its report by the end of February, its work is not over. The Committee will continue to meet and comment for as many years as the cleanup lasts. TMIA's Joel Roth is Harrisburg's representative on the panel.

LEGAL FUND REPORT

Since the Legal Fund Report of the last newsletter, two meetings have been held. One ended in an allocation of money to several groups and the other concluded with a renewed goal.

At the January 21 meeting, it was decided to provide various amounts of funding to ANGRY, Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee, and PANE for their legal battles. For the most part, these groups looked to the Legal Fund for partial funding but have also gained funding from other sources.

During the February 2nd meeting, some new proposals for funding were received and those will be considered at the February 17th meeting. In addition, the Board felt that we have not been making enough effort to raise funds. It is the role of the board not only to allocate funds for legal battles of various anti-nuclear groups, but also to help raise those funds.

Continued

We will be setting aside a major portion of the mid-February meeting to review fundraising ideas which would not conflict with those of local groups or the national mailing already underway. This goal of fundraising will be an ongoing one so that people with ideas are encouraged to contact their local representative. Following is a list of groups which are members of the Legal Fund and their current representative.

NEWBERRY TOWNSHIP TMI STEERING COMMITTEE - Patricia Smith

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT-Sam Milkes

SUSQUEHANNA VALLEY ALLIANCE - Tom Smithgall

PEOPLE AGAINST NUCLEAR ENERGY - Donald Konkle or John Kovalic

ANTI-NUCLEAR GROUP REPRESENTATING YORK - Martha Eyster

ENVIRONMENTAL COALITION ON NUCLEAR POWER - James Perkins

ENERGY FILMS AVAILABLE

The Pennsylvania State University maintains a comprehensive Audio Visual Services Department which sells and rents films, videotape cassettes, and other media. The October 1980 issue of their catalogue Perspectives on Film focuses on "Energy Resources." According to the introduction, the issue "provides articles, filmographies, and related materials designed to inform people on fundamental energy issues."

Included in the catalogue are the following sections: "Fossil Fuels, Trade-Offs, and Conservation;" "Alternate Energy Sources and Appropriate Technology;" "Compleat Guide Through the Maze of Nuclear Power Films;" and "Energy Issues and Resources." Each section presents a balanced look at the various films available, pointing out both strengths and weaknesses.

The section on nuclear power films also includes a selected bibliography of articles and books on the nuclear power controversy.

The catalogue is available at no charge from The Pennsylvania State University, Audio Visual Services, Special Services Building, University Park, PA 16802; phone: 814-865-6314. In addition, the TMIA office has a copy which may be borrowed.

JOIN THE RATEPAYERS' STRIKE...

There is nothing to it. Just don't pay your March electric bill and send your utility a letter explaining why. If you are a Met Ed customer, protest the drive to restart Unit 1. If you are a PP&L customer, protest the construction of the Berwick nuclear plant.

Remember, there is nothing they can do to you initially but send you another bill with a slight interest charge. Then you can decide to pay up or continue withholding.

BROWNOUT POSSIBLE? YES AND NO!

Will there be a brownout if Unit I is not allowed to reopen? Mr. Tourtellote, of the NRC staff, quoted a DOE report at the Unit I hearings saying it was possible. NRC's own staff in October 1980 (NUREG 0689) said the following:

"...the near-term reliability of the PJM (Pa./New Jersey/Maryland) system during the expected summer peaks should not be adversely affected by the unavailability of the TMI Units. Although GPU is not expected to be able to independently support its own load, excess capacity from the PJM interchange and other utilities suggests that reliable service on the GPU system can be maintained over the next two years."

"PJM's planned reserve margins during the summers of 1981 and 1982 are estimated at 27.9 percent and 27.8 percent respectively, without the TMI nuclear station. PJM has established 22 percent as adequate to maintain minimum-acceptable reliability; therefore, the PJM system should have adequate capacity to meet peak demand during this period."

When the Atomic Energy Commission was disbanded, the Department of Energy was given the research and development of nuclear power, while the NRC was given the regulation functions.

*****CALENDAR OF EVENTS*****

March 2 - TMIA Steering Committee Meeting at TMIA office; Adams County Community Group Meeting.

March 3 - Planning Council Meeting,
Friends Meeting House at 7:30 p.m.

March 4 - TMIA Legal Fund Meeting,
1037 Maclay St., Harrisburg, 7:00 p.m.

March 5 - Limited Appearance Statements
on Unit I Restart before Atomic Safety
and Licensing Board at William Penn
Museum, Harrisburg, 7:15 p.m.

March 7 - "Project David" 9:30 a.m.
Canvas Newberry Township for support.

March 9 - TMIA Steering Committee
Meeting.

March 10 - Leadership Meeting (Leaders
of Anti-nuclear Groups in the area),
PIRC office, 1037 Maclay St., Harrisburg
at 7:30 p.m.

March 11 - Newberry Township Public
Meeting, Newberry Elementary School,
7:30 p.m.

March 16 - TMIA Steering Committee
Meeting; Adams County Community Group
Meeting.

March 19 - Legal Fund Meeting, 1037
Maclay Street, 7:00 p.m.

March 21 - Film on different aspects
of nuclear power, William Penn Museum.

March 23 - Met Ed and PP&L Customers-
Submit top of utility bills.

March 27 - Ratepayers Bill Burning
and Tea Party, Capitol steps, 7:00 p.m.

March 28 - National March and Rally,
Second Year Anniversary of TMI accident.

Editorial Board: Bev Davis, Cathy
Musser, Paul Makurath

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Paul Makurath, Bev
Davis, Ed Nielsen, Sam Milkis, Nancy
Orlowski, Kay Pickering, and Sue
Olmstead (Editor).

TMIA OFFICERS: Joel Roth, Chair;
Louise Bradford, Vice-Chair; Paul
Makurath, Treasurer; and Mary Osborn,
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ATTENTION-ATTENTION-ATTENTION

Did you get your tickets for the Schraeder wood/coal stove raffle????? Have you sent the stubs and money into the office???? This fund-raiser benefits the local anti-TMI groups and YOU. If you've already sold your ten, call the office, and we'll get you more. Winner to be drawn at the 28th Rally, so get those tickets sold and into the office.

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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 2, No. 12

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

April 1981

BANKRUPTCY FOR MET-ED?

With MetEd staring down the barrel of bankruptcy, efforts in recent weeks have accelerated to find a way to pay for TMI-2 cleanup.

Forty banks, who have loaned the utility money to stay afloat, were trying to pressure the PUC into granting the \$75 million rate increase MetEd had requested. Without assurances of expected dollars, the banks could call in their loan. At best, MetEd might have trouble paying its April state taxes.

Congressman Allen Ertel was working to swing the Pennsylvania delegation behind a federal \$100 million insurance plan. Environmental lobbyists charged this was unacceptable because it would not only prop up MetEd, but provide a safety net for all nuclear utilities and all future accidents.

These lobbyists appeared before TMI representatives and other statewide Environmental Coalition people on March 14 in Harrisburg to explain that opposition.

Failing to get Congressional support, Rep. Ertel introduced the insurance bill himself, hoping to keep some bill alive before congressional committees.

Governor Thornburgh and Congressman Goodling were reportedly trying quietly to find federal money without going through a special bailout bill before a penny-pinching Congress.

Meanwhile the Department of Energy requested \$75 million for the next three years in its department budget, for "research and development" to learn lessons from TMI-2 waste.

This still left MetEd with clean-up expenses now escalated to one billion and only \$300 in insurance money.

The banks could loan MetEd more money - if MetEd could show it could earn more dollars. The PUC has ruled that no rate increase could be used for cleanup. Guaranteeing that Unit 1 would get back into the rate base by starting it up at five percent power was suggested by DOE and seconded by an NRC staff man before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. This undoubtedly warmed the hearts of the bankers as well as the licensee. NRC has not allowed this start-up however.

Where was the rest of the money to come from? Some said, "Let MetEd go bankrupt." If so, bankruptcy rules, though unclear, would probably have the same cast running the plant and assets would be distributed to creditors instead of being used for cleanup. A priority creditor plan might get around this, making cleanup a priority.

Only bankruptcy could surely involve stockholders. Common stockholders have already been denied dividends and stock value has plummeted to record lows. Preferred stockholders, protected under corporate law, are still drawing dividends and must continue to do so as long as the company is solvent.

If the company survives, rate-payers will still pay the bills. Ertel's insurance plan, as well as federal loan guarantees like Chrysler's, both envision utility payback of some of the money. Either ratepayers will

Continued

pay now in rates or pay later in rates to repay private or federal government loans.

GPU called on fellow nuclear utilities last fall to pay the bills through a levy on each of their rate-payers. The response - deafening silence.

The only other source of money is the national (or possibly the state) taxpayer, who would come up with a grant requiring no repayment. There isn't anybody else.

Some have said that a bailout should not reward MetEd for bad management. Is cleaning up the waste a reward for MetEd? Or a necessity for the TMI public? How much poverty can MetEd stand before nothing can be cleaned up?

If DOE rides to the rescue, will TMI be used as the excuse to enlarge waste dumps in South Carolina or restart processing plants nationwide. Both are dreams of ex-Governor Edwards who now heads DOE.

How much cleanup is just sufficient without being enough to promote the restart of Unit 2? Or the encouragement and protection of the nuclear industry and the bankers who profit from it?

These are the hard questions. There aren't any easy answers. But all TMIA members should examine all proposals closely before they decide where their support belongs.

UNIT I HEARINGS

What company, whose nuke went out of control March 28, 1979 causing the "worst-yet" near-catastrophe in the history of nuclear power, now wants to be believed and trusted when it says it has the capability and resources to run that nuke's twin with safety? (Ans.: Met Ed).

After four months of hearings in Harrisburg before an Atomic Safety and Licensing Board panel, the question of Met Ed's right to be believed is shaping up as the "bottom line" issue for NRC decision as to whether or not Met Ed should be allowed to restart TMI Unit 1.

In recent weeks, Met Ed and the NRC have paraded a dozen witnesses before the panel to recite their belief in company assurances that all will be well, if they just get the nod to throw the switch on the shut down Unit (and put it back into the rate base).

William S. Lee, president of Duke Power Co. and chairman of the board of INPO (the Institute of Nuclear Power Operations), made a prestigious appearance as a witness, reportedly to add some "Southern Comfort" to what lately has appeared to be Met Ed's bitter cup of tea.

The "Udall (staff) report," critical of management response and forthrightness in telling state and federal authorities what plant operators knew about the seriousness of the accident, has become an issue in the hearing.

This Congressional report is at odds in significant measure with NUREG 0760, issued by the NRC in January. The chief author of the latter report testified to little more than that such information was "not adequately transmitted" to those who needed to know the extent of the reactor damage.

Testing and training of plant operators has lately come in for some searching examination by hearing intervenors, including the Commonwealth of Pa.

Legal volunteers, notably Sarah Lawhorne and Joanne Doroshov and Terry Roth, have been aiding Louise Bradford in reviewing the transcripts and preparing questioning.

It is expected that the hearings will continue into April and that it will be several months more before the panel can submit its report and recommendations to the NRC Commissioners.

In recent days, when three company witnesses appeared unable or unwilling to say whether management

could override decisions of its top on-site radiological control officer in event of a major accident at TMI, an exasperated Ivan Smith, as Board Chairman, minced no words in directing company attorneys to produce a company official capable of giving a yes or no answer to that vital question.

Recent hearing sessions have been devoted to in-depth probing of emergency and evacuation planning at the site and in surrounding areas.

Persons unable to attend the March 5 evening session for public comments, and wishing to make presentations to the hearing board, should call 782-4905 and request a convenient time to do so.

- John Murdoch

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Steering Committee wants to extend somewhat belated recognition and thanks to Chris Sayer, Kay Pickering, and Mike Jones for seeing to it that a respectable number of people turned out for (and spoke up at) the February 19th meeting of the NRC advisory panel on the TMI cleanup. Because of the efforts of Chris, Kay, and Mike, the panel was reminded again that local anti-nuclear sentiment is far from dead--that people are still opposed to the restart of Unit 1 and to any release of radioactive water into the environment and are still adamant in their demand for the safest possible cleanup.

Kay Pickering also deserves thanks both for being one of the organizers of the Project David ratepayers' strike and for serving as overall coordinator of TMIA's activities at the March 28th rally.

In other Steering Committee news, Ed Nielsen in February agreed to serve as TMIA's representative on the board of the TMI Public Inter-

est Resource Center (PIRC). Ed replaces Al Mirando. Also, the audit of TMIA's books should be completed, or virtually completed, by the time this issue of the Alert goes to press.

Agenda items at last month's Steering Committee meetings included the following: our intervention in the Unit 1 restart hearings; possible political action to be organized around the intervention; the proposed funding by the TMI Legal Fund of ANGRY's evacuation contention in the hearings; Project David and the follow-up to it; planning for TMIA's activities at the March 28th rally; a planned TMIA public meeting to be held in late April or early May; and Rep. Allen Ertel's bill to finance the cleanup.

-Paul Makurath

PEIS COMPLETED

The final Environmental Impact Statement on TMI-2 cleanup is done. Now it goes to the full NRC commission for acceptance. According to those reporters who have read it -- it's as large as two Philadelphia phone books -- there are few changes made since the draft.

Exposure of citizens on the Middletown and cross-country waste transport route was factored in this time, as was the Chesapeake Bay economic impact. Workers and public alike will get minimum exposure, the new plan maintains.

Decommissioning was ruled out.

Doubts were raised that the SDS system could clean up the reactor water without help from an Epicore II. Storage of the water was recommended until a decision on ultimate disposal is made.

Copies of the plan are available at the Middletown NRC office. Locally, 2,000 copies are being mailed to interested parties and to people who commented on the draft.

PP&L SHAREOWNERS RESOLUTION CALLS FOR END OF NUCLEAR DEVELOPMENT AND INVESTMENT

According to a press release issued by the Susquehanna Alliance...

Four shareowners of Pennsylvania Power and Light (PP&L) have filed a resolution calling for the termination of PP&L's development and investment in nuclear-powered facilities. The resolution regarding the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station (SSES) is proposed for consideration at PP&L's Annual Meeting, April 22, 1981. It also calls for the conversion or redirection of "nuclear-oriented resources" and dissolving of PP&L's Nuclear Dept. and other nuclear operation units.

The shareowners proposal lists 15 assumptions made by PP&L in projecting the economic success of the SSES, PP&L's first nuclear power station now under construction near Berwick, Pa. The proposal then states, "The COMBINED risks of these assumptions constitute a threat to the financial integrity of the Company."

Some of the 15 assumptions attributed to PP&L and questioned by the shareowners are: 1) "The plant can be completed for a total cost of \$3,000,000,000"; 2) "costs of decommissioning the plant will be modest..."; 3) "power sales to current ratepayers, industry and the PJM grid will be increasing..."; 4) "the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission, the consumers and the regulatory agencies will continue to provide affirmative support..."; 5) "the problems of nuclear reactor safety and rad waste disposal will be solved..."; and 6) "local governments will tolerate radioactive waste storage, transportation and disposal systems."

David Mann, speaking for the Susquehanna Alliance, a regional coalition working to stop the operation of SSES as a nuclear facility, said, "We find this resolution most encouraging. Some of the questions raised are ones our group has attempted to raise in many different forums over the past several years. We

think this gives the shareowners an opportunity to voice their opinion on the Berwick plant. We find the economics of PP&L's plans at Berwick to be about as disastrous as the health and safety problems presented by such a facility."

The proposal by the stockholders and PP&L's response to it are currently under review by the Securities and Exchange Commission in Washington, D.C.

The shareowners are Barry Bean of Bethlehem, Pa.; Tim Laidman of Freemansburg, Pa.; Mary Ostrander of Lewisburg, Pa.; and Gene Stilp of Arlington, Virginia, formerly of Wilkes-Barre, Pa.

BAKE SALE RESULTS

On Friday and Saturday, February 20th and 21st, the Lower Paxton Chapter of TMIA held a bake sale/fund raiser at the Colonial Park Shopping Center. The event produced a respectable sum of \$214.50. Of that total, \$150.89 came from actual baked goods and the remaining \$63.61 from donations. Approximately 40 people participated by manning the booth, baking, or both. During the course of the sale, over two dozen people expressed interest in TMIA by taking brochures, newsletters, pledging to boycott for Project David, and offering active and moral support.

Special thanks must be extended to Ron & Shirley Blough, Nancy Orłowski, Mary Rita Gaiski, Sue Mitchum, and Paul Makurath for helping to make the sale so successful.

-Mitch Turnauer

Individual grants of up to \$50,000 will be available, the Federal Dept. of Energy announces, to help persons, small businesses, and communities and community groups who want to develop alternative energy-related ideas and to become involved in energy research and development.

By calling toll-free 1-800-462-0323 (DER's Region III office in Phila.), a person or persons can obtain a copy of the program announcement and a grant application. But hurry; April 20 is the closing date for applications.

*****CALENDAR OF EVENTS*****

- April 6 - Adams County Community Group meeting
- April 7 - TMIA Planning Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m., Friends Meeting House
- April 20- Adams County Community Group Meeting
- April 22- PP&L Stockholders Meeting in Hershey, Pa.
- May 7 - GPU Stockholders Meeting, 10:00 a.m., Strand Capitol Theatre in York, Pa.

"I JUST DON'T HAVE THE TIME..."

Louise Bradford, former acting TMIA chairperson and steering committee member, is made of hardy stuff. During the last few weeks of Unit-1 restart hearings, she's been working nights at her full-time job and sitting in as our intervenor 8 hours every day.

Being on hand at 9:00 a.m. each morning has helped keep open the right to question witnesses adequately, not only for all of us in TMIA, but for all intervenors.

What was that you said about "not having time" to help the anti-nuclear cause?

TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

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ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

Check Type Membership Desired

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- _____ 5 low income & student
- _____ 25 non-profit organization
- _____ 50 sustaining member
- _____ 100 patron
- _____ 200 club member
- _____ \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription

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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 3, No. 1

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

May 1981

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Steering Committee would like to thank all TMIA members who helped with the March 28th anniversary march and rally and particularly the following people, who worked at TMIA's concession tables on City Island and behind the capitol: Lewis Bucher, Judy Bayliss, Kathy Manfred, Holly Davenport, Nancy Sponeybarger, Paul Makurath, Sandra Choma, Sharon Creeden, Mitch Turnauer, Barbara Nace, M'Liss Halsey, Jackie Reigel, Janet Smith, Joel Roth, Kay Pickering, Louise Bradford, Joanne Doroshow, Pat Scrignoli, Mike Escabar, and Brenda White. (We apologize for any names missed or misspelled.)

TMIA took in \$2,306.21 at the rally by selling cider, peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, buttons, bumper stickers, T-shirts, rubber stamps, hats, etc.

TMIA Chairman Joel Roth traveled to Reading several days before the rally to address a meeting called to organize Reading-area support for Project David. About 200 people attended. Joel also spoke to students at the John Harris Campus of Harrisburg High School during John Harris's Energy Week in late March. The students were generally receptive and a few expressed an interest in meeting with some TMIA members and perhaps forming a TMIA chapter

at school.

Joel is presently talking to representatives of the other local anti-nuclear groups about the possibility of launching a campaign, coordinated with possible efforts of the advisory panel on the TMI cleanup, to get President Reagan to issue an executive order requiring the removal of accident-related radioactive waste from TMI. It now appears that presidential action will be necessary to get the waste removed, since Congress has so far indicated no willingness to act.

-Paul Makurath

YES WE CAN -- JUST ASK!

To me, the rally was a tremendous success. I wept when I saw so many people from all walks of life, marching together, pouring on to the empty parking lot behind the state capitol.

I was so proud to have been a small part of so many people working tirelessly for months because they know our lives and our earth cannot continue with the burden of the nuclear fuel cycle forced upon them.

Everyone I called to help baked their bread, sold their balloons, loaned us their kitchen, and made endless phone calls. Not one refused when asked to contribute in their own way.

I would like to use this space to sincerely thank Karen Melvin, who was tremendous in coordinating the Mechanicsburg bake sale. She also

Continued

involved her whole family, coming from as far as Greensburg, Pa. Thanks to each of you who baked, delivered, and manned the Mechanicsburg table.

Thanks to Drew Kosida and the Hershey group who phoned and gave so many baked items; to Dana Spitzform, who called her members in Carlisle; to Ann Miller, who organized her group to bake many loaves of bread. Thanks to Ron and Shirley Blough, John and Nancy Orlowski, and Paul Makurath, who asked their Lower Paxton group to bake again for us. We thank each of you and your groups for helping us. Together we made \$264, which will go directly to TMIA. Let us never forget - together we can achieve many things.

A special thanks to Cese Viti, her husband, daughter, and many others, who sold 2,000 misprinted balloons.

A big thank-you to Rev. Dave Fisher and Rev. Greg Harbaugh for allowing us the use of the Lakeside Lutheran Church kitchen facilities. Without them, there would not have been vats of hot soup and homemade bread for all those who worked night and day, Friday and Saturday.

Thanks to Mary Ann and Ed Charles, who gave many days stirring soup and lugging big pots. Thanks to Mike Jones, who never complained about picking up coolers and food, and even scrubbing pots and pans.

Thanks to Ruth Gentle, who baked many things even though she is still recuperating from a broken leg.

I have overlooked many names, but you know who you are and you can all be proud of your efforts. We know we can do anything together - just ask.

-Mary Hartnett
Mechanicsburg TMIA

PROJECT DAVID FOLLOW-UP

Project David organizers estimate electric utility bills totaling over \$70,000 were burned on the Capitol steps March 27th at the Bill Burning and Tea Party.

The target canvassing in Newberry Township resulted in the withholding of March payments to MetEd

by at least 9% of the Township households. This represents approximately \$47,000 in one community.

The bills collected from GPU ratepayers for February usage ranged in amounts from \$1.37 to \$611.13. In contrast, PP&L striking ratepayers February usage ranged from \$9.07 to \$148.99.

Project David was a joint venture of TMIA and the Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee. Letters containing the ashes from the charred bills have been mailed to all area elected officials who serve in Congress and the state legislature, in addition to the PUC Commissioners, the Governor, Lt. Governor, GPU, MetEd, PP&L, and NRC officials.

Ratepayers are encouraged to continue the protest of increasingly high rates by withholding part or all of their monthly bill payments. THE BATTLE HAS JUST BEGUN! The PUC continues to grant rate hikes.

SPECIAL THANKS TO ALL PROJECT DAVID PARTICIPANTS!

A meeting for all interested ratepayers has been set for Thursday, May 14 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meeting House by TMIA and the Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee. A legal services attorney will be present to discuss PUC regulations and alternatives for ratepayers.

We must plan for future support activities. Call Kay at the TMIA office for details -- 233-3072.

LEGAL FUND REPORT

Hello again from your Legal Fund representative. In this report, I can relate to you some changes in officers and members of the Board, allocations that we have made, and a decision of some significance to be made by the Board.

We were informed on March 19 that Jim Perkins of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power (ECNP) will no longer be the Coalition's representative to the Board. Jim has been a well-respected participant not only because he showed the commitment to drive from State College to Harrisburg for each of our meetings, but also be-

Continued

cause he could always be counted on for insightful comments and for accurate minutes. There's some good news to this story, however. All representatives to the Legal Fund eventually move on and are replaced. Jim is being replaced by Bev Davis from Mechanicsburg. Bev will certainly be equally as helpful as Jim has been and she won't have to drive from State College to participate!

We held our annual election of Board officers at our April 14 meeting and elected the following people:

Tom Smithgall (SVA) - President
Don Konkle (PANE) - Treasurer
Bev Davis (ECNP) - Secretary

While it is felt by Legal Fund members that it would be inappropriate to publish generally the allocations we make to various groups, it is felt there is no problem with disclosing the groups that have been funded for their various anti-nuclear legal involvements. The following have been funded during April:

Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee
Susquehanna Valley Alliance (SVA)
Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York (ANGRY)

If you're interested in finding out more about how much was allocated or specifically what legal battles each group is involved in, please give me or the representative of that group a call.

I mentioned that we have a difficult decision coming up. Our contract with Charlene Divorky & Associates of Winchester, Mass., for professional fundraising efforts has just expired. It's time to renew if that's what we want. The dilemma is that while Charlene has been successful in raising contributions for legal efforts and obtaining continuing pledges from donors, her services don't come cheap. We will soon be deciding whether there are better, less expensive ways of raising funds or whether her national fundraising attempts should be seen as successful enough to continue them for another year.

As usual, please feel free to contact me if you have questions or wish to make comments. I'm not always easy to reach, but be persistent. My number is 717-243-9828.

-Sam Milkis

TRANSFER OF OFF-SITE MONITORING PROGRAM THREATENS EFFECTIVENESS

During a recent meeting between the NRC and the Advisory Panel on Decontamination, NRC Chairman Hendrie expressed concern that responsibility for the off-site monitoring program at TMI was to be transferred from EPA's Division of Research & Development to EPA's Division of Radiation Protection. Hendrie went on to say that because of budget cuts within EPA, such a transfer could well mean a reduction or an end to the off-site program.

There is apparently a strong philosophical difference between the two divisions within EPA - the Division of Research and Development feels that the full array must be maintained and weekly published reports must be made; Radiation Protection believes that nothing is here and therefore the program is not a critical one, either from maintaining the full array or publishing the results.

Concerned citizens and organizations are encouraged to voice their opinion on this issue to David A. Stockman, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20503; Phone: 1-202-395-4747. Copies of any letters should be sent to Reps. Ertel, Goodling, and Walker at the House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515; and to Sens. Heinz and Specter at the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Mention should be made of the fact that EPA's Division of Research & Development is one of the few federal government bodies with any credibility left in this area. To make the proposed switch would severely damage the posture of the national government in the TMI operation.

-Chris Sayer

CONSERVATION TIP: SOLAR GREEN- HOUSES

By Cathie Musser

When someone mentions "solar energy," it's not unusual for most people to think only of rooftop collectors for hot water heating. This application of the sun's energy is what most technologists refer to when speaking of "solar energy." They also make a point of telling us that "solar" needs lots of work to make it useful, making it an answer for the "future." It is true that heating a large home with water heated only by the sun may be some years away, but there are many proven, effective, and uncomplicated uses of "solar energy." While the term "passive" solar seems mysterious and foreign, it simply means ANY use of the sun's energy without the aid of pumps, fans, or other moving parts.

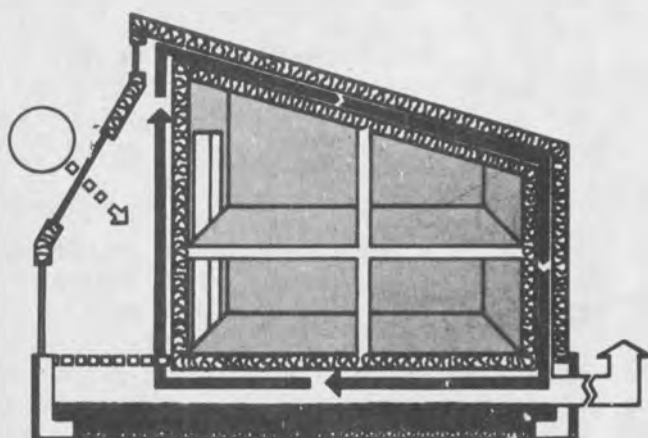
One of the most exciting new concepts is the "greenhouse," either as an addition to an existing structure, or as the focal point in a new home. A solar greenhouse built on the south side of an existing home acts as a collector of the sun's daytime strength. The heated air from the greenhouse, which is, as expected, constructed of glazed glass, rises to the top of the structure and enters your home through vents. Similar vents are placed at floor level. As the air in the home cools, it is drawn into

the greenhouse by natural convection and reheated. At night you can either close the vents or install some panels to insulate the glass areas. The system can be as simple or as complicated as you wish to make it, and is an excellent supplement to your existing heat.

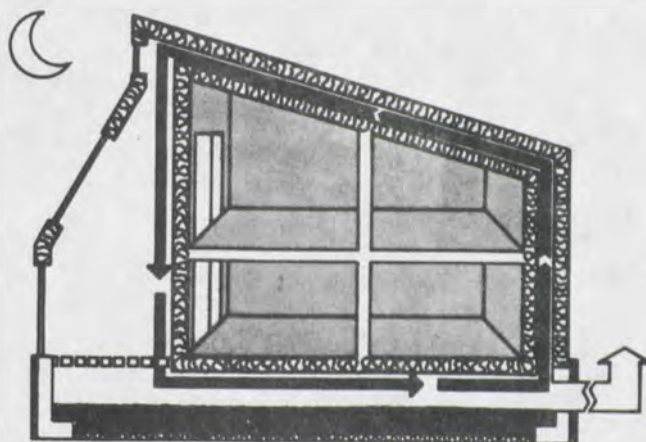
The same concept, when designed into a new home, can serve as the major heat source. Usually a two-story structure, the greenhouse makes up the entire south side of the home. The heated air rises to the top and enters an interior envelope which surrounds the entire interior of the structure (with the exception of the east/west walls, which must be heavily insulated). This idea is so simple it's hard to believe it hasn't been used until now. Please look closely at the pictures; they explain the concept far better than words alone.

At the present time, there are very few contractors doing this type of solar construction in this area. However, the law of supply and demand will increase this number in direct proportion to the number of people knowledgeable enough to request this kind of structure! A greenhouse addition to your present home can be constructed by anyone with a limited knowledge of construction. There are books available to aid in the determination of the best degree of slant for this area of the country. One such book is *THE SOLAR GREENHOUSE BOOK*, edited by James C. McCullagh

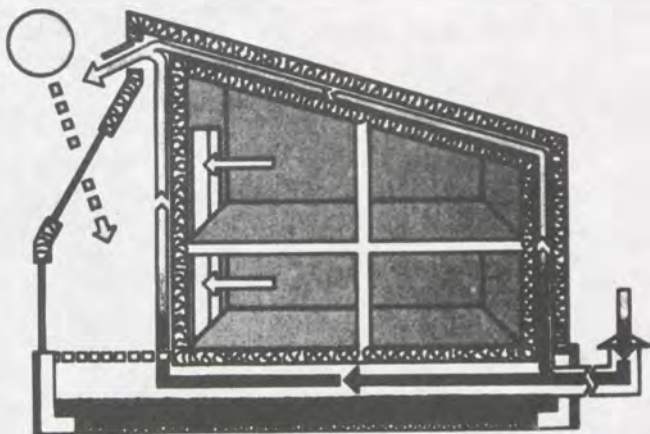
Continued



GAINING HEAT



LOSING HEAT



VENTILATING AND COOLING

and published by Rodale Press. This publication focuses mainly on production of food from the greenhouse (an added benefit I haven't even touched on!), but has excellent sections on design and construction.

BUDGET PRIORITY NEEDED

Here's one budget cut we can all get behind, a cut in funds for the Clinch River Breeder Reactor. Coming up, probably the first week in May, is a vote to increase funds for this project by \$254 million. Congressman Allen Ertel is a member of the House Science and Technology Committee that will be considering this bill.

The breeder is a reactor designed to make reactor fuel, 2 to 4 tons of plutonium a year. (One nuclear bomb uses only 10-20 lbs.). Not only does it create enormous health and safety hazards, but is expected to cost \$3.5 billion. When it was first planned, the industry was to pay half the \$500 million cost. Now that this 15-year-old white elephant would cost seven times that, industry still pays \$275 million and the federal government the rest. (Who says we can't afford TMI clean-up?)

AND THE WINNER IS...

The holder of the winning raffle ticket and owner of a new wood/coal burning stove is Linda Gurtler of Marietta, Pa. Linda is a member of Susquehanna Valley Alliance. Congratulations!

MET ED'S EVACUATION PLANS

A rare Saturday hearing for the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on April 4 allowed area residents a discouraging close-up of how MetEd sees evacuating timing in case of another accident. Such calculations are required for licensing.

Only people within 10 miles of the accident are planned for, MetEd consultants explained. Anyone outside that zone will be politely turned away from the evacuation routes by the traffic cop posted at each entrance road.

Even those inside the 10 mile Evacuation Planning Zone (EPZ) are expected to evacuate with orderly restraint. Those at the edge of the 10 mile zone will wait like the folks in the last pew of the church at a wedding - till everyone closer to the accident has left. This wait may be as long as nine hours.

Disabled vehicles, road repair zones, and Amish buggies are not taken into account in the estimates. The consultants assume there will be plenty of room to drive around them and that there will be plenty of tow trucks, if needed.

School children will be taken out in buses. The planners simply asked the bus companies how many buses would be available. They did not ask how many buses might be out of service or how many bus drivers might be around.

The Governor would give the word to the emergency county preparedness coordinators, who would then sound their sirens. In 20 minutes, the first evacuees would be expected to pull out of the EPZ. Gassing up, going to the bank, packing, are all supposed to have been taken care of before the sirens sound.

No time was allowed for picking up breadwinners in the EPZ or gathering up the kids at school. Buses will take both to safe mass care centers. Those people at home without a car will need to walk or hitch a ride to an evacuation point.

Buses may make many trips; how many will be determined on the spot.

To get an extra bus, the consultants suggested flagging down a police car, which could radio in a request. Police cars may not be easy to come by. Twelve police cars will evacuate the prisons, and policemen themselves will be out directing traffic.

A "worst possible" scenario assumes a snow storm, with PennDOT plowing according to its usual timetable.

Perhaps the most accurate commentary on the plan was made by one of the consultants. When asked by the intervenor how he could check his estimates of evacuation times and procedures, he replied, "I hope I never have to."

MET ED TAX WOES WILL MAKE YOU CRY!

MetEd worried during most of April that it might not be able to get the \$23 million it needed to pay its state gross receipts tax when it came due. Would the PUC grant it a \$75 million rate increase so it would have the money? (The PUC gave them \$50.1 million.) Would the bankers loan them money enough to pay it? (The bankers loaned them \$19 million.)

We simple ratepayers who don't understand high utility finance have to ask the question, "Why did MetEd have to go looking for the money?" The tax is a simple pass-through fund collected by MetEd (and other utilities) for the state. Every penny was paid by the public in their bills during the year. However, under a strange quirk of utility law, the companies are allowed to use the money until the bill comes due.

NEW INVESTIGATION ON RADIATION HEALTH

The General Accounting Office released a report, "Problems in Assessing the Cancer Risks of Low-Level Ionizing Radiation Exposure," on January 2, 1981.

It recommends fewer epidemiologic studies and increased reliance on cellular, molecular, and animal studies to determine cancer risks.

The study, initiated by David Rosenbaum (current director of the EPA Office of Radiation Programs) while employed by the GAO, has come

under fire for its treatment of the Hanford Workers Survey by Mancuso, Stewart, and Kneale.

Among the critics' charges are that a GAO project consultant was retained for the Hanford Worker critique after it was learned that the consultant had written attacks published in the Washington Post and other newspapers in 1977 on Mancuso's and other scientists abilities as researchers.

Second, the GAO undertook an analysis of the Hanford employee data. Data was requested from Battelle Northwest and from Dr. Mancuso.

A comparison of the two data sources found the Battelle data to be incomplete.

Yet, the primary analysis contained in the GAO report is primarily based on the Battelle data, which is more limited.

Federal agency reviewers are concerned that the GAO is over-estimating the ability of cellular research to resolve uncertainties about cancer risks and that it has not adequately addressed the need for animal research in the area.

The GAO has recommended that Congress enact legislation giving statutory authority to an inter-agency committee to coordinate Federal research on the health effects of ionizing radiation exposure.

The Study is available from the GAO, Document Handling and Information Services Facility, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, Maryland 20760 (EMD-81-1).

From "Radioactive Readings"
Vol. 2, No. 1

WRITE ON...WRITE ON...WRITE ON

People who want to tell the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board facts which have not come out in the hearings on restart of Unit-1 can still do so. While there will be no time for personal Limited Appearances before the Board, the Board will accept written comments. Board Chairman Ivan Smith assures citizens that every word will be read. You may send them: Attention: Ivan Smith, NRC, Washington, D.C. 20555

*****UPCOMING EVENTS*****

Monday, May 4 - TMIA Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the TMIA Office, 315 Pepper St., Hbg.

Tuesday, May 5 - TMIA Planning Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse, Hbg.

Thursday, May 14 - Ratepayers Meeting, 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse, Hbg.

Saturday, May 16 - The Party - Keep the evening open for fun and frolic. Place and time to be announced.

Monday, May 18 - TMIA Steering Committee Meeting, 6:30 p.m. at the TMIA Office, 315 Pepper St., Hbg.

Tuesday, June 2 - Mock accident at TMI to test the emergency response of 15 state agencies and the 5

counties surrounding the nuclear plant.

Every Tuesday in May - TMI-PIRC Meetings, 7:00 p.m. at the PIRC Office, 1037 Maclay St., Hbg.

TMIA OFFICERS: Joel Roth, Chair; Louise Bradford, Vice-Chair; Paul Makurath, Treasurer; and Mary Osborn, Secretary.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD: Bev Davis, Cathy Musser, and Paul Makurath.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Sue Olmstead (Editor), Chris Sayer, Bev Davis, Paul Makurath, Kay Pickering, Sam Milkis, Mary Hartnett, Georgianna Nyce, and TMIA office volunteers.

DEADLINE NEXT ISSUE: May 15, 1981

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Check Type Membership Desired

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_____ 25 non-profit organization
_____ 50 sustaining member
_____ 100 patron
_____ 200 club member
_____ \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription

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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 3, No. 2

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

June 1981

THIS IS THE ONLY ISSUE OF THE ALERT THAT WILL BE PUBLISHED THIS SUMMER. THAT DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE IS NO ACTIVITY WITHIN THE ORGANIZATION THIS SUMMER. THERE'S A LOT HAPPENING, SO JUST CALL THE TMIA OFFICE AT 233-7897 AND STAY IN TOUCH!! HAVE A GREAT SUMMER AND LOOK FOR THE NEXT ISSUE OF THE ALERT IN SEPTEMBER.

TMIA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING FOR EVERYONE!!

MONDAY, JUNE 8TH 7:30 P.M. AT
LAKESIDE LUTHERAN CHURCH, DIVISION
& GREEN STS. ACROSS FROM ITALIAN
LAKE PLENTY OF PARKING AVAILABLE

A TIME TO GIVE SPECIAL RECOGNITION TO ALL THE VOLUNTEERS WHO HAVE HELPED WITH THE TMI UNIT I RESTART HEARINGS.

HIGHLIGHTS

- TMI UNIT I RESTART HEARINGS- LOUISE BRADFORD
- TMI UNIT II CLEAN-UP/WASTE- JOEL ROTH
- EVACUATION- ED CHARLES AND PAULA PROBER
- CLASS ACTION AND PROPOSED \$25,000,000 SETTLEMENT- KAY PICKERING
- DISCUSSION

BUSINESS

- NOMINATION AND ELECTION OF STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS, NOMINATING COMMITTEE- ED CHARLES, SANDRA CHOMA, JIM GORMLEY, AND MICHAEL HORGAN

-FINANCIAL REPORT- PAUL MAKURATH, TREASURER

-FUNDRAISING PROJECTS- SANDRA CHOMA

-BY-LAWS CHANGES

CLASS ACTION CLAIM FORMS

That letter you got a couple of weeks ago from the Clerk of the United States District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania is important. It explains how you may recover economic damages from the accident or opt out to file your own suit. To be excluded, you must request that form by June 15. To participate, you must ask for that claim form by August 3.

If you didn't get a form, you weren't on a telephone or utility company list. Write Three Mile Island Litigation, P.O. Box 7000, Wayne, Pa. 19087 to receive your copy.

Most questions will be answered in the legal notice form. If you have other questions, call the TMIA office (233-7897) and they will find out for you. There are no Court phones to call to answer questions. See special notice below.

LEARN HOW AND WHY TO FILL OUT YOUR
TMI ACCIDENT CLASS ACTION CLAIM FORM

Watch "Newsmakers" - Friday, June 5
at 9:00 p.m. on WITF, Channel 33

Continued

Featuring Lead Counsel for the Defendants and Plaintiffs...Sponsored by the Dauphin County Bar Association and WITF.

FLEA MARKET ITEMS NEEDED

Your best flea market items are needed for the World's Greatest Yard Sale being held at the York Fair Grounds from 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. on Saturday and Sunday, June 13 and 14. The Yard Sale is sponsored by the American Cancer Society.

Bring your items to the June 8th General Meeting or drop them off at the office before Friday, June 12. TMIA will have a table at the Yard Sale.

Volunteers are needed to help collect items prior to that weekend and then sell items the 13th and 14th. Call Kay at the office (233-3072) or Sandra Choma (233-2788) at home in the evening.

LEGAL FUND REPORT

The Legal Fund has met twice since my last report and made decisions on fundraising and fund spending.

We began our April 21st meeting by a joint PIRC and Legal Fund session with Charlene Divorky to discuss her past year contract to raise funds for the Legal Fund and whether we wanted to renew that contract. Her method of fundraising has been two-step. A typical fundraising effort starts with a letter from the Legal Fund to 100,000 to 200,000 people nationwide asking for a contribution. Out of the list of one-time contributors, follow-up can then be made for commitments of regular monthly contributions and for special one-time appeals when special needs exist.

I mentioned in the last newsletter that these fundraising efforts aren't cheap. The Board decided unanimously at this meeting to renew our contract with her for another year. This decision was made not only because her efforts have shown significant one-time contribution returns, but also because she has helped us in developing a solid list of regular contributors to the legal efforts being pursued to keep TMI shut and to assure its safe and

speedy dismantlement.

Since my last report, the Legal Fund has allocated money to the Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee for use in the current Atomic Safety and Licensing hearings taking place in Harrisburg on the restart of Unit 2. The Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York (ANGRY) was also allocated funds for its participation in these efforts, as was the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power (ECNP). While TMIA will soon have a need for money to continue its legal efforts, we have been represented by volunteers in the past months and have saved expenses in this way.

-Sam Milkis

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The six-month terms of office of Steering Committee members John Murdoch and Joel Roth expired at the end of April. Thus there is now a total of four vacant positions on the seven-member committee. A nominating committee composed of Kay Pickering, Jim Gormley, Ed Charles, Sandra Choma, and Mike Horgan is compiling a list of candidates and an election will be held at a general membership meeting to be called for the earliest possible time. Members will be notified by mail of the time and place of the meeting. Please, if you would like to serve on the Steering Committee or nominate someone else, get in touch with the nominating committee through the TMIA office (233-7897).

Treasurer's Report

TMIA's checking account balance as of January 1, 1981 was \$885.60. Income for the period January 1st through April 30th was \$6736.27, while expenditures totaled \$6458.71, giving TMIA a balance as of May 1, 1981 of \$1163.16 (\$1113.16 in the checking account and \$50.00 in cash).

Sources of income for the four-month period were the following:

Grant from Pacific Alliance	\$1000.00
Grant from Youth Project	\$ 405.27
Donation from Lebanon County TMIA	\$ 95.17
Donation from Lower Paxton Township TMIA	\$ 184.50
Donation from Adams County TMIA	\$ 50.00
Proceeds from Wood Stove Raffle	\$ 579.00
Proceeds from sales at March 28th Rally	\$2306.21
Donations from 3 individual contributors	\$ 385.00
Membership dues and all other sales and donations	\$1731.12

Major expenditures for the period were the following:

Deb-Kay Corp. (for hats and T-shirts for sale at the Rally)	\$1500.00
Widoff, Reager, Selkowitz & Adler	\$ 830.00
Office rent, telephone and insurance	\$ 610.19
Expenses of Project David Ratepayers' Strike	\$ 556.51*
<u>Alert printing and postage</u>	\$ 512.85*
<u>Island Updates printing and postage</u>	\$ 343.21*
Other postage	\$ 108.56*

*Preliminary figure

-Paul Makurath

UNIT I RESTART HEARINGS

After seven months and more than 20,000 pages of transcripts, the often wearying but critically important NRC hearings on whether or not TMI Unit 1 should be permitted to restart are rolling toward their close.

TMIA is one of a number of intervenors seeking to prove that

the proper answer to that question should be a resounding "no". But the preliminary answer instead will depend on the majority decisions of the trio of hearing board members (Smith, Little, Lewis) who have been sitting through the days, weeks and months of testimony and exhibits.

Area residents, including TMIA members, have been given limited opportunity in recent weeks to make their feelings on the subject known to Board members by way of oral and written statements.

Later this month, with the help of their training, experience -- and consciences, the Board members will start the task of wading through the flood of evidence that has been piling up as inexorably as the radioactive water in TMIA's Unit 2 containment building.

By early Fall, it is expected, they will have sent to the NRC Commissioners their report, findings and recommendations. Then it will be up to the NRC Commissioners to weigh the evidence and reach their decision (probably before year's end) to permit Met Ed to restart Unit 1 or to prohibit that from happening.

Even that may prove not to be the last word. The company could be expected to appeal, through legal processes, any NRC decision to keep the unit closed. Conversely, the intervenors almost certainly (if they then had the resources) would appeal a decision contrary to their interests.

Meanwhile, TMIA's work of preparing a voluminous "findings of fact" document on its contentions of inadequate management, due May 15 to the hearing board, has been under way. Aided by more than a dozen TMIA volunteers who have been laboriously reading the volumes of transcripts, Louise Bradford and Joanne Doroshov have been assemb-

Continued

ling the presentation to uphold TMIA's allegations.

While committed to pursuing the legal route to its termination, area anti-nuclear groups appear to recognize that the "ultimate court" is the court of public opinion, and that direct action to keep Unit 1 shut may yet prove to be an inescapable choice.

- John Murdoch

FINDINGS OF FACT

TMIA's arguments on why MetEd is not capable of managing Unit 1 have gone to the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The summary, called Findings of Fact, was compiled from testimony given in the Unit 1 Restart Hearings that have been going on since October in the Court Street parking garage.

Volunteers Louise Bradford and Joanne Doroshow spent hundreds of unpaid hours in the past few weeks poring over thousands of pages of testimony and summarizing their findings in legally relevant form. Their conclusions must convince the three administrative law judges that theirs are the true facts that should be recommended to the NRC Commissioners, who will make the final decision on restart.

Arguing Findings of Fact for the restart was one of the most prestigious law firms in the country, with a stable of attorneys and thousands of dollars to spend.

What do TMIA's Findings of Fact say? They say that MetEd didn't keep maintenance records that could tell them for sure whether a repair job was important or if neglecting it jeopardized the safety of the plant. The records didn't always tell them when, or even whether, a job was ever completed. Man hours were consistently underestimated. Overtime was scheduled as extensively as 12 hours a day, 7 days a week for 3½ months.

TMIA was unimpressed by MetEd's plans to improve quality supervision by using a new computer. They pointed out that false information was transplanted to the new data base and some information was completely omitted.

The new system is so complicated that in some cases, they would have to hand-carry really important information to make sure it got attention.

Neither did they trust that shuffling managers around the corporate ladder would solve MetEd's problems. While it was clear that maintenance crews will now be separate for Units 1 and 2, other reorganizations under the new GPUNC were more confused. Even Bob Arnold and his new maintenance chief had trouble on the stand explaining who could be responsible for what.

Mr. Arnold confessed that the new vice-president of GPUNC, who could be in charge of an accident, had no in-depth knowledge of a B&W pressurized water reactor. TMIA was especially distressed that John Herbein was assigned the Emergency Planning job, in the light of his performance on March 28, 1979.

Numerous TMIA volunteers contributed research hours to help Louise and Joanne in their mammoth Findings task. They included John Murdoch, Mary Hartnett, Mary Ann Charles, Cese Vitti, Bob Shaw, Frank Davis, Meliss Halsey, Pat Sgrignoli, Nancy Molloy, Mike Jones, Kay Rodgers, Sarah, Lawhorne, and Georgianna Nyce.

RADIOACTIVE WASTE DISPOSAL

Events are moving swiftly to make it possible to establish low-level radioactive waste sites in Pennsylvania or in nearby states.

Pennsylvania legislators and other government officials met in Massachusetts on March 27 to explore the setting up of a compact to decide where low-level radioactive waste dumps will go in the future.

Under a law passed in the final days of the 1980 Congress, states must get together and agree who will take what. After 1985 the law requires that states will be required to bury their own regional radioactive waste rather than ship them to one or two national repositories.

A model compact was formalized May 15 by the Southern States Energy Board giving states an idea of what to put in these compacts. Enabling

Continued

legislation has already been passed in at least two states.

Congress did not mandate standards for these dumps; it simply mandated that they be established.

Plans are almost completed on the method of establishing high-level waste dumps as well. The State Planning Council on Radioactive Waste expects to submit its final recommendations to President Reagan no later than August 1981.

CRITERIA FOR RADIOLOGICAL EMERGENCY RESPONSE PLANS

Criteria for Preparation and Evaluation of Radiological Emergency Response Plans and Preparedness in Support of Nuclear Power Plants, NUREG-0654, dated January of 1980, is a document intended to be used by reviewers in determining adequacy of emergency plans and preparedness.

Emergency Preparedness is related to two predominant exposure pathways: (1) Plume Pathway (10 mile radius); and (2) Ingestion Pathway (50 mile radius). In the Plume Exposure Pathway, radiation could be Whole Body (External), Thyroid (Inhalation), Other Organs (Inhalation). The Ingestion Path would include Thyroid, Whole Body, and Bone Marrow.

Time from the initiation of the event to the start of atmospheric release is estimated at 0.5 hours to one day. Time period over which radioactive material may be continuously released is 0.5 hours to several days. Time at which a major portion of the release may occur is listed at 0.5 hours to one day after the start of the release. Travel time for the release to exposure point (time after release) is 0.5 to 2 hours for 5 miles and 1 to 4 hours for 10 miles.

There are four classes of emergency action levels: (1) Notification of Unusual Event, (2) Alert, (3) Site Emergency, and (4) General Emergency. Each class is triggered by specific occurrences, some of which are listed in this document.

Notification of Unusual Event occurs when unusual events are in process which indicate a potential

degradation of the level of safety of the plant. State and/or local authorities are to be notified. Examples of initiating conditions are: ECCS initiated, fuel damage exceeding either primary/secondary leak rate tech specs, failure of safety or relief valve to close, loss of offsite power or loss of onsite AC power, loss of engineered safety feature or fire protection system function requiring shutdown, fire lasting more than 10 minutes, security threat or attempted sabotage, earthquake, aircraft crash on site, near or onsite explosion, rapid depressurization of PWR secondary side.

The second class is the Alert. Events are in process or have occurred which involve an actual or potential substantial degradation of the level of safety of the plant. Release potential is up to 10 curies of I-131 equivalent or 10^4 curies of XE-133 equivalent. State and local authorities are notified. Examples initiating this class are: Severe loss of fuel cladding, rapid gross failure of one steam generator tube with loss of offsite power, rapid failure of more than 10 steam generator tubes, steam line break with significant primary and secondary leak rate, high radiation levels of high airborne contamination, loss of offsite power and loss of all onsite AC power, loss of all onsite DC power, coolant pump seizure leading to fuel failure, loss of functions needed for plant cold shutdown, failure of reactor protection system to initiate and complete a scram which brings the reactor subcritical, fuel damage accident with release of radioactivity to containment or fuel handling building, fire potentially affecting safety systems, all alarms lost, aircraft crash on facility, evacuation of control room anticipated or required with control of shutdown systems established from local stations.

Site Emergency includes events which are in process or have occurred which involve actual or likely major failures of plant functions needed for protection of the public. State/local authorities and immediate pub-

lic are notified. Release potential is up to 1000 ci of I-131 equivalent or 10^6 ci of XE-133 equivalent. This is initiated by loss of coolant accident greater than makeup pump capacity, degraded core, rapid failure of more than 10 steam generator tubes with loss of offsite power, PWR steam line break, loss of offsite power and loss of onsite AC power for more than 15 minutes and plant not in cool shutdown, effluent monitors detect levels corresponding to greater than 50 mr/hr for $\frac{1}{2}$ hour or greater than 500 mr/hr Whole Body for 2 minutes (or 5 times these level to the thyroid) at the site boundary for adverse meteorology, imminent loss of physical control of plant, severe natural phenomena, aircraft crash affecting vital structures by impact or fire, severe damage to safe shutdown equipment from missiles or explosion, evacuation of control room and control of shutdown system not established from local stations in 15 minutes.

The most serious class of action is General Emergency. Events in this class are in process or have occurred which involve actual or imminent substantial core degradation or melting with potential for loss of containment integrity. Releases of more than 1000 ci of I-131 equivalent or more than 10^6 ci of EX-133 equivalent are expected. Immediate action calls for sheltering (staying inside) rather than evacuation until an assessment can be made that (1) an evacuation is indicated and (2) and evacuation, if indicated, can be completed prior to significant release and transport of material to affected areas. Sheltering is recommended for 2 mile radius and 5 miles downwind initially. Events triggering this class are: Effluent monitors detect levels corresponding to 1 rem/hr. Whole Body or 5 rem/hr. Thyroid at site boundary under actual meteorological conditions (Evacuation should be considered only within about 2 miles of site boundary unless these levels are exceeded by a factor of 10 or projected to continue for 10 hours), loss of 2 of 3 fission product barriers with a potential loss of third barrier (consider 2 mile evacuation), loss of physical control of facility (con-

sider 2 mile evacuation), other plant conditions exist from whatever source that make release of large amounts of radioactivity in a short time period possible, e.g., any core melt situation. This includes sequences of events which would bring about core melt and containment failure. An example of this would be failure of offsite and onsite power along with total loss of emergency feed-water makeup capability for several hours which would lead to core melt and likely failure of containment.

Sequences where significant releases are not yet taking place and large amounts of fission products are not yet in containment merit consideration of a 2 mile evacuation. If significant releases are not yet taking place and containment failure is likely but not yet imminent and large amounts of fission products and noble gases are in containment, consideration of a 5 mile evacuation and 10 mile downwind evacuation is suggested. If large amounts of fission products other than noble gases are in containment and containment failure is imminent, recommend sheltering where evacuation can't be completed before travel time of radioactivity.

Note that in the most serious case, it can be known that significant releases will occur in the near future, but the recommendation is a 2 mile evacuation. In addition, evacuation under the most serious conditions seems to be limited to a 5 mile radius and 10 miles downwind only. It is known that early death and injury can occur far beyond the 10 mile radius.

How adequate would an emergency response plan be under the above criteria?

-Georgianna Nyce

*****UPCOMING EVENTS*****

Thursday, June 4 - 7:00 to 10:00 p.m.
Advisory Panel on TMI Unit 2 meets in Lancaster City Council Chambers at the Kendig C. Bare Public Safety Building, 208 North Duke Street, Lancaster. Discussion- radiation exposures to workers and possible health effects.

Friday, June 5 - 9:00 p.m. Tune to WITF, Channel 33, "Newsmakers" for a discussion on the TMI Accident Class Action Claim Form.

Saturday, June 6 - 4:00 to 7:00 p.m. Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee benefit - Roller Skating Party at Fountainblue for \$1.75. Take Exit 16 off I-83 South and turn left.

Monday, June 8 - 7:30 p.m. TMIA General Membership meeting at Lakeside Lutheran Church, Green & Division Sts., Hbg.

Saturday & Sunday, June 13 & 14 - "The World's Greatest Yard Sale" 9:00 a.m. to 7:00 p.m. at the York Fair Grounds. TMIA table: Volunteers and flea market items needed.

Thursday, June 18 - Jubilee Day at Mechanicsburg. TMIA table: Volunteers needed.

Saturday, June 20 - Noon to 8:00 p.m. "Rock Against Radiation" Concert, Harrisburg City Island. Call Kevin Heller at 763-4194 if you can volunteer at the TMIA table during the concert.

ROCK AGAINST RADIATION

The March 28 Coalition presents a "Rock Against Radiation" concert on Saturday, June 20, from noon to 8:00 p.m. on Harrisburg's City Island.

For a \$2 donation, hear the Aristocrats, Pikers, Ska-Matics, Turnups, Weasels, and Voices. No drinking or partying on City Island on that day.

TMIA will have a table at the concert, selling T-shirts, buttons, hats, etc. and food. Volunteers are needed; call the office at 233-7897 or Kevin Heller at 763-4194.

EDITORIAL ADVISORY BOARD: Bev Davis, Cathy Musser, and Paul Makurath.

STAFF THIS ISSUE: Sue Olmstead (Editor), Bev Davis, Paul Makurath, Kay Pickering, Sam Milkis, John Murdoch, Georgianna Nyce, and TMIA office volunteers.

TMIA MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

ZIP CODE _____

TELEPHONE NO. _____

Check Type Membership Desired

- _____ \$ 15 regular
_____ 5 low income & student
_____ 25 non-profit organization
_____ 50 sustaining member
_____ 100 patron
_____ 200 club member
_____ \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription

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Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102



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HARRISBURG, PENNSYLVANIA 17102

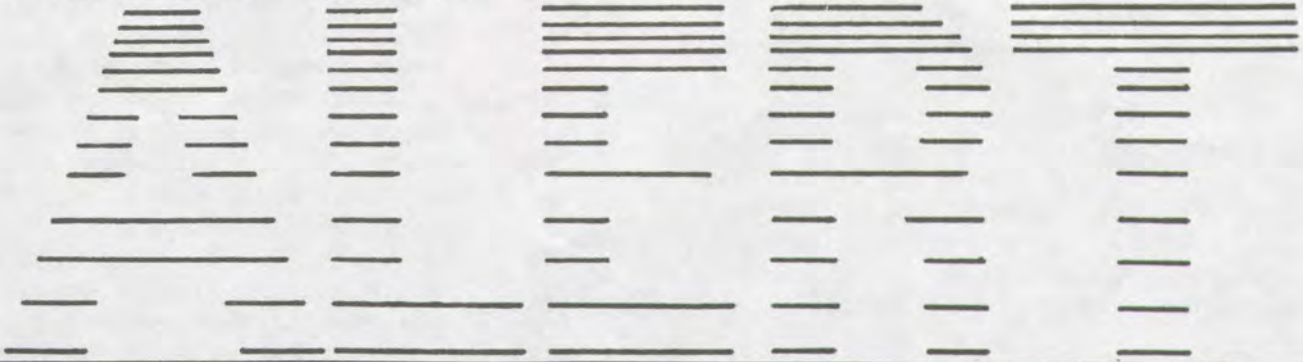
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october, 1981

BILL VASTINE 1914 - 1981

On Tuesday, July 21, Bill Vastine died in Harrisburg Hospital of leukemia.

For many of us, his death was both a personal and political loss. TMIA owes much to the efforts of this kind and committed man.

Bill served this organization as its chairperson during the days before the accident; he continued this post during the transitional weeks following March 28, 1979. His untiring work in those critical days won the respect of us all.

Bill was not, however, involved in one single issue. As the former director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, he had a heartfelt concern for the cause of peace and social justice. He was active with Clergy and Laity Concerned, the March 28th Coalition and other area organizations.

For those of us who knew and worked with him, there are no words that can adequately express our sorrow.

He will be missed.

STARTING OCT. 5 LOOK FOR PIRC TV
SPOTS "STOP THE RESTART CAMPAIGN"

TMIA TO ARGUE AGAINST RESTART

by Beverly Davis

TMIA will be able to tell the NRC Commissioners in person why it thinks GPU management can't run Unit 1 safely when it appears before them on Oct. 14 to present oral arguments. (See box on page 2.)

TMIA will argue that the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's Aug. 27 ruling that management is competent to run Unit 1 is so full of errors that it will eventually be reversed on appeal. If convinced, and if it decides it is in the public interest to do so, the NRC will stay the restart pending the next round of appeals. These appeals could take months or years. But if convinced, the NRC could order restart on the basis of

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RESTART (con't.)

the preliminary ASLB decision, before the intervenors have exhausted their rights of appeal.

The ASLB heard arguments for nine months on why Unit 1 should or should not restart. Only part one of its two-part decision has been rendered. Part two, dealing with the crucial emergency planning/evacuation and plant design issues, is expected in November.

Part one concluded that GPU's management is adequate even though the same individuals who played a key role in the accident are still running the plant. The Board also rejected TMIA's arguments that poor past maintenance practices and policies, excessive overtime producing dangerously fatigued workers and a proposed 1979 maintenance budget cut reflect severe management problems.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14 TMIA will present oral arguments on management issues before the NRC. Support is urgently needed at these sessions, to be held at the NRC headquarters in Washington.

A rented coach bus will leave for these arguments at 7:15 a.m. from the Camp Hill Shopping Center on Route 15. Those interested should assemble at 7 a.m. and parking will be available just south of the Howard Johnsons'.

While exact times are still unclear, it is hoped there will be sufficient time for trips to the capitol for meetings with area legislators.

Tickets for the bus are \$10. If you're interested, send or bring your check immediately to the TMIA office.

It is critical that many of you make this trip to join our attorneys and legal representatives to give support.

Call the TMIA office at 233-7898 for more information.

"The public should be absolutely outraged at the Board's recommendations and by its effort to discredit the citizen intervenors throughout this decision," says Joanne Doroshow, TMIA vice-chairperson. "The Board blames the volunteer citizen intervenors for not developing sophisticated legal cases on all management issues. Yet the ASLB was specifically instructed by the NRC to examine closely on its own 13 management issues impacting on restart. If not a single citizen intervenor had been present, the ASLB still would have had the responsibility to develop all sides of those issues," she says.

Hearings to determine whether restart was feasible were ordered by the NRC in August, 1979. At that time it said the issue was so important the full Commission should receive the evidence from the ASLB and make the final decision personally. But on Aug. 20, 1981, the NRC changed its mind and ordered all parties to appeal first before the ASLB. The NRC agreed only to consider whether restart will be stopped pending this appeal. TMIA already has presented the NRC with its written arguments on this limited issue. Within 10 days of the Oct. 14 oral argument, TMIA must prepare its broad appeal before the Appeal Board.

The significance, says Doroshow, of going before the Appeals Board is the delay in going to court until the board rules. In the meantime, she says, the NRC could restart TMI 1 on the basis of an erroneous preliminary decision.

The operator cheating scandal remains an undecided management issue, and TMIA and citizen intervenors Marjorie and Norman Aamodt petitioned the ASLB to reopen hearings on this issue. TMIA believes there is strong evidence management encouraged and facilitated cheating, which it will attempt to prove when hearings resume in Harrisburg. A preliminary conference has been set for Oct. 2 when specific issues will be determined and a timetable set for discovery.

Continued Next Page

RESTART (con't.)

On March 23, 1981, the NRC removed from the ASLB hearings TMIA's challenge of GPU/Met-Ed's financial capabilities. TMIA appealed the ruling, but the Court dismissed the suit as premature. TMIA may bring the issue before the Court again, but must wait until the entire restart case is ready for appeal.

In light of the NRC's refusal to consider the utility's financial qualifications, TMIA had urged Gov. Thornburgh to order an immediate public in-

vestigation into whether the financially strapped company can possibly operate Unit 1 safely while funding the cleanup of Unit 2. TMIA urges letters to the governor demanding this investigation.

Additionally, the NRC has just proposed permanently eliminating all financial issues from all licensing hearings. The public can submit comments on this outrageous proposal to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

RATEPAYERS FACE RENEWED CLEANUP THREAT

by John Murdoch

The Public Utility Commission is under mounting pressure to reverse its prior stands that Met Ed's ratepayers should not be forced to pay for the cleanup of TMI 2.

Utility customers are being urged to write, now, to the PUC to let the commissioners know that they have the support of the public on this issue, and that in no way will rate-payers be burdened into underwriting costs of the near-catastrophe that was none of their doing.

There is increasing concern that as the weeks pass and Congress continues to fail to provide financial help toward cleanup costs, the PUC will be squeezed into allowing rates to increase to pay for at least a part of the \$1 billion cleanup.

Fear too has been expressed that if Clifford Jones, now Secretary of Environmental Resources, is confirmed as the fifth member of the PUC, a "new majority" openly favorable to the utilities may result.

There is grave concern that if Pennsylvania's PUC were to relent on this principle and if Congress continues to ignore the issue, a dangerous precedent would be established for a "free ride" for the whole U.S. nuclear power industry.

Congressmen too, apparently need to be reminded that it was they (or

their predecessors) who got us into our present nuclear morass and that they cannot simply turn their backs on the problem when their shiny toy (as happened on March 28, 1979) blows a gasket.

Met Ed customers face the prospect of a double whammy because of new hearings set to begin in early October before the PUC on requests of GPU and Met Ed for rate increases exceeding \$300 million.

Met Ed appealed in mid-September to Commonwealth Court for a reversal of the PUC ruling barring utility customers from paying for the damaged nuclear plant cleanup.

And William Kuhns, GPU chairman, apparently convinced that a good offense is the best defense, told a meeting of the Pennsylvania Electric Association in Hershey on Sept. 17, that even if the full cleanup burden is put on the companies' customers, the rates would not be out of line with those charged by other companies.

Persons are urged to write letters to all four PUC commissioners, to Gov. Thornburgh, President Reagan, to the U.S. House and Senate energy committees, and Pennsylvania's senators and representatives in Washington, saying that customers will not consent to being saddled with costs of the cleanup, and that Congress and the Federal Government must shoulder their share of those costs.

TMIA OPPOSES JONES NOMINATION

by Chris Sayers

Last summer, Gov. Dick Thornburgh nominated Clifford Jones, presently Secretary of Environmental Resources, to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. The choice caused little stir, both in and out of the Legislature.

More recently however, consumers, fearing Jones will side with utility apologists, have attempted to block his nomination to the regulatory body. If okayed by the Senate, Jones would serve a ten-year term.

Late last month, energy activists interviewed Jones on a number of subjects. The secretary told them that he favored the Governor's Energy Commission report on energy in Pennsylvania (a report which called for the expanded use of nu-

clear power). He also said he might favor a form of "certificate of need" (under which new plant construction would have to be justified) legislation for large generating facilities -- but not small ones.

Many of the people attending felt he side-stepped many questions, refusing to give solid answers.

On Sept. 21, Kay Pickering, TMIA staffperson, testified before the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee against Jones' nomination citing his close ties with many of the businesses he would be required to regulate.

In those same hearings, Sen. Leonard Bodack (D-Pgh.) described the nomination as "a fox guarding the chicken coop."

"Consumers deserve better than that," he said. Bodack voted against Jones.

Jones, a former Secretary of Commerce, served as director of

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PIRC CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

by Beverly Davis

"Stop the Restart" is the message that will be hammered into the consciousness of Central Pennsylvania in the next few months as the TMI-Public Interest Research Center intensifies its campaign to keep Unit 1 shut down.

The campaign, a project of the eight local anti-TMI groups, including TMIA, kicked off its drive Sept. 17 at a wine and cheese party at the Harrisburg Civic Club.

Canvassing in the members' own neighborhoods will be a cornerstone of the campaign, which will bring local citizens up to date on the problems and hazards of TMI 1.

Director Linda Lotz has urged interested persons to attend the regular Monday night volunteer meetings at 7 p.m. at the Public Interest Resource Center in the PSSU building, 1037 Maclay Street. Volunteers can contact Lou Chandler, coordinator of volunteers, at 232-4241 if they have a few hours to give for phoning, filing, typing and envelope stuffing. Special committees work on lobbying and media. More committees are formed of farmers and mothers and are looking for interested persons.

In addition to TMIA the members of the coalition include PANE of Middletown, SVA of Lancaster, ANGRY of York, Newberry Township Steering Committee, the March 28th Coalition, the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Jobs, and ECNP.

"NO NUKES" AUTHOR AT NOV. MEETING

Anna Gyorgy, author of No Nukes, will speak to the membership meeting of TMIA set for Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse at 6th and Herr Streets in Harrisburg. A lighted parking lot is adjacent to the building.

Gyorgy, formerly the U.S. representative for W.I.S.E., is executive director of the Critical Mass Energy Project. She has worked with both local (the successful effort to block a nuclear plant at Montague, Massachusetts) and national efforts.

Gyorgy will speak on the importance of TMI and its relationship to national and worldwide efforts to stop the growth of nuclear power.

An update on TMIA activities and the election of four new steering committee members will also take place at the meeting.

This meeting comes at a critical time in the effort to block restart. Plan to attend; bring friends. If we move together, we can win. If we move alone, we will not move at all.

JONES (con't.)

Pennsylvanians for Effective Government, a business lobby in the capital, before coming to D.E.R. It is these ties that have made him suspect to consumer and energy groups.

Stanley-Morgan investment newsletter has said that Jones' appointment would mean better times for utilities. The trend (disappointing rate increases) will be reversed, the advisory states, with Jones on the PUC.

Shortly after the TMI accident, Jones told the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce that they had better get moving to save nuclear power. There is no indication from past statements or interviews that he has changed his view.

What makes this nomination so critical is that the commission has split 2-2 on many important issues (such as putting TMI 1 back into the ratebase) with Susan Shanaman and Mike Johnson supporting the consumer side. Jones' nomination is projected to change the balance in favor of the utilities. When he heard of the nomination, Commissioner James Cawley (of golf fame), who normally backs or exceeds any utility request, was quoted by UPI as saying, "I'm delighted."

Three Mile Island Alert has decided to oppose the nomination. Letters are going to area state senators ask-

ing that they reject the nomination. Individuals are urged to write and/or call their senators to express opposition.

Floor vote on the nomination has been set for Oct. 5 and needs two-thirds approval by the Senate to take effect.

Editorial Board: Christine Arnold, Beverly Davis, Paul Makurath, John Murdoch and Chris Sayers.

NEW OFFICERS

Three Mile Island Alert Steering Committee members elected during June's general membership meeting are Joanne Doroshow, Sandra Choma and Mitch Turnauer. They join committee members Louis Bradford, Mary Osborn and Paul Makurath. Louise Bradford became TMIA chairperson, Joanne Doroshow was elected vice-chairperson and Mary Osborn and Paul Makurath will put in another year as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

THESE ARE THE ONES...

U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Hon. Nunzio J. Palladino, Chairman
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555
(202) 634-1481

Hon. Victor Gilinsky, Member
Hon. Thomas Roberts, Member

Hon. Peter Bradford, Member
Hon. James Ahearne, Member

UNITED STATES SENATE

H. John Heinz, III
United States Senate
443 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-6324

Arlen Specter
United States Senate
253 Russell Senate Building
Washington, D.C. 20510
(202) 224-5254

Local office:
Federal Building
3rd and Walnut Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101
(717) 233-5849

Federal Building
3rd and Walnut Streets
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

17th Congressional District
Allen E. Ertel (D)
1211 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-4315

19th Congressional District
William F. Goodling (R)
109 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-225-5836

Local office:
Harrisburg East Mall
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111
(717) 564-8963

2145 Market Street
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011
(717) 763-1988

16th Congressional District
Robert S. Walker (R)
1028 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2411

9th Congressional District
Bud Shuster (R)
2455 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515
(202) 225-2431

COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dick Thornburgh, Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
225 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
(717) 787-2500

William W. Scranton, III, Lt. Governor
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
200 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
(717) 787-3300

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Susan Shanaman, Chairman
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission
North Office Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Michael Johnson, Member
James Cawley, Member

Linda Talliaferro, Member
Vacant

STATE SENATE

15th Senatorial District
George W. Gekas (R)
172 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
(717) 787-6801

31st Senatorial District
John D. Hopper (R)
182 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
(717) 787-8524

Local office:
405 North Second Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101
(717) 561-2603

355 North 21st Street
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011
(717) 761-0923

48th Senatorial District
Clarence F. Manbeck (R)
281 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
(717) 787-5708

33rd Senatorial District
William J. Moore (R)
188 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
(717) 787-4651

13th Senatorial District
Richard A. Snyder (R)
284 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
(717) 787-6535

28th Senatorial District
Ralph W. Hess (R)
351 Main Capitol Building
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120
(717) 787-3817

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 25 non-profit organization | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 club member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription | |

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OCTOBER

				1 Met-Ed Rate Hike Public Comments ALL DAY North Office Bldg. Harrisburg	2 9 a.m. Unit 1 hearings reconvene -- NW Capitol Bldg Capitol & Forster Harrisburg	
	5 Jones Nomination Vote in Senate	6 7:30 p.m. Planning Council Friends Mtg hse				
	12 Rep. Goodling Open Meeting, York Tech. Sch 7 p.m.		14 Oral Arguments 10 a.m. Washington			
	19 Rep. Goodling Open Meeting, Hanover High 7 p.m.		21 7 p.m. Unit 2 Advisory Panel Mtg. (Call TMIA for location)			

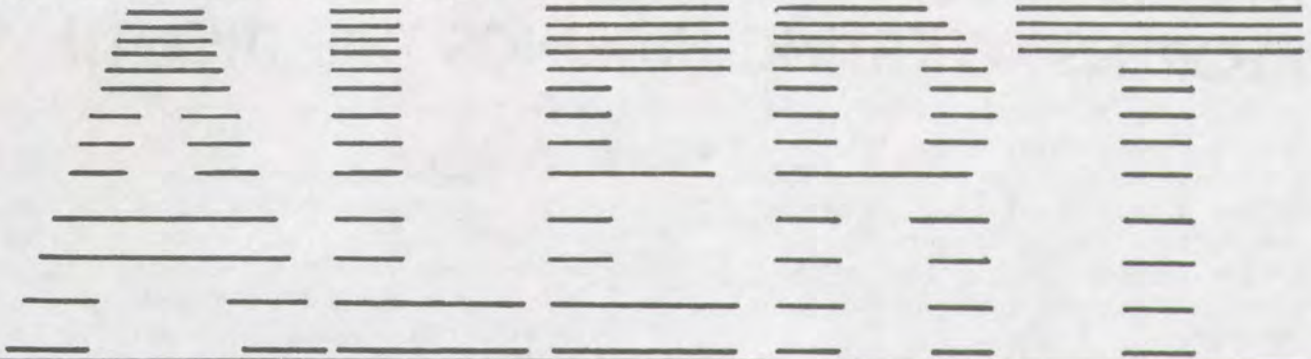
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THREE MILE ISLAND



vol.3, no.4

november, 1981

DINNER TO PRECEDE MEETING

A potluck dinner will precede TMIA's general membership meeting, to be held Tues., Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse at 6th and Herr Streets in Harrisburg. The dinner, to serve as a small fundraiser for TMIA, will begin at 6 p.m. in the meetinghouse and attendees should bring a favorite dish to contribute to the meal. A donation of \$2 for adults will be collected, and children under 10 may partake for no charge.

Anna Gyorgy, director of the Critical Mass Energy Project and editor and author of *No Nukes*, the definitive guide on nuclear power and safe energy alternatives, will speak to the membership at the start of the meeting.

Sam Milkes will chair the membership meeting. Items for discussion will include non-violent citizen action alternatives (see page 7) and a proposed TMIA organizational statement on the funding of the cleanup of TMI-2 (see box page 3). A presentation of nominees and a membership vote for four positions on the steering committee will also take place.

The Friends Meetinghouse has space available for 40 and those interested in sharing the potluck meal before the membership meeting should RSVP at 233-3072. A lighted parking lot is adjacent to the building.

Remember that this meeting comes at a time critical to efforts to block the restart. Attend and bring your friends. And be sure to share in the etables that night before getting down to business.

WEAR RED FOR STOP

And with blocking the restart in mind, tie a red ribbon "round your old oak tree," -- or your lunchbox or your front porch post. Wear one on your lapel. It's red ribbon time for everyone who wants to shout "Stop the Restart." Wear your red ribbon and urge your friends and neighbors to do the same.

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ATOMIC SAFETY AND LICENSING BOARD REOPENS CHEATING HEARINGS THIS MONTH

Admitted cheating on critical examinations by TMI control room operators has caused Ivan Smith, chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, to order a reopening of its long-going hearings on the critical question of whether TMI-1 should be permitted to restart.

The recommended hearings will begin Tues., Nov. 10 before Administrative Law Judge Gary Mulholland in the Pennsylvania Department of Education building at 333 Market Street in Harrisburg. (Note that this is not the "Education Building" on Commonwealth Avenue, in which the Forum is located.)

It is estimated the hearings will require at least two weeks, with sessions held Tuesdays through Saturdays, during daytime hours. The inclusion of Saturdays should permit a large number of TMIA members, and the general public, to attend.

TMIA, represented by Joanne Doroshov and Louise Bradford, is expected to present contentions that GPU/MetEd management encouraged and facilitated cheating on these examinations (given by both the company and the NRC), and further that the company knew of rumors of such cheating but did nothing about the matter. The Aamodts of Coatesville, intervenors who questioned operator training during the previous hearings, will present contentions similar to TMIA's in the weeks ahead.

Witnesses from the company to be grilled on their knowledge of the critical issue will include: Robert Arnold, vice president in charge of Unit 2 cleanup; Henry Huckill, vice president in charge of Unit 1; and Gary Miller, the operator on whose shoulders much of the responsibility for what went wrong March 28, 1979, has been placed.

At this time, written testimony is being taken from a number of company employees having knowledge of

test irregularities or cheating rumors.

Joanne Doroshov and Louise Bradford have expressed appreciation for the work of the limited number of volunteers who have spent evenings and weekends reviewing the actual test papers from operator examinations, finally and reluctantly made available by the company and the NRC.

Meanwhile, the Union of Concerned Scientists has written to the NRC urging rejection of GPU President Dieckamp's request for a reversal of Harold Denton's decision to require retesting of control room operator candidates in the wake of the cheating scandal growing from the April, 1981, testing.

In the same letter, UCS objected to the brevity of the investigation of cheating performed by the NRC's Office of Investigation and Enforcement, and to the presence of a management representative throughout on-site questioning, possibly resulting in the intimidation of those interviewed.

Evidence already disclosed shows examinations were unproctored for hours at a time by NRC supervisors and that answer sheets were passed freely from hand to hand. Evidence is expected to be introduced to show that written answers were provided to persons taking the exams by others standing just outside the examination room.

Judge Mulholland will present his rulings to the ASLB, probably in January, and it is thought the ASLB will give its conclusions to the NRC in February. The NRC has indicated it will announce its decision on restart within one month after receiving the ASLB's conclusions.

EDITORIAL BOARD MEMBERS
Christine Arnold, Beverly Davis
John Murdoch and Chris Sayer

Research Committee Releases Report

Is state government prepared to protect people and property from dangers associated with nuclear power plants?

A recent report of the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee, the Legislature's bipartisan research arm, attempted to answer that question when it revealed the result of a survey of 16 state agencies. The survey was instituted to discover agency actions on this subject and to solicit suggestions about financing and resources which would improve agency activities in the future.

Activities thus far have included DER monitoring, health research in the vicinity of TMI and a "hostile intrusion" exercise by state police at Berwick. An emergency preparedness plan has occupied a major portion of the various agencies' activities and the Federal government is expected to approve the plan this month.

Requests by agencies for increased funding and resources presents an especially intriguing picture of how far the state has to go to protect public health and safety from nuclear power dangers.

State police, who escort hazardous waste shipments and are the primary police agency for TMI, Peach Bottom and Beaver Valley, have yet to receive protective clothing or training in reading radiation monitors. While some 360 nurses have been trained formally to handle nuclear emergencies, the Pennsylvania Medical Society and the Osteopathic Medical Association are still planning programs for doctors. The Pennsylvania Hospital Association is expecting soon to help hospitals and nursing homes map strategies, but ambulance attendants and emergency medical personnel must depend on "local training" in this area.

A sample emergency plan has been given to schools, but lines of authority remain unclear and there is

no assessment of how many schools have completed plans. Superintendents, the committee's report says, are likely to find themselves in charge of a shelter should an emergency take place, but have no statutory authority to staff or manage shelters. School district buses are the only legally authorized vehicles for evacuation, and the report recommends that schools acquire alternate communications should telephones

Continued Next Page

Unit 2 Panel To Meet Soon

The Advisory Panel on the cleanup of TMI-2 meets Mon., Nov. 16 from 7 - 10 p.m. at the Lebanon Municipal Building, 400 South 8th Street in Lebanon.

There will be a full discussion on the funding issue and the proposed restart of Unit 1. A panel vote may be forthcoming. It is important that as many citizens as possible attend and speak to the issues! The advisory panel is being inundated with material and pressure from GPU, NRC staff and business (Chamber of Commerce, etc.).

WE MUST BE HEARD!

An outlined organizational statement on the funding and cleanup of TMI Unit 2 will be distributed for comment at the membership meeting on Nov. 10. If you wish to serve on the ad-hoc committee to formulate the statement call John Murdoch at 737-0132.

An approved TMIA statement would be presented at the Nov. 16 meeting of the advisory panel.

REPORT (con't.)

prove inadequate during an emergency.

It's hoped that the public will soon become educated about radiation and how to handle emergencies. PEMA has printed a booklet on the subject and soon will complete a slide show. DER has held one session with the media about emergency plans. MetEd is apparently studying a model Philadelphia Electric media contract with Penn State, for possible implementation.

The Bureau of Radiation Protection in DER, the prime agency for many radiation protection activities, would like to see a nuclear engineer at every nuclear plant in the state. None has been hired to date.

The NRC has recommended the availability of potassium iodide for on-site workers, institutionalized residents, and emergency workers. State police have also requested the thyroid-blocking drug. The state police is responsible for moving key personnel during emergencies, directing traffic away from a 10-mile zone and evacuating prisons. According to the committee's report, no potassium iodide is on hand, and stocking it will not be cost-effective, even for these primary workers.

Funding for studies on health effects is dwindling, says the report. Federal and private sources provided \$700,000 last year for studies, and state government provided \$600,000 after the original funding was depleted. During the present fiscal year the money has been halved, with just enough remaining to maintain present studies but not to begin any others throughout the state.

PIRC LOBBY DAY

PIRC's "Stop the Restart" Campaign reached a peak of activity late last month with its Lobby Day on Oct. 27 and Halloween canvassing.

Lobby Day mobilized TMIA members and others in the Public Interest Resource Center family to insist that legislators use their influence to stop restart. Citizens met for a short briefing and then met in groups with legislators in their capitol offices.

Linda Lotz, director of TMI PIRC

who's heading up the Stop Restart campaign, says that the purpose of the lobbying activity was to present the group's opinion on the restart and to find out how legislators stand on the subject. Legislators who support the campaign were asked to make their opinions known to the public or the governor. The group also took the opportunity on Lobby Day to congratulate those legislators who voted against the appointment of Clifford Jones for Public Utility commissioner.

Stop the Restart campaigners also canvassed their local neighborhoods during Halloween, to convince neighbors to oppose the restart.

Eilperin Withdraws

For a few brief days it appeared that Stephen F. Eilperin, who defended the NRC as its solicitor in suits in which TMIA challenged the removal of financial considerations from TMI-1 restart hearings, would become chairman of the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeals Panel. The panel hears appeals arising from the restart hearings.

Eilperin withdrew from the position shortly after TMIA filed strong objections to his appointment. He had been appointed chairman of the appeals panel in September and immediately came under fire for conflict of interest.

He had earlier expressed that he was not prejudiced in any way despite his participation in the financial consideration challenge and in PANE's challenge to the NRC for the removal of psychological stress from consideration.

Eilperin had claimed he did not advise the NRC on orders which gave rise to the TMIA or PANE suits, but admitted to "occasional discussions with lawyers in the office of the General Counsel who were formulating commission positions about the relative merits of different approaches." He also claimed he had not served in a "prosecutorial or investigative role with regard to the facts at issue nor formed any position on the merits of the partial decision," despite his role as solicitor in the TMIA and PANE suits.

TMIA CHALLENGES GPU FITNESS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission permitted "a charade by the utility" during its hearing on GPU Nuclear's competency to run TMI Unit 1, charges Joanne Doroshow, vice-chairperson of TMIA, who represented TMIA before the commission last month in Washington. "The first thing I did," says Doroshow, "was object to the illegality and unfairness of the whole proceeding."

GPU stocked the hearing's early hours with a variety of presentations, including a slide show, and TMIA representatives were not permitted to cross-examine or probe GPU representatives during their testimony. This, says Doroshow, lent an atmosphere of illegality to the hearing. What was originally scheduled as a three-hour session by the NRC, in which each party would have a half-hour for statements, was changed by the commission a few days prior to the hearings, to give GPU close to four hours for testimony.

Because of the length of GPU's testimony, a number of TMIA's 25 representatives were unable to witness the intervenors' testimony because of prior scheduling commitments.

After objecting to the illegality of the proceedings, Doroshow argued the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board had made an erroneous ruling when it found GPU management competent to run TMI. The Board's ruling, she said, was unsupported by nine months of evidence presented during hearings in Harrisburg.

Specifically she contended:

-- That past maintenance policies and practices at TMI were so poor as to threaten public health and safety and that current management has not taken appropriate steps to correct these past deficiencies.

-- That GPU has not created a "coherent" definition of safety-related items.

-- That overtime practices at the plant were and continue to be "excessive and coercive."

-- That GPU management personnel found by congressional and NRC investigations to be incompetent and unable to cope with the March 28, 1979, accident and who were found to have "deceived and mislead" state and federal officials about the accident's severity, continue on top management positions within the company.

TMIA contended at the NRC hearing that permitting restart on the basis of the ASLB's erroneous decision places "the integrity of the NRC, and this entire process, in doubt."

Should the NRC uphold the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's earlier decision in favor of GPU management, TMIA will appeal its findings, says Doroshow.

TMIA representatives also met with key personnel on Capitol Hill last month during the hearing. Representatives met with aides to Senators Spector and Heinz, with Rep. Morris Udall, chairman of the House's Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, with Rep. Allen Ertel and with John Marcum, assistant director of energy and natural resources in the Office of Science and Technology Policy.

THESE ARE THE ONES...

The following list, like the list published in the last issue of the Alert, contains the names and addresses of those who should be made aware of your opposition to the restart of Three Mile Island. Send your feelings to them; let them know we stand together against restart.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

91st District (Adams)
Kenneth J. Cole (D)
331 Main Capitol Building
(717) 787-6089

98th District (Lancaster)
Kenneth E. Brandt (R)
100 Main Capitol Building
(717) 783-8655

93rd District (York)
A. Carville Foster (R)
149 Main Capitol Building
(717) 783-8685

88th District (Cumberland)
John Kennedy (R)
20 Capitol Annex
(717) 787-3845

105th District (Dauphin)
Joseph C. Manmiller (R)
245 Main Capitol Building
(717) 783-2014

87th District (Cumberland)
Harold F. Mowery, Jr. (R)
249 Main Capitol Building
(717) 783-2910

104th District (Dauphin)
Jeffrey E. Piccola (R)
21A Capitol Annex
(717) 787-4751

103rd District (Dauphin)
Peter C. Wambach, Jr.
107th South Office Building
(717) 787-5807

106th District (Dauphin)
Rudolph Dininni (R)
627 Main Capitol Building
(717) 787-3055

126th District (Berks)
Harold L. Brown (D)
620 Main Capitol Building
(717) 783-1375

101st District (Lebanon)
George W. Jackson (R)
25D - Capitol Annex
(717) 787-6572

95th District (York)
Stanford I. Lehr (R)
146 Main Capitol Building
(717) 787-8523

96th District (Lancaster)
Marvin E. Miller, Jr. (R)
400 Main Capitol Building
(717) 783-2083

86th District (Perry)
Fred C. Noye (R)
121 Main Capitol Building
(717) 787-3651

92nd District (York-Cumberland)
Bruce Smith (R)
249 Main Capitol Building
(717) 787-3472

COMMITTEES RELEVANT TO ENERGY ISSUES

Committee
Appropriations
Conservation
Consumer Affairs
Health & Welfare
Mines & Energy Management
Rules

Chairman (R)
Richard A. McClatchy, Jr.
R. Harry Bittle
Lee C. Taddonio
William K. Klingaman, Sr.
James L. Wright, Jr.
Samuel D. Hayes

FOR DISCUSSION ONLY

BRING TO THE NOV. 10 MEMBERSHIP MEETING

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

DRAFT

ENDORSEMENT STATEMENT

We, the undersigned, wish to express our deep concern and protest the proposed restart of the Three Mile Island Unit I by GPU Nuclear as a nuclear power generating facility. We want the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, GPU Nuclear, Governor Dick Thornburgh and all elected officials to know that we support non-violent citizen action to block that restart.

We believe, however, that all administrative and legal options within reason, given current financial and resource capabilities, must be exhausted prior to the use of the direct non-violent citizen action tactic.

NAMES OF ENDORSERS

ORGANIZATIONS

INDIVIDUALS

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED:

- | | |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 low income and student | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 sustaining member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 regular membership | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 patron |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 non-profit organization | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 club member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription | |

RETURN TO: TMIA
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

NOVEMBER

	2 7 p.m. "Stop the Restart" Lobby Com- mittee Mtg. (call PIRC)	3 General Election				7 Elizabeth- town Library Nuclear Iss- ues Debate (call PIRC)
		10 Unit 1 AS&LB hearings re- sume, Hbg. Thru Nov. 20 TMIA general membership meeting			13 SANE Annual Peace Awd. Dinner, Phila.	14 Elizabeth- town Library Nuclear Iss- ues Debate (call PIRC)
	16 7 p.m. Unit 2 Advisory Panel Meeting Lebanon Muni- cipal Bldg.	17 PANE to D.C. call Al Manik 944-4361	18 8 p.m. "Twenty Miles Out" TMI lec- ture, Dickin- son College, Carlisle			21 Elizabeth- town Library Nuclear Iss- ues Debate (call PIRC)
				26 Thanksgiving		28 Elizabeth- town Library Nuclear Iss- ues Debate (call PIRC)
MARK YOUR CALENDAR NOV. 10 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING AND POTLUCK DINNER						

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THREE MILE ISLAND



vol.3, no.5

december, 1981

TMIA Presents Funding Proposal

TMIA's alternate funding proposal, drafted by Chris Sayer and John Murdoch, was presented by TMIA Chairperson Louise Bradford to the NRC Advisory Panel on the Decontamination of TMI-2 at its meeting in Lebanon Nov. 16.

A major point of the proposal, favored almost unanimously during TMIA's general membership meeting on Nov. 10, is the proposal of a 10 percent surcharge on the gross receipts tax of all electric utility bills in Pennsylvania for the next seven years to raise close to \$290 million for the cleanup of the damaged reactor.

The surcharge would raise the bill of the average customer by about \$2.70 annually. Funds raised in this way would be specifically earmarked for the state's share of the \$1.3 billion necessary for cleanup, noticeably higher than the \$30 million proposed by Gov. Dick Thornburgh in his cost-sharing plan.

The plan also calls for a \$450 million contribution from the electric utility industry, also significantly higher than that proposed in Thornburgh's plan; for \$100 million from nuclear manufacturers; for \$15 million each from New Jersey and Maryland; \$25 from the federal government and \$300 million of insurance on TMI (\$90 million of which remains unspent).

TMIA's plan notes that at least \$100 million of the cost will have to

Continued on Page 2

Arnold Testifies During Hearings

There once was a man from Quebec,
Who was buried in snow to his neck.
When they asked, "Are you friz?"
He replied, "Sure I is,
But we don't call this cold in Quebec."

GPU President Robert C. Arnold isn't from Quebec, but judging from his answers at the AS&LB cheating hearings he well could be.

Examples of some of his disorientation from usual sets of values:

Arnold told NRC Administrative Law Judge Gary L. Milhollin, who is conducting the hearings, that the NRC's tests of operators earlier this year merely fulfill legal requirements for plant operators.

Continued on Page 2

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National Notes.....	7

FUNDING (con't.)

be covered by the consumer, but that cost should be kept at a minimum, since consumers are already paying for replacement power and will probably be required to fill in gaps opened when the final cost of cleanup is determined.

The plan would place all dollars raised into a separate account to be used solely for cleanup. Industry contributions would be kept in interest-bearing accounts as an inflation hedge.

The plan also calls for any revenues from GPU suits against the plant's builders, Babcock and Wilcox, to be used for repaying ratepayers and for three new directors to be appointed to GPU's Board. The new directors would be named by Gov. Dick Thornburgh, the leadership of the Pennsylvania Legislature and by Central Pennsylvania citizen organizations.

The plan also notes the restart of TMI-1 should not be needed to generate funds for cleanup.

The TMI-PIRC has asked the panel to invite the NRC commissioners to hold a public hearing in Central Pennsylvania following an AS&LB decision on the clean-up and before the NRC makes its final decision on the matter.

CHEATING (con't)

"The legal authorization is separate from whether they are competent," said Arnold in an interview.

Arnold also said he did not consider one operator turning in test papers with answers in the handwriting of another (something which actually occurred) as cheating.

The hearings are continuing on a five-day-a-week basis and may be concluded after the first week of this month. The TMIA office has information as to where each day's hearings are to be held.

On Nov. 10 in preliminaries to the opening of the hearings, Judge Milhollin said there is "no longer a reasonable assurance" that TMI-1 will be operated safely. The burden of proof, he said,

falls to GPU.

The hearings are intended, Milhollin said, to investigate management (and operator) competency and integrity. He also said the entire licensing system for technicians, qualifications criteria and adequacy of licensing tests will be reviewed in the hearings.

Others scheduled to testify include John F. Wilson, Met-Ed legal counsel; Edward V. Trunk, PSU assistant professor in engineering (and husband of Ann Trunk from Middletown of Kemeny Commission fame) who was asked by Met-Ed to make an independent analysis of test results to determine if cheating had occurred; and Michael J. Ross, manager of Unit 1 plant operations. TMIA volunteers who researched Met-Ed's Unit 1 maintenance records last summer will remember Ross as the person for whom "Ross' Leak List" was named.

At the conclusion of the hearings, Milhollin's findings will be sent to the AS&LB, which will report to the NRC.



In a related story, 16 of 18 senior operators at California's San Onofre plant failed to pass federal licensing tests, which will delay testing of a new unit at the power plant.

The Associated Press reported last month that the failure of all but two of the plant's senior operators has caused utility and federal officials to review training procedures and preparations techniques for the tests.

PANE Presses Court On Stress Issue

On Nov. 17 a three-judge panel of the U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Washington listened to arguments as to whether the NRC should make psychological stress and community fears an issue in the Unit 1 restart proceedings.

A caravan of PANE (People Against Nuclear Energy) members from Middletown were joined in Washington by representatives of TMIA and Newberry Township anti-nuclear activists to hear abbreviated oral arguments on the issue.

For a year, PANE has been barred effectively from participation in the AS&LB hearings on the restart because the Board felt the Atomic Energy Act and the National Environmental Policy Act were both framed to consider only physical, and not mental, health among concerns in initiating or reviewing actions.

The EIS (Environmental Impact Statement) on TMI-1 restart makes only brief reference to mental stress and community fears.

The Court's decision on the matter, certain to be appealed to the U.S. Supreme Court by whichever side loses, is expected as soon as several weeks, though it could be delayed for as long as six months.

Financial Report

Treasurer Paul Makurath reports that TMIA's current checking account balance is \$422.37, and that TMIA has four "very large" liabilities -- some \$41,000 owed to Adler and Widoff; over \$7,500 owed to a consulting firm; close to \$1,000 to Deb-Kay Corporation and \$1,900 still owed to the Evergreen Fund for a \$2,000 loan.

Makurath notes that close to \$400 has been contributed to the TMIA legal fund in the last three months from membership funds, and that it is difficult to keep a checking balance of more than \$500 because of the costs of mailing and producing documents for NRC and Advisory Panel hearings.

PIRC To Offer Speaker Training

TMI-PIRC (Public Information Resource Center) will offer a five to seven week speaker's training course for those who would like to learn to speak publicly or those who would like to be better public speakers.

The course will consist largely of general tips, with some attention given to motivating audiences to join in the anti-nuclear movement.

The course will begin in January and is being taught by Jack Lehman. Interested individuals should contact either the PIRC office or TMIA for more information on the speaker's training course.

LEGAL FUND NEEDS FUNDS

We've managed to keep TMI closed the last two years largely through volunteer and membership help, but should restart be given the go-ahead, we'll need money to continue the fight.

If the NRC rules to allow restart, we'll go immediately to court to obtain an injunction, but for this we need outside counsel. We have reached the point where we must hire that outside counsel to represent us in court, and we must retain expert witnesses to testify on cheating and testing procedures.

Funds are needed!

Send whatever you can -- \$5, \$15, \$25. Every little bit helps by contributing to the legal fund. Make checks or money orders payable to TMIA and mark them for the legal fund.

MEMBERSHIP TAKES ACTION ON FUNDING, CIVIL DISOBEDIENCE

TMIA's general membership voted to support an alternate funding statement for presentation to the advisory panel on TMI-2 cleanup and adopted a statement supporting non-violent civil disobedience action after heated discussion during its membership meeting last month in Harrisburg.

The alternate financial plan for payment of TMI-2 cleanup (see page 1 for details) was adopted after some discussion on its content and whether the present is the proper time for "blinking in this game of chicken." The vote to support the financial plan as an alternate to other schemes for funding cleanup was nearly unanimous.

Discussion was more intense on the subject of supporting the endorsement statement supporting non-violent citizen action to block the restart of TMI-1. It was felt by some attending that the statement should contain provisions aimed at including the cleanup of TMI-2 in an overall scheme and that the cut-off point for the start of civil disobedience was not delineated clearly enough.

The statement says that "all administrative and legal options within reason, given current financial and resource capabilities, must be exhausted prior to the use of" direct non-violent citizen action. (See last month's Alert.) Those feeling the statement required more work were urged by meeting chairperson Sam Milkes to express so in writing and one such request has already been received by the TMIA office. Further action may be taken by the steering committee on the endorsement statement.

Other action at the meeting included:

-- The election of three new members to the steering committee: M'liss Halsey, Robert Shaw and Georgiana Nyce. Paul Makurath, an outgoing steering committee member, was elected treasurer. The steering committee at its Nov. 25 meeting reappointed Louis Bradford, who has already served one year as TMIA chairperson, to another term. Joanne Doroshow continues as vice-chairperson and Georgiana Nyce becomes secretary. Mary Osborn is the remaining outgoing steering committee member.

-- A presentation by Critical Mass Energy Project Director Anna Gyorgy. Gyorgy's talk stressed the importance of cooperation between the national and local levels of the anti-nuclear movement. She suggested that the presence of clear positions on specific subjects, the presentation of constructive alternatives to balance the putting forward of problems, "speaking with one voice" to emphasize messages and increase national communication can improve the effectiveness of local groups in the anti-nuclear movement.

RATEPAYERS CONGRESS CALLED

Met-Ed ratepayers have been called to a Ratepayers Congress by Bill Keisling to be held Dec. 12 from noon to 4 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse at 6th and Herr Streets in Harrisburg.

HERE'S A COST BREAKDOWN

(This is the first of a series of articles on the basics of utility regulation and economics. In subsequent issues, we hope to discuss such questions as "construction work in progress (CWIP)," "lifeline" rates, "double-book" accounting systems, "phantom taxes," and certificate of need legislation. We hope the material here will be helpful.)

During the decade of the Seventies, upward spiraling energy costs forced many consumers to re-examine utility rates and practices. But the cries for reform from even the earliest opponents of utility practices generally fell on deaf ears.

The 1973 oil embargo served to move many people to take a second look as in the wake of the embargo, electric rates soared. Part of these increases stemmed from the OPEC drive to increase oil revenues. More, however, was caused by the new plants being built to meet real and projected growth in electricity demand.

As new capacity, much of it expensive nuclear power plants, was built -- costs skyrocketed. And as prices rose, it became more important to know how those rates were being set.

The cost of electric power is made basically of three parts, excluding taxes -- expenses, rate or return on capital investment and fuel costs. The first two are lumped together on your electric bill. The fuel cost (now shown as "ECR") is listed separately.

Simply put, expenses are the costs of doing business. Salaries, interest on loans, dividends, taxes, rent and charitable contributions, for example, are included. When the utility submits a rate proposal to the PUC, it projects what expenses will be over a certain period. The PUC looks at these figures and determines whether these costs are necessary, whether operation can be done more cheaply than projected and whether these costs are a regular part of doing business.

Extraordinary, one-time costs may be excluded if they cannot be shown to be necessary for the continued operation of the utility.

The second portion of the cost is a return on capital investment. This rate of return, which averages about 11 percent in Pennsylvania, is applied to what is called the utility's "rate base." The rate base is simply the level of capital investment held by the utility -- equipment, transmission facilities, generating equipment.

Since utility profits can be increased by enlarging the rate base while maintaining the same rate of return, consumer groups often argue that setting rates this way allows utilities to "overbuild," constructing more generating capacity than is actually needed to serve its customers.

These construction and equipment costs can be included in the rate base only when they become "used and useful." As construction costs and interest rates have increased, more utilities have pressed to include these costs in the rate base prior to entering service. This is known as "construction work in progress," popularly called "CWIP."

The final cost to consumers is the cost of fuel to run the plants.

Continued Next Page

COST BREAKDOWN (con't)

While this is treated basically as an expense item, it is listed separately on the bill as "ECR."

Prior to 1978, Pennsylvania utilities used an automatic fuel adjustment clause to pass on immediately any increase in the cost of fuel. Review of the increases occurred later. In 1978 the law was changed to force utilities to submit for review these increases before passing them on to the consumer.

The reason for the change -- many utilities (most noticeably Met-Ed) were failing to enforce long-term coal contracts. Instead, they constantly re-negotiated short-term agreements or purchased from the "spot market" at higher prices. The increases were then passed on to the ratepayers.

Pennsylvania is presently one of the few states in the country that has moved to "levelized energy costs." Under this plan, utilities submit projected fuel costs for a one-year period. These costs are then broken down into 12 equal parts. Utility customers then can estimate better what their costs will be for any given period of time. Additionally, the plan provides real incentive for utilities to enforce existing contracts and to negotiate at the lowest possible cost on new ones.

Currently this plan is being phased into service. PP&L is one of the few utilities in the state with an approved plan.

Once the total costs is assembled -- rate of return and expenses -- rates are set for each class of customer. Generally the PUC has allowed a "declining-block" rate structure, under which the cost per kilowatt hour (kwh) decreases as more electricity is used. Advocates for such rate structures argue that these declining blocks simply reflect the actual cost of providing service.

Opponents of declining block say this system penalizes people and businesses that conserve and point out that conservation goals would be served better by increasing the rates as usage rises.

Others argue that electricity is a necessity and that people should be guaranteed a certain amount at the lowest possible cost.

Inverted rates are most often known as "lifeline rates" or "conservation rates."

One innovation receiving considerable acceptance is "off-peak hour pricing." Under this plan, people who use substantial amounts of electricity at "off-peak" hours receive discounts. The plan has been proposed as a way to avoid new construction to meet growth in peak-hour use. While not available in all utility areas, some customers of Met-Ed and PP&L can use this service.

New construction programs of most utilities have been targeted as a cause of increased costs. While demand increases have dropped over the past 10 years, utilities have overestimated continually these growth rates. Few, if any, checks exist on new plant construction.

New construction increases the rate base by placing the burden of high capitalization in the expense column. The more utilities build, the higher their profit.

While utility spokespeople argue that overcapacity allows the utility to sell power to other power companies, it must be pointed out that this

COST BREAKDOWN (con't)

income is more than offset by the rate base's increased cost.

In an effort to stop unnecessary construction, consumer advocates have urged the PUC to issue "certificates of need" for new generating facilities.

(For further reading on this subject try Overcharge, by the late Sen. Lee Metcalf of Montana and Metcalf's staff assistant, Lee Reinemer. Available from the TMIA office is Joseph Matuscak's recommended decision on Met-Ed rate case, March 20, 1981. Other reading: How To Take On Your Electric Utility from the Environmental Action Foundation, EAF Utility Project, Dupont Circle Building, Washington, D.C. 20036 and EAF's The Ratewatcher's Guide: How To Shape Up Your Utility's Rate Structure.)

A Few National Notes

Good news arrived earlier this season from the Bailly Alliance -- the Bailly Power Plant has been cancelled by the northern Indiana utility as a result of a 10-year fight against it by local citizens... Science News' October issue reported the total of nuclear power plants licensed to operate has remained almost steady since 1977, while construction permits issued for new plants have dropped in frequency from 91 in 1979 to 78 in 1981.

Not one construction permit has been requested this year, says the magazine's report, compared with 59 in 1977...Residents within a five-mile radius of the Sequoyah Nuclear Plant in Chattanooga, Tennessee, will begin receiving this month potassium iodide pills to protect them from any emergency in the event of a leak of radioactive iodine...Two Texas cities, Austin and San Antonio, are considering withdrawing from the South Texas Nuclear Generating Station because of increased costs and construction delays...

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_____ \$ 5 low income and student

_____ \$ 50 sustaining member

_____ \$15 regular membership

_____ \$100 patron

_____ \$25 non-profit organization

_____ \$200 club member

_____ \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription

RETURN TO: TMIA

315 Peffer Street

Harrisburg, PA 17102

DECEMBER

		1 7:30 p.m. TMIA Planning Council Mtg.				
AS&LB Hearings Continue through the first two weeks of December.				10 7 p.m. Unit 2 Advisory Panel Meeting 208 N. Duke St. Lancaster		12 Noon to 4 p.m. Met-Ed rate- payers congress -- Hbg. Friends Meetinghouse
				24 TMIA office closed for holiday	25 Christmas TMIA office closed for holiday	
				31 TMIA office closed for holiday		

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