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THREE MILE ISLAND

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Licensing 'Reforms' Successfully Blocked

Last month, Three Mile Island Alert and other anti-nuclear organizations won a major victory in blocking proposed "reforms" of the NRC licensing process.

In the spring, the NRC proposed a number of rule changes designed to "speed up" the licensing process. One to set forth all facts, sources and documents they would use in presenting cases as a supplement to the petition to intervene. This rule would have required intervenors to develop a full case prior to the discovery process, an impossible task.

Joanne Doroshow, TMIA vice-chairperson who joined chairperson Louise Bradford in writing the comments to the proposed rule changes, said that such a rule would have forced citizen groups to develop their entire cases before discovery. "Intervenors," she said, "would have virtually been eliminated from the process."

A second change would have limited the number of interrogatories (requests for information and documents) that intervenors could present without the consent of the opposing parties. Doroshow argued that since intervenors depend heavily on the discovery process and interrogatories to develop their cases, this rule would have limited severely the scope of arguments that might be presented. "In effect," she

said, "utilities and staff could have held virtual veto-power over the scope of intervenors' presentations."

In announcing the final rules, both proposals were dropped.

Doroshow hailed the victory. "If those rules had been adopted," she said, "citizen groups would have been, in effect, eliminated from the licensing process."

Two other proposed changes were adopted. One would allow the presiding officer to require that documents be sent by Express Mail; the other would allow conference calls to be used when a witness had been compelled to answer

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a questions, subsequent to his or her testimony. TMIA opposed both.

"We can live with these, however," said Doroshov. "It is unfortunate that the NRC wants to place further burdens on the citizens."

"But," she added, "we won the two that really counted. We kept the citizens' groups in the process."

PUC To Make Rate Increase Decision

The Public Utility Commission is expected to make an initial decision on MetEd's \$162 million rate increase application. The utility has asked for \$50 million in emergency rate relief.

If the PUC grants the emergency relief, it would be the first time such an increase has been allowed since the Public Utility Codes were revised in 1977.

MetEd's request for emergency relief was forced by the 45-bank consortium which has provided funds since the accident.

Representatives of the banks will convene on Jan. 15 to decide the fate of the revolving credit arrangement which has kept MetEd afloat since March, 1979. If the emergency increase has not been granted by that time, the banks have threatened to pull the plug on the TMI operator.

According to a source close to the proceedings, the banks are ready to take such action. Such a decision could move GPU closer to bankruptcy.

Many feel, however, that such action by the bank group, which is led by New York's Citicorp and Chemical Banks, would force the PUC into a decision on the full rate case before February. Additionally, some feel the banks would force the PUC to make a larger increase than they would otherwise be willing to allow.

The full \$162 million (MetEd) pro-

ceeding was expected to be decided by the end of March. If emergency relief is granted, the amount would be deducted from the final award; it would not be allowed in addition to the final amount.

Even though the utility recently reduced its request from \$212 million to \$162 million, major differences remain between the utility and the Consumer Advocate's Office (OCA).

Both parties agree the utility should be allowed to begin amortization of the original TMI Unit 2 cost. They differ strongly over how long it should take. MetEd asked to collect the cost over a period of roughly five and a half years. This would amount to nearly \$70 million per year in increased rates. OCA, on the other hand, has argued that most plants of this kind are paid in 15 years. This would lower the annual cost to \$23 million.

Recently, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities allowed GPU to collect its costs for the cancelled Fork River reactor over the 15-year period.

On the question of cleanup costs, MetEd has asked for some \$25 million over the next five years. This amount would equal the amount set forth in the cleanup funding plan proposed by Gov. Thornburgh (and would exceed, by nearly 250 percent, the amount proposed by TMIA). The consumer advocate argues, however, that since Unit 2 is not "used and useful" under the Public Utility Code, no cleanup costs should be allowed.

An OCA source acknowledged that little or no outside funding help would come if the consumers did not pay part of the cost. But, the source said, OCA must deal with the law, not the politics, of the situation.

Both parties agree Unit 1 should be allowed back into the utility's rate base if the NRC allows restart. Each, however, places substantially different values on the plant.

MetEd has not asked for retrofits

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they expect to do to be included in the rates; so at this time, payment for construction work in progress (CWIP) is not an issue.

A number of separate disagreements exist in the non-TMI II portion of the case. While MetEd is asking for \$162 million, the Consumer Advocate has proposed only \$72 million.

Under the funding plan proposed by TMIA, MetEd customers would have some \$7 million per year to put into the rates over the next eight years.

WRITE TO THE PUC COMMISSIONERS

And urge them to rule that no more than \$7 million of customer money be allowed into the rates.

Write to Susan Shanaman, Chairman; and Michael Johnson, James Cawley, Linda Talliaferro and Clifford Jones at the North Office Bldg. in Harrisburg PA 17120

Legal Fund Receives, Needs More Support

People from around the country have pitched in to help TMIA block the restart of Unit 1.

Last month, TMIA sent funding appeals to people who had written the NRC opposing restart. Despite the difficulty of raising funds during the holiday period in December, more than 10 percent of those contacted have responded. This is an extraordinary percentage for a "cold list."

To date, more than \$650 has been received from this mailing to help defray legal costs.

Next week, you will all receive a letter outlining the legal situation, appealing for help. While we know that many of you have given before, no appeal has been made in nearly 15 months.

We urge you to give everything you can -- and no amount is too small! With your help we can keep the legal fund going strongly. And it would be nice, for a change, to know that our future was not being hampered by a lack of money.

What Makes Up Your Rate Base?

(Last month, the Alert presented an overview of the various components that make up your electric rates. This month, and in subsequent months, we will look at specific portions of the process. Additionally, we hope to look at certain political issues which affect the rate-making process.)

The rate base is defined as the dollar amount of utility investment in the property determined by the Public Utility Commission to be "used and useful" in supplying the service a utility undertakes to furnish.

The largest single item in the

rate base is usually the utility's investment in generating plants. Other "plant" items such as distribution facilities (substations, transmission wires, rights-of-way, etc.), office property and facilities and fleet vehicles are also part of the rate base.

In short, all items necessary for the normal conduct of a utility's business are included in the rate base.

From this investment such items as deferred taxes, deferred investment tax credits, consumer contributions and ad-

Continued Next Page

vances and the like are deducted. These items are used by the utility to meet its capital needs.

A utility can also include "wash working" capital in its rate base if it can show the money was raised from investors and not from consumers. In the most recently completed MetEd rate case, the PUC disallowed certain working capital because, argued Administrative Law Judge Joseph Matuschak, the money came from the ratepayers and not from bondholders and preferred stock investors.

If that same cash had been held by MetEd past the date when bond and preferred dividend payments were made, it could have been included in the rate base as coming from investors.

Finally, fuel inventories, supplies and materials are added to the rate base.

In the process of setting rates, the rate base figure (when multiplied by the rate of return) produces the allowed revenues a utility may be permitted to achieve.

Richard Morgan and Sandra Jarabek, in How to Challenge Your Local Utility, offer the following formula to illustrate the relationship of rate base to revenue:

$$\begin{array}{rcl} \text{Gross} & = & \text{Cost of} \\ \text{Revenues} & = & \text{Service} \\ & & \text{(Expenses)} \end{array} + \begin{array}{rcl} \text{Net Operating} \\ \text{Income} \\ \text{(Rate of Return} \\ \text{X} \\ \text{Rate Base)} \end{array}$$

This gross revenue figure would then be divided according to formulas set by the Public Utility Commission to spread the money among the various classes of electric users.

In this way, the size of the rate base becomes a major issue in most rate cases because its size determines the amount of profit a utility will be allowed to make.

The "investment in plant," the largest single portion of the rate base, can be determined in two ways. The first simply allows a utility to recover the

original cost of its facility, regardless of inflation. The second, a less-used approach, allows the utility to refigure constantly (for each rate case) the value of replacing a facility (replacement cost). Pennsylvania, which formerly used replacement cost figuring, now follows the plan allowing utilities to capture original costs.

Still, there are problems. Since a utility becomes more profitable if its rate base is increased, it makes economic sense for it to build as much generating capacity as it can possibly afford. In this way, the rate base (and thus profits) grows. Nuclear power plants costing huge amounts of money for construction (therefore profit-making) have been preferred over those with smaller construction investments but larger operating costs (therefore not profit-making). Conservation and load management (labor intensive but not expanding the rate base) has been shunted aside by utilities in favor of newer and more expensive production facilities.

Unfortunately, the Public Utility Commission has little control over whether a plant will be built and what kind of facility it will be. Legislation has been proposed requiring the PUC to issue a "certificate of need" prior to the start of construction but, at this time, the proposals are stalled in the Legislature.

Additionally, the profitability of an expanded rate base makes it advantageous for utilities to look the other way as cost overruns occur on their construction projects. Cost containment would limit the growth of the rate base -- and thereby limit the growth of a utility's profits. The cost overruns simply make good business sense, since the additional cost of financing overruns can be captured from customers as an "expense" item.

(ERRATA: Last month we listed How To Take On Your Electric Utility as a possible resource. Not only were we wrong on the title but it's been replaced by a sequel: The Ratewatcher's Guide: How To Shape Up Your Utility's Rate Structure.)

Cheating Hearings End - Evaluation Begins

Hearings into the extent of cheating among TMI control room operators taking examinations ended Dec. 10, and four days later the three-member Atomic Safety and Licensing Board announced, as far as it was concerned, TMI Unit 1 could reopen for "testing" at five percent power.

The five-member Nuclear Regulatory Commission, having received the ASLB ruling, now must decide whether to permit GPU Nuclear to restart Unit 1 (and whether at full power or the recommended five percent) or to deny such permission.

The NRC could decide to wait until it receives the ASLB's findings on the ramifications of the cheating scandal. Those findings are expected in March or April.

Meanwhile, in its 806-page decision of Dec. 14, the ASLB listed a number of conditions with which GPU must comply before restart. These include training and staffing requirements, equipment changes and emergency planning.

Administrative Law Judge Gary Milhollin, who has presided over the cheating hearings, is off to France. He will, however, spend much of his time there reviewing hearing transcripts and findings of fact due Jan. 5 from GPU and Jan. 15 from intervenors, including TMIA. TMIA has been represented throughout the hearings by Louise Bradford, who has been aided by Joanne Doroshow.

Although no more hearings have been scheduled, Milhollin has permitted the record to remain open in the event later evidence needs presentation.

TMIA can, and may, appeal the original ASLB decision on management competency. The ASLB had decided GPU management was capable of operating Unit 1.

Should the NRC give a green light for restart, GPU now acknowledges it will take an indefinite period of time to find the extent and seriousness of steam tube leaks discovered in Novem-

ber in Unit 1's two steam generators, and then repair or replace them. Experts estimate that could realize anywhere from a month to a year for completion.

The final witnesses at the cheating hearings were a number of the control room operators, including the two caught cheating. Two others found to have suspiciously similar answers on the exams also testified.



Two NRC Inspection and Enforcement investigators recalled during testimony an instance during the April, 1981, exams when an operator was solicited for answers by a company management-level training instructor, who was also taking the exam.

Another operator testified that a person who had already taken the exam was stationed outside of the examination room, offering assistance to those taking the exam as they left the room for breaks.

Testimony also indicated acknowledgment of widespread cheating on requalification exams given to the operators.

SEE RELATED STORY PAGE 6

PATRIOT NEWS ATTACKS ASLB

The Harrisburg Patriot and Evening News, in editorials on Dec. 16, savagely attacked the decision of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to allow restart of TMI Unit 1.

In words we wish we had said, the Harrisburg dailies questioned not only the decision but the sham of the restart hearing process. Because the editorial states out position so eloquently, we reprint sections of it in their entirety. We wish we had space to run the whole thing.

"But, if the licensing board was 'exhaustive' in its inquiry it surely was not thorough; if it asked many questions, it failed to ask the right questions; if it looked at every screw, it would not grasp the entirety of the problem...

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

"It is an indication of how devoid the process is of sensitivity to its mistakes and a measure of its lack of social accountability that the operation of Unit 1 can be considered while only yards away its sister plant sits in ruins, contaminated by radioactivity, an acknowledged health and safety hazard which continues unresolved...

"The system has failed to come to grips with this nuclear stepchild. No one wants to admit paternity, so the easiest thing to do is to ignore it, let it sit there. The government licenses them, the utilities operate them and the Good Lord cleans them up. The system never was prepared to deal with a \$1 billion nuclear accident and it is no more prepared today, yet it proceeds with licensing nuclear plants as if TMI never happened, as if it didn't exist,...

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

Letters to the editor and letters of praise and support for these kinds of expressions should go to the Patriot's Executive Editor Saul Kohler and editorial page Editor Henry Kaufman at 812 Market Street, Harrisburg PA 17101.

SOME CRITICAL OF EVAC PLAN

TMI Restart came one step closer on Dec. 18 when the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency held its one required public meeting at the William Penn Museum to receive comment on evacuation plans in the event of a nuclear accident.

Technically the meeting fulfilled the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's requirement on preparedness but many citizens objected to the presentation saying it was announced only two weeks in advance, was held on a working day, was not well-publicized and addressed only the evacuation of a 10-mile radius around the plant.

Objectors also said the plan could be read only in a few sites around the area and no individuals could obtain copies for study. Citizens repeatedly attacked the plan for its dependence on volunteer personnel to direct traffic,

drive buses, man mass care centers and provide medical care. It was also felt those people would evacuate in the event of an emergency and be unavailable.

Some attendees called for genuine drills in schools and communities to test the practicality and feasibility of the evacuation plan and asked for broadened planning for a 20 or 25 mile radius. It was pointed out that communities and hospitals plan to use the same pool of buses, trucks and personnel.

Concerned citizens asked that MetEd be required to pay for costs of evacuation planning. The utility, PEMA pointed out, did contribute money to the drills held last summer and will finance public information pamphlets planned for distribution early this year.

These pamphlets are also part of the NRC's requirement for restart. Some giving public comment expressed that

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED:

_____ \$ 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

schools, parents and students have no clear idea how to act in most cases. No plans have been received from Middletown schools, for example, and no planning has begun in Middletown's Seven Sorrows parochial school.

TMIA member John Murdoch dubbed the plan a "willing" plan in which aspects outlined "will" be done sometime in the future. The public will be educated. Medical personnel will get training. School plans will be formulated.

A Department of Health spokesperson, Julie Cox, announced one exception to the "will" rule. Potassium iodide, which protects thyroid glands from rad-

iation absorption will not be distributed since the only available supplies have a shelf-life expiring in December, 1981 (now extended to 1982). More will be manufactured for the state only if a 275,000 unit order is guaranteed.

State Police expect to have some supplies of potassium iodide in a month or so. It is also unclear whether some will be on hand for hospitals and plant site personnel. Currently the Food and Drug Administration advises the use of the drug only for those expecting exposures of 10 to 20 rads.

The NRC said a 10 mile planning zone was hit on by an NRC-EPA task force unit.

THIS MONTH

HERE'S YOUR CHANCE TO HAVE YOUR SAY.....

UNIT 2 CLEANUP ADVISORY PANEL MEETINGS

JANUARY 13 AT 7 P.M.

JANUARY 28 AT 7 P.M.

HOLIDAY INN AT CHESTNUT AND SECOND STREETS

IN HARRISBURG

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Pepper Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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**CHECK YOUR
RENEWAL
NUMBER!**

THREE MILE ISLAND

february 1982

vol.4, no.2

KEHOE TO SPEAK IN MARCH

Keiki Kehoe, a lobbyist on nuclear issues and author of Unavailable at Any Price who has spent the last year focusing on the Price-Anderson Act and the funding for cleanup of TMI, will speak on insurance and TMI at the next full membership meeting Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Calvary United Methodist Church at 700 Market Street in Lemoyne. There is plenty of parking at the side and rear of the church as well as on Market Street in front of the church.

Ed Charles and Mac Albright will chair the meeting.

Kehoe has said that Met-Ed is planning to have \$1 billion of insurance for property damage at Unit 1, when and if restart takes place, and the company will attempt to assume the \$1 billion for its own property, leaving nothing for the residents of the area. They'll allege, said Kehoe, that area residents are protected by the Price-Anderson Act. But studies show, she said, that people in the Harrisburg area would have gotten about 3¢ for every dollar of property losses if the TMI accident had been more serious.

Kehoe also has said the same companies selling insurance to Met-Ed for nuclear damages put a "nuclear exclusion" clause in residents' policies, denying any insurance coverage in the event of

a nuclear accident. These companies, she said, should not be permitted to discriminate against home and business owners who want nuclear insurance.

Kehoe has urged residents to call and write to Insurance Commissioner Michael Browne at the Department of Insurance, Strawberry Square in Harrisburg, 17120, 787-5173 and to Gov. Thornburgh for improvements in this matter.

TMIA's Economic Committee is looking at a number of projects concerning nuclear economics, insurance, etc. If you would like to be involved in this effort, call Kay at the TMIA office at 233-7897.

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GPU FACES FINANCIAL TROUBLES

GPU's other nuclear plant, Oyster Creek (N.J.) has been ordered shut for 18 months so repairs and modifications can be made. The cost of the work will exceed the original price of the 12-year old unit. The latest Oyster Creek difficulties follow a two-year period in which the plant was out-of-service more than it was on-line.

Louise Bradford, chairperson of TMIA, has questioned whether GPU would be able to pay for the repairs. "The company," she said, "is already faced with huge costs for cleanup of TMI-2, modification of TMI-1 and repairs to the steam generators in TMI-1."

While figures are available for the cleanup and for modifications to TMI-1, there are no such estimates on how much the steam generator work will cost. Late last month, GPU spokesperson Doug Bedell announced it would take at least six months to fix the problem. Many people believe it will take far longer than that.

According to GPU Nuclear, the Oyster Creek plant will be shut down from July, 1983, to March 1984, for modifications to the containment vessel and for "lessons learned" modifications. The plant will be closed again for nine months beginning in mid-1985. At that time, cracked pipes in the Emergency Core Cooling System will be replaced.

The utility and the NRC have known about the problems in the cooling system since 1978 but the NRC has allowed the plant to operate despite the danger.

While the plant is out of service, customers of New Jersey Central Power & Light will be forced to pay for replacement power. The cost of this purchased power will be \$216 million in additional bills.

At least one New Jersey official has questioned whether the repairs should be done. Citing the plant's age and past performance, he said Oyster Creek may give us a clear indication of the useful life of a nuclear plant.

Bradford said that she had twice asked the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to get involved in the financial question. TMIA had raised the issue before the NRC but the commission has ruled it would not consider the question during the restart hearings.

TMIA's appeal of the financial decision was withdrawn after the courts indicated it would have to be raised as part of an appeal of the entire NRC decision on restart.

Bradford indicated TMIA would again ask the state to question GPU finances.

"What concerns us," she said, "is that GPU will cut corners and compromise the health and safety of Pennsylvania residents simply because of a lack of money...We believe more strongly than ever that GPU does not have the financial resources to operate nuclear plants safely."

PUC OKAYS RATES INCREASE

The Public Utility Commission okayed a \$128 million rate increase for users of electricity from Three Mile Island on Jan. 8. The commission adopted the rate boost, which will add \$74 million to the bills of Met-Ed consumers and \$54 million to the bills of Pennsylvania Electric's, as well as including in the settlement a commitment for a total of \$37.5 million from both Met-Ed and Penelec customers for cleanup of TMI-2.

The increases would remain in effect until, as part of the PUC agreement, the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at TMI is returned to service, when rates would decline. The tying of the settlement to restart received opposition from TMIA and TMI PIRC. While TMIA supported the compromise settlement's financial terms in a Dec. 29 statement, it later renewed its opposition to the possibility of restart of Unit 1 in statements to the PUC and the press. TMI PIRC had rejected the entire case settlement on the basis of its cleanup clause dependency on the Unit 1 reactor restart.

William G. Kuhns, president of GPU, Met-Ed and Penelec's parent company, said the increases weren't adequate enough to restore the utilities to complete financial health, but said they were sufficient to deal with the companies' needs at current reduced levels of operation.

Part of the settlement prohibits Met-Ed from entering into further rate proceedings until January, 1983. The monthly bill of an average Met-Ed customer paying \$37.67 in January would

increase to \$43.09 under the first step of the plan, followed by a reduction to \$39.85 should the undamaged reactor go back on line, leveling off at \$38.74 when the energy charge expires in May.

TMIA's support of the financial terms of the agreement hinged on the belief that consumers will have taken on their part in a compromise to fund cleanup of the damaged reactor, placing the continued responsibility on other parties involved in proposed cost-sharing arrangements -- GPU, the federal government, the state government and those of Maryland and New Jersey, the electric-utility industry and nuclear manufacturers -- to match the sacrifices of ratepayers to further efforts for cleanup of TMI.

SHORT NOTES

The March 28 Coalition is sponsoring "The Last Resort," a series of non-violent direct actions against certain regulatory agencies, corporations and individuals. Interested persons must take a non-violent training session to participate. Call 944-7211 or drop by at 146 Union Street in Middletown for more information.

Project David has organized a number of non-violent civil disobedience activities in February and March in York, Reading, Lebanon, Easton and Harrisburg. Participants will assemble
Continued Next Page

The steering committee has requested the membership be informed that the PUC settlement agreement was not brought before the committee for discussion.

M'liss Halsey (732-9205) and Georgianna Nyce (564-0966) will study the by-laws to review the decision making process. Anyone interested in joining in this effort should call either M'liss or Georgianna as soon as possible.

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ble in the public squares of the most populous cities within the Met-Ed rate district for door-to-door canvassing and collection of electric bills. The bills will later be burned on March 28 on the steps of the capitol to mark the third anniversary of the accident at TMI. For more information call (215) 967-4910 or (717) 469-0317.

The cabinet of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches voted this month to notify the governor, the NRC and the legislature of the council's opposition to restart of TMI-1 until absolute assurances can be given as to the safety of doing so. This action was taken in response to the concerns, including that of psychological stress, of area residents. This news will not be brought to the attention of the individual denominations except through the minutes of the cabinet meeting at which this action was taken. Members of TMIA should work with their local churches to urge ministers and pastors to contact the heads of their denominations in the state to spread the word through the commonwealth.

Ed Neilsen of TMIA was elected to PIRC's steering committee when the center reorganized on Jan. 21. Pat Smith of Newberry Township was elected spokesperson of the group at that time and other new members of the cabinet -- Bob Coleman, Paola Kinney and Beverly Hess -- were elected. Helen Hocker was elected secretary and Frank Davis, treasurer.

If you're tired of marching, of being on the outside -- then you may be looking for a little action -- political action. On Feb. 6 the League of Conservation Voters and Environmental Action will present a one-day workshop on political action campaigns for 1982, to be held at the Embers Restaurant, 1700 Harrisburg-Carlisle Pike, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Topics will include environmental politics, electoral politics, political action committees, electoral fund-raising, phone canvassing and candidate selection. The fee for the session is \$5 and interested persons can call the TMIA office for more information.

1982 No Nukes Calendars for \$5 at the TMIA office at 315 Peffer Street. A Great Buy!

CLAIM FORMS

By now everyone who filed a request for a claim form during the summer of 1981 has received an individualized loss claim form for the \$25 million Three Mile Island Class Action litigation.

If you have not received your form write immediately to:

Clerk of the United States
District Court for the Middle
District of Pennsylvania
Post Office Box 6000
Wayne, PA 19087

Specific documentation is not necessary in order to complete the forms. If you do not have documentation or proof of loss submit a signed statement listing items and approximate costs incurred between March 28 and May 10, 1979.

Please urge your friends and relatives to complete their forms. Don't be intimidated by the formality of the claim forms. There is \$20 million to be shared by a few thousand residents and businesses in this area and if part of that \$20 million is not claimed the remaining money will be placed in the Health Fund, allocated \$5 million.

There won't be a public airing of questions and answers and there isn't a local information phone number, but Kay Pickering is available at the TMIA office to answer questions.

Island Updates, TMIA's clipping service newsletter needs your support. Send a \$5 contribution to defray printing and mailing costs to receive the monthly editions. And write a support letter to TMIA indicating how you or your organization use the Island Update material.

FOUR KINDS OF EMERGENCY

When Met-Ed declared an "unusual event" on Jan. 8, were you wondering how concerned to get? Were you trying to figure out whether this was an untoward, unnecessary, uncalled for, unlicensed or unapproved nuisance you should ignore?

Because most of us are still confused about the warning phrases used by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to tell the public what's going on at TMI, the Alert has decided to review them.

In increasing degree, the four warnings are:

1. Unusual Event
2. Alert
3. Site Emergency
4. General Emergency



Unusual Event: As Met-Ed pointed out the last time an "unusual event" took place, even the leak of a gallon of radioactive water can force them to declare this lowest of the emergencies.

In the accident at TMI on Jan. 8, stack monitors sounded and two buildings were evacuated because careless workmen blew radioactive particles out of a drain while trying to clear an air line. An "unusual event" should mean there is no radiation off the plant site.

Alert: Part of the plant system is beginning to or threatening to deteriorate, but only small fractions of curies could be escaping. It's just what it says -- an alert.

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Site Emergency: A need for more concern. Actual or likely major failure of plant functions needed to protect the public are taking place. At the site boundary radioactive releases are occurring, within EPA standards of course. A "site emergency" was what the Dauphin County dispatcher heard when he noted at 7 a.m. on March 28 that he'd been told they had a s-l-i-g-h-t emergency" down at the plant.

General Emergency: By 7:35 a.m. on that now infamous Wednesday, the plant manager had upgraded the accident to a "general emergency" -- announcing "actual or imminent substantial core degradation with potential for loss of containment integrity." Releases exceeding EPA guidelines off-site were possible.

Few people understood then, or understand now, what that "actual or imminent" phrase meant.

Now that we have the warning sirens in place, a three to five minute continuous blast could be set off at any time. It does not mean the need for evacuation, says PEMA, only that residents should tune to their emergency broadcast radio stations for further information.

You may have noticed the artwork, now we'll tell you a little something about the artist. The Alert's new-found artistic wizard is Tim Hoke of Harrisburg. A local, Tim works for Hood, Light and Geise as a commercial artist and attended the Pittsburgh Art Institute.

PANE WINS STRESS CASE

The NRC can no longer ignore the mental health and psychological stress of TMI area residents before deciding about possible restart of TMI-1, said the majority of a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel Jan. 7.

In its decision, the climax of long and expensive legal actions conducted by PANE (People Against Nuclear Energy) of Middletown, the panel ordered the NRC "not to make a decision to restart TMI-1" until it "has complied with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act..."

Unless and until overturned by later court decisions, or by congressional action, the decision makes mental health of equal importance as physical health when determining the effect of restart of TMI

on neighboring residents and on the well-being of surrounding communities.

The effects of the decision could be profound and, understandably, have sent shivers down the spines of nuke industry executives nationwide.

As might have been expected, the "Philadelphia Inquirer" editorialized that the "court properly orders review of stress at TMI," while the "Wall Street Journal" fretted in an editorial over the "damage" to the nuclear industry because of the court's decision.

Westinghouse Electric Corp., hit by declining nuclear plant contracts since the TMI accident, recently reported a southern utility has cancelled orders for two nuclear units.

The cancellation was made by Carolina Power and Light and was praised by the North Carolina Utilities Commission executive director as evidence of the success of load management and conservation.

WATCH THOSE TRUCKS

If you're driving on a highway and see any of the following numbers displayed on that giant truck rushing past you -- beware -- 2910, 2912, 2914, 2918, 9181, 9182 or 2911.

Those numbers mean the truck is loaded with radioactive materials.

The identification numbers, to be displayed in the familiar diamond-shaped placards or on orange panels on the ends or sides of vehicles, will be in addition to the now standard radiation hazard symbols sometimes seen on transport vehicles, says the U.S. D.O.T. Emergency Response Guidebook.

Shippers' former freedom to decide whether to display the numbers will now give way to mandatory placard requirements.

In the event of an accident, emergency crews sent to the scene will know the kind of hazardous material present and (presumably) will know how to deal with it.

Identification numbers for specific kinds of radioactive materials are 2910, 2912, 2914, 2918 and for "special hazards" are 9181 and 9182. The number 2911 has been designated for "radioactive devices."

MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED:

_____ \$ 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

FEBRUARY

		2 TMIA Planning Council, 7:30 p.m. Friends Mtghouse.			6 Political Action Training -- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call TMIA
7 ↓	8 Senate Appro- priations Hearing, Hbg.				13 "Last Resort" Council Mtg. 12 noon at 146 Union St. Middletown 944-7211
PIRC Leadership Meeting, 1-5 p.m. Friends Meetinghouse Open to all neighboring Groups.		17 PA Environ- mental Plan Public Mtg. 1:30 - 5 p.m. 7 - 10 p.m.	18 League of Women Voters Meeting -- The Reality of Hazardous Waste Lower Paxton Township Building 75 South Houcks Road, Colonial Park 7:30 p.m.		
		Town Mtg. Camp Curtin YMCA North Street, Hbg. Co-sponsored by TMI PIRC and SURE			

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Pepper Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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**CHECK YOUR
RENEWAL
NUMBER!**

THREE MILE ISLAND

march, 1982

vol.4, no.3

BURNING MARKS ANNIVERSARY

Project David, the ratepayers revolt sparked by noted consumer advocate Bill Keisling Jr., is gaining momentum toward a March 28 culmination.

The revolt gained strong support last month from the not-entirely coincidental actions of a number of school districts in the Met-Ed service area.

Randy King of the March 28th Coalition, which is serving as a focal point for the ratepayers revolt effort, notes three school districts (North Lebanon, South Middleton and East Stroudsburg) already have planned to withhold their March payments to Met-Ed as a means of protesting the company's high electric rates.

The South Middleton School District's action was taken at the urging of the South Middleton Civic Association, which had endorsed Project David after hearing spokespersons for the campaign explain its purpose.

Community door-to-door campaigns were launched in York Feb. 20-21, during which more than \$12,000 in bills were collected. Reading was canvassed Feb. 27-28, featuring a demonstration at Met-Ed's headquarters in that city.

The same kind of house-to-house canvassing asking Met-Ed customers to withhold their March electric payments and to give their bills to Project David, is scheduled for Leb-

anon March 6-7 and for Easton March 13-14.

A Ratepayers Congress and bill burning will be held at noon March 28 on the third anniversary of the near disaster at TMI on the steps of the Capitol in Harrisburg.

Local community groups, tenant associations and environmental coalitions are supporting the Project David campaign. Customers of other electric utilities, such as PP&L, are also being asked to withhold their March payments. Electric bills from customers are flowing in at the rate of \$800 a day, says King.

Persons wishing to lend their support to the campaign can send their bills to Project David, Post Office Box 388, Middletown, PA 17057. Anyone who wants to help out can volunteer services by calling the Middletown office of the March 28th Coalition at 944-7211.

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BERWICK COULD RAISE RATES

Berwick, our second favorite nuke, upwind and upstream, is rushing to completion. Not, of course, because we need the power, but because PP&L is eager to have it included in the rate base. (See Three Mile Island Alert, January, 1982.)

Berwick Unit 1 is scheduled for fueling next month and would go commercial in the second quarter of 1983. There is some indication, though, that the schedule may be slipping, as workers reportedly are being pressed to put in 72-hour work weeks.

Berwick's Unit 2 recently announced a six-month delay. It won't be finished until 1984. And -- oh, yes -- it may cost a little more, about \$350 million more.

But what's a few million in a total cost of \$3.5 billion?

The answer to that, given by PP&L's John Saeger a few weeks ago -- rates could increase 20 to 25 percent when Berwick Unit 1 comes on line and an additional 20 percent when Berwick Unit 2 is complete. That's a projected 45 percent increase in rates for PP&L customers in 1983 and 1984.

We're Counting On You!!

If your membership has been overdue for a year or more, you'll be contacted sometime this month by TMIA to remind you that we need your membership money.

If you don't renew your membership in TMIA or renew your subscription to the Alert newsletter, you'll be dropped from the newsletter or membership list.

THERE BUT FOR THE GRACE OF...

If it hadn't been for the consumer advocate's office we might all be mad at Jersey Central instead of Met-Ed and ratepayers in New Jersey would be paying for the accident at TMI-2.

It seems that back in 1978 GPU proposed a giant swap -- Jersey Central would assume the costs and ownership of TMI-2 and Met-Ed customers would acquire and pay for the proposed Forked River plant to be built in New Jersey.

The deal was stopped by the opposition of the consumer advocate, who correctly perceived that no matter how much it cost to build the TMI-2 white elephant the Forked River plant, built with future escalating dollars, would cost at least four times as much.

The rest is history, but with this footnote -- Forked River will never be built. It was canceled by GPU after TMI's accident.

SELL SELL SELL

PRIZES

A choice of a liquor basket of cheer; chimney cleaning by Chimney Sweeps; dinner for two at Tom's Place Restaurant; or a gift certificate from Sandy Lerner's.

The attached raffle tickets in this issue of the Alert will help TMIA raise badly needed funds. Send in the money collected no later than May 1 at the TMIA office at 315 Pepper Street in Harrisburg. The raffle drawing will be held in May. Additional tickets can be obtained by calling Kay at TMIA 233-7897.

PSYCHOLOGICAL

Psychological stress -- whether we have it as a result of TMI and how to measure it if we do -- was the subject of two days of debate by the experts Feb. 4 and 5 in Virginia.

PANE's landmark decision Jan. 7 in Federal District Court said psychological stress must be considered in the hearings on the reopening of

PHYSICAL

When it was announced that up to 1,000 steam tubes in Unit 1 have "corroded," and that GPU will also open and inspect the reactor pressure vessel, it sent engineers guessing that an even more insidious problem could be affecting the entire Unit 1 steam generating system.

This elusive problem of metal



Unit 1. Some moves in Congress are expected to establish it never intended to have such stress considered in an environmental assessment and either Met-Ed or the NRC has been expected to appeal the decision to the Supreme Court. Neither has followed through, however, possibly waiting to review the complete decision rather than the abridged two-page version already issued.

Meanwhile the NRC has contracted with Mitre Corporation consultants to map out how psychological stress can be determined. Mitre has brought in 11 psychiatrists, psychologists and sociologists as well as four expert witnesses. Transcripts of their meeting will be filed at Middletown's NRC office early this month.

Citizens were permitted to attend the meeting but could not comment. It's been reported that the deliberations were professional, not political and represented a wide spectrum of opinions.

Some of these experts concluded this stress was experienced primarily by anti-nukes who were, by definition,

stress goes by the name of Intergranular Stress Corrosion Cracking and may also turn out to be the reason why 14 nuclear plants across the country are shut down for steam generator problems.

IGSCC, the acronym for this condition, hides from the inspector. "No corrosion was observed" -- used to describe the inability of experts to spot cracks in such tubes, has been code to metallurgists that IGSCC might be diagnosed. The tough, specialized nickel coatings on the steam pipes show no cracks on their surface, but when IGSCC occurs, cracks twist and open between the grains or cells inside the metal.

They can develop, as they often do, when metal is "cold-worked" extensively -- bent or twisted to shape after heat-treatment. Heat-treating or "annealing" strengthens the metal by lining up the grains in an orderly way. It is believed cold-working may undo this orderly arrangement.

Much of the corrosion of TMI's pipes has appeared where the pipes join a flat plate. Welds are also

Continued Next Page

Continued Next Page

Psychological (continued)
somewhat unstable. One suggestion was made that the best way to overcome stress of this nature is to face it and a restarting of Unit 1 would therefore be the best cure.

A solid rebuttal to this position came from the four experts who had researched in the TMI area. They said their statistics showed such conclusions were not corroborated by the facts.

Physical (continued)

common locations of IGSCC and radioactivity may hasten the process. Chemical interactions from chlorine or sulphuric acid in the system, mentioned by Bob Arnold, can also intensify IGSCC.

No one has positively pointed to this diagnosis for TMI-1, but it must be considered. An apparently perfect pipe crumbling internally may turn out to be the Achilles Heel of the nuclear industry.

MARK YOUR CALENDAR

MARCH 27

CITIZEN'S SPEAKOUT
AND PRAYER
VIGIL

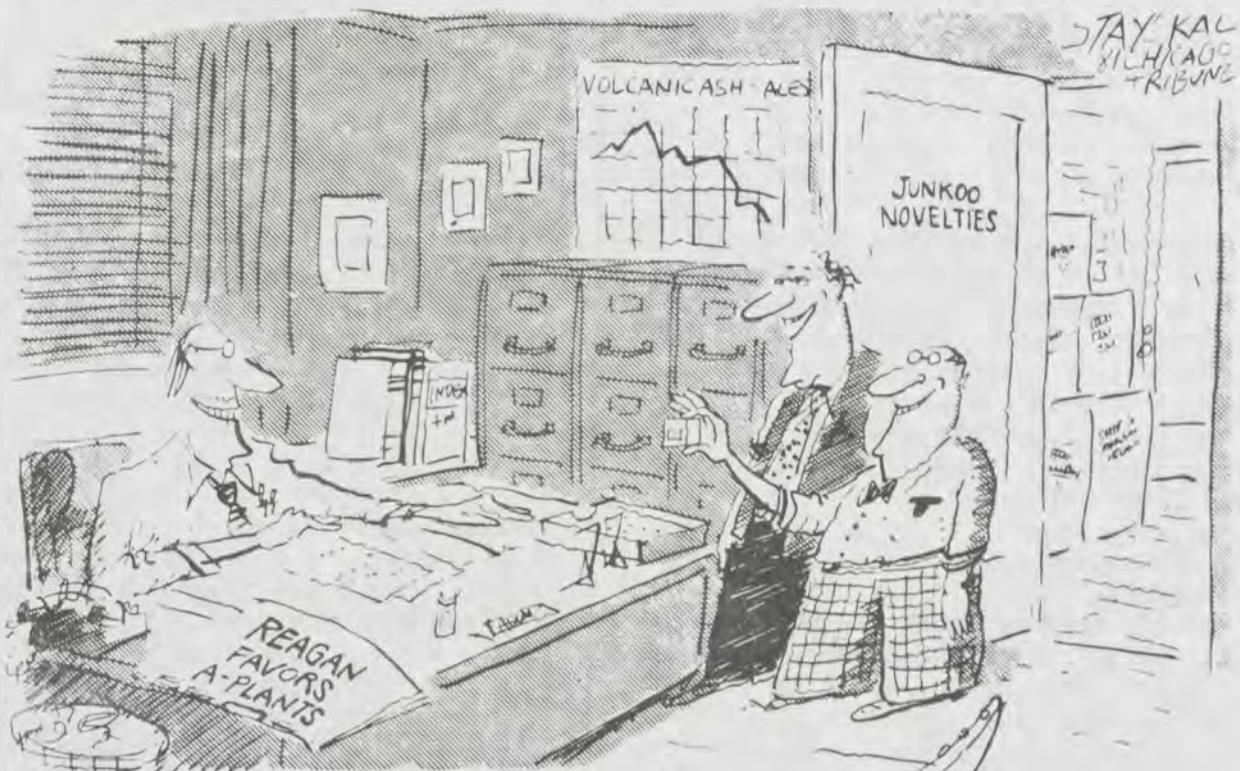
MARCH 28

PROJECT DAVID
BILL BURNING

SVA CHURCH SERVICE

CALL 944-7211

FOR MORE DETAILS



'Got a great replacement for all those souvenirs containing volcanic ash from Mount St. Helens...Lead cubes filled with radioactive water from Three Mile Island!'

CWIP AND THE FUTURE

(In January's issue of the Alert, we covered the factors that determine a utility's rate base -- that portion of a company's assets on which it can earn a profit. One of the most pressing issues facing utility regulators and activists is whether costs associated with construction work in progress or "CWIP" should be added to the rate base.)

The U.S. Federal Energy Regulatory Commission (FERC) is expected shortly to rule on revisions of its rules governing the inclusion of construction work in progress (CWIP) in the rates set by the commission.

FERC sets the rates on "bulk power" purchases -- power sold between utilities, to municipal and public power systems, and to some large industrial users. While the commission's ruling will affect directly only those rates, it is expected to have an impact on the way state commissions treat CWIP in the future.

In Pennsylvania, the Public Utility Commission is considering the issue as a result of a rate increase application filed by Philadelphia Electric.

Under CWIP, a utility would be allowed to place all or a portion of the value of an unfinished project in its rate base. In this way, the company could start earning a return on a project prior to its completion. The money, utility industry spokespersons argue, would be used to offset further borrowing to finance the project.

Traditionally, utility regulators have required plants be "used and useful" before they can be included in a utility's rate base. Both the federal and Pennsylvania commissions do allow exceptions -- most notably for pollution control devices and fuel conversion projects, such as oil to coal-fired.

During the past decade, however, utilities have pressed commissions to allow them to profit from projects which are still under construction. Electric companies have found themselves in the "double-bind" of higher interest rates coupled with ever-increasing construction costs. Added to their woes has been the weak state of the bond market, a prime source of long-term construction capital.

To meet their capital needs, utilities have sought increasingly to include CWIP in their rate bases and it has become one of the major consumer issues of the past ten years.

Utility spokespersons contend that CWIP will save money since it will mean companies will not need to borrow money to meet their construction costs. They add that allowing CWIP will avoid the steep rate increases normally associated with the start-up of a new plant.

Consumer and utility activists counter this argument saying CWIP forces ratepayers to become investors in a utility, without the dividends or voice in the management of the company afforded investors.

Additionally, CWIP allows utilities to build expensive new generating capacity -- often nuclear -- which is of questionable need. Under CWIP,

Continued Next Page

CWIP (continued)

utilities would not be forced into the financial marketplace and could avoid the economic analysis the financial community provides.

CWIP also causes older citizens, often those least able to meet higher electric bills, to pay for plants that may never be useful to them. And since the average citizen moves every five to seven years, all consumers would be forced to underwrite the cost of increased capacity that would not generate electricity for them.

Finally, under CWIP, consumers would be forced to pay for plant construction that might never be finished. Since the growth in electricity demand has lessened greatly, many construction projects have been delayed or canceled altogether.

While the cost of the FERC decision may be great, it is the Philadelphia Electric case which will have the most impact on Pennsylvania consumers.

Philadelphia Electric (PECO) has included \$500 million of the value of Limerick in its rate base. If the PUC allows this to stand, the cost to PECO's consumers would be \$108 million annually. Equally important, it would set a precedent which would allow other utilities to include CWIP in their own rate filings.

The Limerick nuclear plant has come under increasing fire from consumers, energy groups and government officials. Opponents say it is unneeded (PECO already had far more generating capacity than it needs) and that it presents a clear danger to the people of Philadelphia. As opposition has grown, financing of construction has become more difficult and more costly.

The PUC appears to be split on whether to allow CWIP in Pennsylvania. Commissioners Shanaman and Johnson are expected to oppose it; Cawley (who has already spoken in favor of CWIP) and Talliaferro are believed to be in favor. Clifford Jones is expected to be the swing vote.

Jones is also important because of his close ties to Gov. Dick Thornburgh. If he votes in favor, consumer activists intend to use it against the governor's re-election effort. Four years ago, New Hampshire voters defeated an incumbent governor when CWIP was a major issue in his election.

Consumers are urged to write to Chairman Shanaman and to Commissioner Jones at the PUC (North Office Building, Harrisburg, PA 17120) and demand they oppose CWIP. Since the issue may end up in the state Legislature, letters should also go to state representatives and senators.

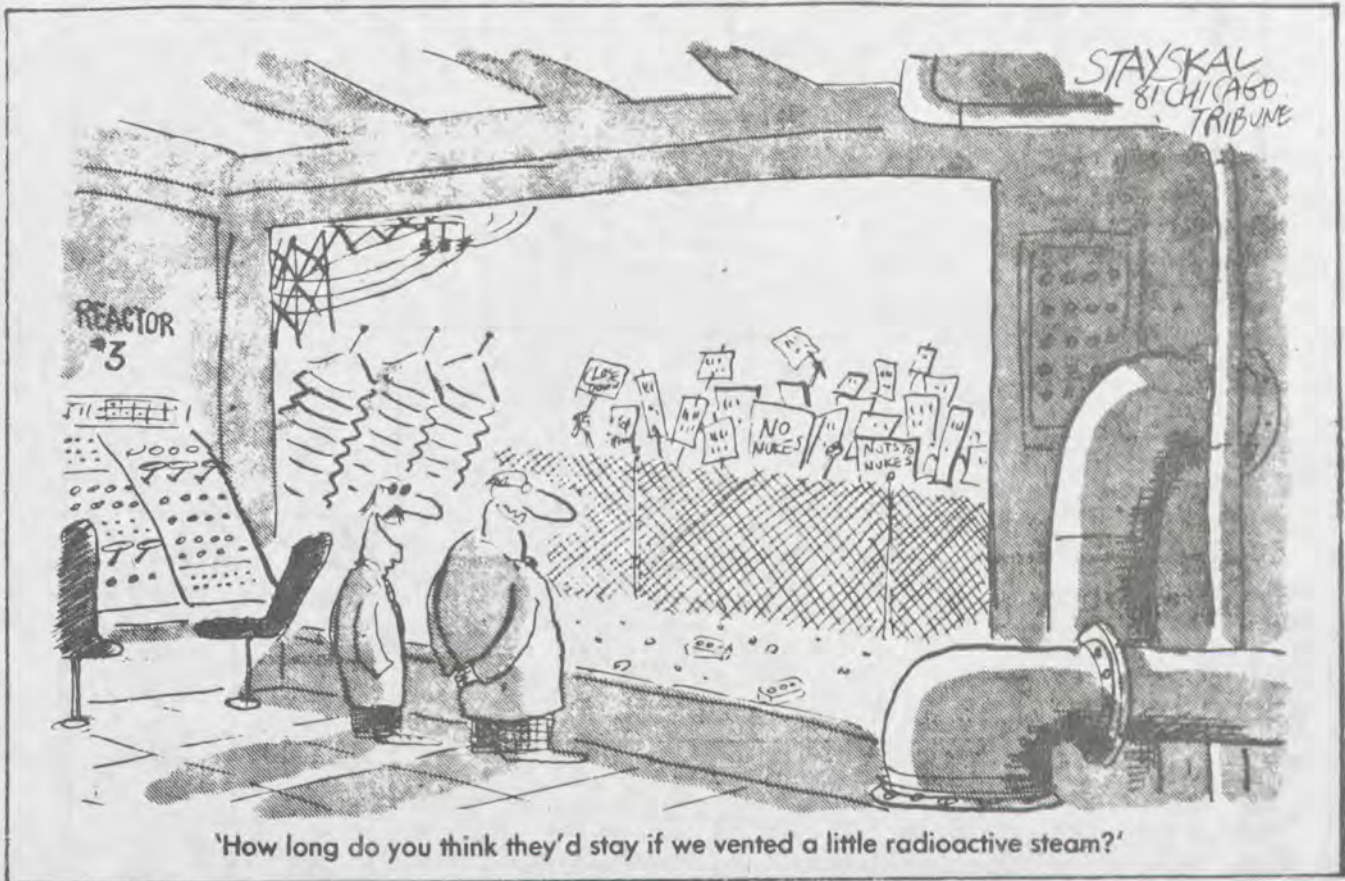
WHIP CWIP

If you'd like to join in the campaign to oppose CWIP, become a part of WHIP CWIP.

WHIP CWIP is demanding the PUC uphold the "used and useful" standard and deny Philadelphia Electric any major CWIP revenues in its \$344 million rate increase request. The campaign is also supporting legis-

lation to clarify the standard to include a specific prohibition on long-term CWIP financing for investor-owned utilities in Pennsylvania.

Write to WHIP CWIP at Post Office Box 911, Bryn Mawr, PA 19010 or call from 9 a.m. until noon at (215)-667-4372 or leave a message at (215)-725-7825.



MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

TELEPHONE _____

CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED:

_____ \$ 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 Pepper Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

MARCH

		2 TMIA general membership mtg Lemoynes				
			10 TMIA Planning Council Mtg., 7:30 p.m.			
			24 TMIA Economic Committee Mtg. 5:15 p.m. at 315 Pepper St. Harrisburg		26 Bluegrass Bands -- High Strung, Creekside Ramblers, \$6 8 p.m. Fairview Township Community Bldg Call 564-0966 for tickets	27 March 28th Coalition Chicken Corn Soup Supper 5:30 p.m. Citizen's Speakout 6 p.m. Prayer Vigil following
28 Project David Bill Burning at noon	SVA Church Service 7:30 p.m. Church of the Apostles 1850 Marietta Ave. Lancaster					

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

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**CHECK YOUR
RENEWAL
NUMBER!**

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

April, 1982

vol.4, no.4

TMIA RESCINDS PLAN

On November, 10, 1981, a TMIA study committee proposed a cost-sharing plan for the cleanup that suggested ratepayer contributions and approval was given. At a special membership meeting held on March 24, called specifically for the purpose of reviewing the 1981 decision, TMIA voted to rescind the action taken last November.

In addition, a vote at the meeting acted to withdraw TMIA's endorsement of the recent PUC rate settlement with Metropolitan Edison.

After formal presentations and debate on the entire matter, TMIA concluded both the proposed financial plan for the cleanup of Unit 2 at Three Mile Island and the rate settlement were actions contrary to its stated goals and purposes.

As a result of the March 24 decision, TMIA has shown that it will not support ratepayer contributions to the cleanup of Unit 2 at Three Mile Island.

Fun and Fund Raising

Sunday, July 11 -- TMIA Picnic
at Camp Reily

Saturday, July 17 -- Recycling

TMIA will be responsible for the East Shore Recycling Center at the Colonial Park location. Call Sandra Choma evenings at 233-2788 or the office at 233-7898.

START COLLECTING NOW!!!!!!!!!!

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Vote NO Campaign in Full Swing

Do you favor the restart of TMI Unit 1, which was not involved in the accident on March 28, 1979?

That's the identical wording of the referendum question on ballots in the May 18 primary election in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon Counties.

All registered voters in those counties will have the opportunity to express their opposition to allowing that to happen.

Cathy McCaughin is chairperson of the Bipartisan Committee to Vote "No" (on restart of TMI Unit 1), which is spearheading the drive to register voters and assure their "no" vote on the issue.

In an exclusive interview with TMI ALERT she described the campaign as "conservative and Middle America" aimed at "preserving the quality of life for all who live in Central Pennsylvania."

"Something happened to all of us on March 28, 1979, that we can never forget. Our lives were changed," she said. She emphasized we want to assure our children and our children's children never will have to face the prospect of another TMI accident. She called the vote "the first opportunity for all area voters to be heard officially on whether they want this plant in our midst."

Although the outcome will be "non-binding," a decisive "no" vote is bound to send a message that politicians and the NRC can hardly ignore, she said.

"They need to be told, unmistakably, that people here can't live with that sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach, waiting for the other shoe to drop. The

referendum question is not hysterical and it is not technical, in spite of what Gov. Thornburgh and President Reagan may have said in their efforts to downplay it," she said.

NRC Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino on a visit Feb. 23 to Middletown said that "no commission could ignore whatever attitude exists among the people."

The Vote "No" Campaign has two phases, said McCaughin, the first being to assure all persons are registered. The deadline to register is Monday, April 19, at 5 p.m. Registration mail forms can be obtained by contacting County Boards of Election (in Harrisburg, Carlisle or Lebanon) or directly from the Bipartisan Committee at 232-8534.

Persons who wish to register as Independent, or non-partisan, will be eligible to vote on the TMI question (but not for candidates) at the May 19 primary. All poll workers are to be instructed on how to set voting machines to accommodate those not registered by party.

Public service announcements urging registration will be supplemented by information tables manned by volunteers at shopping malls in places such as Hershey, Middletown and Camp Hill, where registration forms will be available.

McCaughin called "encouraging" the fact that voter registration picked up almost at once after the announcement that county commissioners had voted to include the TMI question on the ballot.

Following the registration period will be the campaign to convince voters of the need to

Continued on Page 4

TMIA TESTIFIES ON HEARINGS

With Louise Bradford at her side, TMIA member Joanne Doroshow testified that the TMI-1 restart hearing process was a sham when members of the U.S. House Energy and Environment Subcommittee came to Middletown late last month to hear the concerns of area residents over TMI.

Doroshow was part of a panel of restart hearing intervenors which included Robert C. Pollard and Steven Sholly of the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Gail Phelps of York, who represented TMI PIRC. All voiced similar concerns about the restart hearing process.

Other panelists presented pro and anti-restart testimony, and both sides urged Congress to get moving on the cleanup of Unit 2.

In her testimony, Doroshow described incredible difficulties faced by Bradford, who has represented TMIA at the licensing hearings since February, 1981. Doroshow also described difficulties she faced as an attorney assisting Bradford. She also had voluntarily prepared legal documents and briefs on behalf of TMIA since February, 1981.

"In the face of the utility and the NRC staff, with unlimited resources, high levels of technical expertise, full time legal representation, collusion and intimidation," said Doroshow, "the hearing process was an exercise in futility for the citizen intervenors.

"There are still highly significant and unresolved safety problems," she said, "exacerbated by the utility's incompetence, which would make operation of Unit 1 extremely dangerous."

Doroshow urged the committee to take this message back to the nation, fearing that Congress and public officials such as Gov. Dick Thornburgh are being fooled into thinking an NRC decision favoring restart means the plant can be operated safely.

In other testimony before the subcommittee, the Union of Concerned Scientists presented startling facts revealing "gamesmanship and in some cases, misconduct" on the part of NRC staff during the restart hearings.

The testimony, presented by Pollard and Sholly, made clear the process has been so subverted that "the (NRC staff)'s mandate to protect the public health and safety has been shunted aside."

USC made the following specific points:

1) The NRC improperly restricted the scope of the hearings by deciding not to consider safety problems at TMI-1 merely because they did not cause the Unit 2 accident and have not yet caused an accident at Unit 1. This included evidence relating to steam generator tube ruptures.

2) NRC staff witnesses were often ill-qualified. UCS has discovered an internal NRC staff document indicating the NRC's own director of licensing shares this opinion. He admits in the memo, which was widely distributed internally, that some NRC witnesses "appear not to be entirely knowledgeable and qualified." UCS noticed this problem long before the memo was discovered.

3) "Cooperation" between the NRC staff and the licensee was very evident. Not only were their positions on matters of substance and

Continued on Page 4

Vote No (continued)

pull the "no" lever on the referendum question. The campaign in Dauphin and Cumberland Counties is being handled by a single committee with a single funding drive and consolidated strategy and public relations approach, McCaughin said.

Donations for media announcements and other organization expenses can be made payable to "Bipartisan Committee to Vote 'No'" and sent to committee headquarters at 1953 Mulberry Street in Harrisburg, 17104

Persons willing to volunteer service to assist in any of the committee work can call 232-8534.

Restart Process (continued)

4) Documents which came to USC's attention recently show NRC staff testimony on crucial issues was incomplete, misleading or just plain incorrect. The licensing board, in fact, is presently deciding whether to reopen the hearings because a 1979 NRC report was withheld from UCS and the board until after the record had been closed. This report recommends a series of design changes, some of which are identical to those advanced by UCS during the hearings.

5) In a review of early versions of NRC staff testimony recently obtained by UCS, a pattern of altering, deleting or replacing testimony which would otherwise have supported or agreed with UCS was discovered.

"The concerns expressed by residents in this area about the competence of GPU and the integrity of the NRC are well founded," said the UCS representatives. "Unless elected officials force the NRC to carry out its mandate to protect the health and safety of the public,

we see little or no prospect that the 'careful and objective review' that Gov. Thornburgh seeks will ever be carried out."

questions of law often virtually indistinguishable, but on March 13, 1981, the NRC staff called a meeting at GPU's request during which attorneys and technical staff of both the NRC and GPU rehearsed GPU's cross-examination of NRC staff witnesses.

LETTERS

Editor:

In the interest of fairness you may wish your readers to know that it was Mark P. Widoff, the former consumer advocate, and not the present holder of that office who was responsible for the successful opposition to the deal proposed by GPU which would have had Met-Ed own the since scrapped Forked River nuke plant in New Jersey and Jersey Central to own TMI.

The deal, proposed in 1978 (as correctly stated in "There But For The Grace Of...", in TMI ALERT, March, 1982) was stopped by the joint opposition of Widoff's office and of the PUC staff.

In retrospect, it may be that Met-Ed's customers would have been better off if that deal actually had been consummated!

John H. Murdoch
Camp Hill

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE
SENT IN SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
TO TMIA AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE
RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS!!!

KEEP THE MONEY COMING IN !!!

RENEW NOW AND GET ONE NEW
MEMBER TO JOIN.

Join in Suing the NRC

As you well remember, in June and July of 1980, the NRC allowed Metropolitan Edison to release krypton gas and other radioactive material from the damaged TMI-2 reactor into the atmosphere.

In allowing this release, the NRC ignored citizens requests for a hearing to see if other ways of removing this radiation would be safer.

This refusal to hold a hearing was illegal. According to a federal appeals court, the NRC commissioners had no authority to ignore citizen requests for a hearing.

Because of this, local citizens and TMIA (as endorsed by the Planning Council on March 9) are planning to sue the NRC commissioners who allowed the radiation to be released and will ask a jury to award money damages for their injuries. Lawyers have been obtained to initiate the suit on a pro-bono (voluntary) basis.

Were you injured by the actions of the NRC commissioners? Did you or members of your family have to evacuate the area? Did you suffer physical, mental or emotional injury as a result of the release of radiation? Were you hurt in any other way?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, you should join in this lawsuit against the NRC. This doesn't involve any risk to you, and you might recover damages for your injuries. More importantly, we can deter the NRC from again denying us of our rights to be heard and to be free from radiation.

If you would like to join in this lawsuit, or if you'd like more information about it, fill out the coupon below and return it to:

TMIA Litigation Team
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

☐ Yes, I want to join TMIA and others in this lawsuit against the NRC. When the NRC denied a hearing before venting the radioactive gas from the Unit-2 reactor:

☐ I suffered physical, mental and/or emotional distress.

☐ I or members of my family left town, incurring expenses of \$_____.

☐ I suffered other injuries. Specify:_____

☐ I know someone who moved from the area because of the venting.

☐ Please send me more information about this lawsuit.

☐ Enclosed is a contribution of \$_____ to help defray your costs.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

State

Limerick

Limerick's nuclear plants, being built 20 miles from Philadelphia, were much in the news last month.

NRC staff reporting to Congress affirmed the plants would never be completed. Philadelphia Electric, which is building these nuclear white elephants, made vehement denials.

Administrative Law Judge Joseph Klovecorn delivered a 280-page opinion asserting that the power from these two plants was needed and that they must be built.

Anti-nuke organizations in the Philadelphia area have presented a strong case that conservation could provide enough electricity to make the plants unnecessary. Consumer Advocate Walter Cohen publicly declared months ago that PE would be ahead financially by abandoning construction now. Limerick is expected to cost at least \$4.6 billion and perhaps as much as \$6 billion before completion.

The costs of Limerick have forced PE to request a mammoth rate increase and to push for construction work in progress (CWIP) to be included in the rate base.

Berwick

Berwick's "Susquehanna Steam Electric Station" staged its required evacuation exercise last month. The NRC requires this mock drill before issuance of an operating license. As usual, Pennsylvania Emergency Management personnel declared the exercise a success.

TMI's drill was in June, 1981, Beaver Valley's in February, 1982. Peach Bottom's is set for June, 1982.

Unlike TMI's drill, a small effort was made at Berwick to practice moving people during the exercise. An evacuation caravan was simulated, and at one high school the students were driven around the block.

Berwick's scenario pretended the accident was caused by sabotage. State police have previously practiced anti-sabotage exercises at Berwick.

The evacuation plan for Berwick was recently the subject of a newspaper series. The reporter revealed that many local plans were done by officials according to a formula, rather than an assessment of local resources. Several of the principals in the scenario did not even know their names were in the plan.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS TO HELP TMIA RAISE BADLY NEEDED FUNDS.

MORE TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE OFFICE AT 233-7897.

MONEY COLLECTED MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN MAY 1 AT THE TMIA OFFICE AT 315 PEPPER STREET IN HARRISBURG.

Our ALERT editor, Christine Arnold, has left Harrisburg and moved to Boston. We are most appreciative of her dedicated work for the last seven months. The remaining members of the editorial board will continue to do a quality job but need additional assistance from individuals who have some editorial experience. Call the office if you have questions or can help.

GPU AND THE TUBES

GPU has begun putting dollars into the repair of those cracked tubes in Unit 1. Under a somewhat misleading Harrisburg Evening News headline on March 10, it announced "TMI Engineers Plug Leaky Tubes."

What GPU was actually announcing was that it has permanently plugged 19 tubes and placed temporary plugs in 137 others -- this out

of a possible 10,000 corroded tubes.

The temporary plugs will allow the company to change its mind and fix them in other ways later if desired. The cracks ranged from hairline cracks to cracks completely around a tube.

This action by GPU leaves only 9,844 more tubes to be "tied."

The White House switchboard is not the place to call to register an opinion on the President's policies. There is a White House Comment Line which takes calls and records opinions. Reaching this number is a toll call, but having your opinions recorded and counted is well worth the charge.

The number is (202) 456-7639.

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

APRIL

April 6 -----7:30 p.m.
Planning Council Meets
Friends Meetinghouse
Harrisburg

April 14 ----7:30 p.m.
NRC staff Meeting on Stress
Newberry Township Municipal Bldg.

April 18 ----1:30 p.m.
Ground Zero Week Kickoff
Front and Walnut Streets, Harrisburg
Speakers

GROUND ZERO WEEK APRIL 18 THROUGH APRIL 25
CALL THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS OF EVENTS

April 21 ----7:30 p.m.
Panel on Nuclear War
Calvary Methodist Church, Lemoyne

April 22 ----7 p.m.
Unit 2 Advisory Panel Meets
2nd and Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU
SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER
IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Pepper Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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**CHECK YOUR
RENEWAL
NUMBER!**

A L E R T

MAY 1982**vol.4, no. 5**

GPU MANAGEMENT BLAMED for CHEATING

In a startling decision, NRC Administrative Judge Gary L. Milhollin concluded that at least ten individuals at TMI were involved in cheating or other misconduct, including TMI Unit I Manager of Operations, Mike Ross, and other management personnel. In addition, Milhollin concluded that although GPU upper management did not specifically encourage or participate in cheating, it permitted an attitude to develop which caused cheating to occur, and was responsible for creating conditions which allowed operators to cooperate on exams. Milhollin found that the "overall integrity of the operations staff was shown to be inadequate," and that the company's training program was not adequate to meet the NRC's conditions for restart.

The report, issued after four weeks of intensive hearings before Milhollin, now goes to the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) for review. The ASLB will make the final restart decision. TMIA was one of two citizen intervenors who participated in the hearing, and was represented by Louise Bradford, assisted by Joanne Doroshow.

"We are extremely gratified," remarked Bradford. "We suspected from the beginning that Judge Milhollin was a very fair and honest judge. We saw that as the testimony developed, much of which was obviously untruthful, Milhollin became more and more appalled by the company's actions. He saw what we were trying to prove and he adopted many of our own findings in his report."

(Continued, Page 3.)

Vote NO

"DO YOU FAVOR THE REOPENING OF TMI UNIT I, WHICH WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT ON MARCH 28, 1979?" On May 18, Primary Election Day, this question will appear on the ballot in Dauphin, Cumberland, and Lebanon counties. ALL VOTERS, including those registered as Independent or Nonpartisan, can vote on this referendum. Although it is non-binding, the NRC Chairman, Nunzio Palladino, stated that the results of the vote cannot be ignored.

VOTE NO!! And urge your friends and neighbors to vote. Offering a ride to the polls or free babysitting services may encourage a voter to exercise his/her right & responsibility to voice opposition to the restart of TMI. We need a strong NO vote.

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WHIP CWIP

CWIP is an acronym which promises to become as infamous as TMI. Short for "Construction Work In Progress," CWIP is a scheme being advanced by electric utilities for charging customers for much of the enormous cost of building new (nuclear) generating facilities while the work is still underway. This means that rate-payers could be paying for generating facilities years before the plants become "used and useful," the current criteria for inclusion in the rate base.

The idea recently surfaced in Pennsylvania, as the Philadelphia Electric Co. wants the PUC to approve a plan to charge customers, through CWIP, nearly a third of its pending \$344 million higher electric rate request. PE, watching the cost of its Limerick nuke station in western Montgomery County skyrocket to \$4.2 billion, hopes to saddle rate-payers with a hefty chunk of that cost, about half a billion dollars.

Pennsylvania's increasing resentment of CWIP is the loud echo of a national concern over utilities' plans to use CWIP to circumvent the tightening money market for the billions now needed if nuke plants are to be built -- funds that Wall Street is increasingly unwilling to advance in light of the rising tide of nuke plant cancellations and postponements. The electric power industry has had to contend with citizen organizations at hearings to consider whether the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should relax its rules and, in effect, give the utilities the power to impose CWIP, with no strings attached.

Customers aren't alone in saying "no" to the controversial idea. Both houses of Pennsylvania's General Assembly passed unanimous resolutions stating that the PUC has no authority to establish guidelines for CWIP. However, the resolutions are "toothless tigers" because they lack the force of law.

Attention is now focused on Senator Clarence D. Bell's Protection & Professional Licensure Committee, which scheduled two days of hearings (April 28 and May 5) on SB 1366. If passed, this bill would bar CWIP from charges the utility could assess until the facility is "presently providing actual utility service to customers." TMIA and a number of consumer interest groups are scheduled to testify. TMIA's testimony was drafted to present to the Planning Council for approval before presentation.

On March 12, TMIA members were among 50 protestors who marched to the PUC wearing blue and white paper hats with the bold legend "NO CWIP" to vent their displeasure with the idea, at a final PUC administrative law judge hearing on PE's rate request.

TMIA's concerns center on the likelihood that, if CWIP is adopted by the PUC, GPU Nuclear could charge customers for approximately \$24 million estimated as the cost of repair or replacement of the 8,000 - 10,000 admittedly defective steam generator tubes at TMI Unit I, as well as for other costs of readying Unit I for restart.

HOT (WATER) NEWS

"WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE..."

The "50-gallon water leak" outside TMI UNIT II's reactor building in January turned out to be more like a 2,000-gallon leak, GPU now admits.

When a borated water storage tank heater broke down and allowed the pipes to freeze, they cracked and leaked -- just like the pipes in any household basement!

This leaking water, 1/3 of it accident-generated, was discovered only when someone saw a wet spot in the snow! Even then all the cracks were not spotted, and water continued to leak.

Figuring backward from the amount of radioactivity found in the soil which had to be dug up and disposed of, the NRC insisted that GPU investigate further. The investigation resulted in the discovery of additional cracks, which are now reportedly plugged, and the acknowledgement of a possible loss of more than 2,000 gallons of radioactive water.

According to their estimates, it will take this water 7 years (GPU) to 20 years (NRC) to migrate to the river. Even if all 1.1 million picocuries of tritium should reach the river, Lake Barrett of NRC says, it will only add the equivalent of 10 glow-in-the-dark watches.

* * * * *

Recent experiments in fancy plastic stripping, high pressure wash-down, and chemical systems to remove radioactivity from TMI UNIT II's reactor building walls turned out to be only "moderately successful," according to Bernie Snyder, NRC Program Office Director.

NRC's status report for April 3 indicated that the recent experiments removed loose radioactive particles, but did not eliminate the source of gamma rays.

Snyder says this may mean a mop-and-bucket brigade will be needed to accomplish vital clean-up operations.

There's only 25,000 gallons of radioactive water left in TMI UNIT II's reactor basement, but it contains 2/3 of all the radioactivity that was in the original 625,000 gallons. (This information was part of the reports presented to the NRC Advisory Panel on April 22.)

A new pump which will suck out the remaining water is expected to be used soon, but there is still debate as to whether the water should be left there to provide a shield for radioactive debris which may be lying on the floor of the pump.

About a dozen liners which hold the filtered-out radioactivity sit in the fuel pool in the fuel storage reactor building (temporarily) and contain up to 60,000 curies per liner.

* * * * *

Up to 100,000 gallons of radioactive water lying in TMI UNIT II's reactor coolant system will begin to be cleaned on May 15. GPU expects to recycle all this water and to filter out the radioactivity.

However, the filtering is more like the installation of an automatic kidney machine that a final clean-up, because the reactor coolant constantly flows against the core. Because the water does not instantly absorb the radioactivity, the radiation will be reduced, permitting more prolonged work time in the containment building.

* * * * *

The waste from the submerged demineralizer system which has been filtering out TMI UNIT II's reactor building water is scheduled to be shipped off Three Mile Island by December 1982.

And the cask which will be used to ship those liners has finally been built and licensed, according to NRC's Lake Barrett. The cask itself has never been tested, but is based on a design of a "father" cask, which underwent extensive testing. The "father" cask was smashed into an unyielding surface at 60 miles per hour, set on fire and dropped 30 feet into a pool of water.

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## CHEATING DECISION (Continued)

Milhollin, a law Professor at the University of Wisconsin, also found that the GPU's response to cheating was inadequate, that its testimony at the hearings only tended to show "the absence of cooperation" and therefore was very poor, and that the company's failure to disclose to the NRC a cheating incident in 1979 was "deliberate, improper, and resulted in a false statement to the NRC." Milhollin further concluded that a number of company witnesses were not credible, including GPU Nuclear President, Robert C. Arnold, and Gary Miller, who was Emergency Director during the TMI Unit II accident.



ARE YOU, LIKE I WAS, A PASSIVE NEWSLETTER READER?  
WERE YOU AMAZED AT THE RECENT CLEAN-UP FUNDING CONTROVERSY?  
DO YOU WONDER HOW TMIA DECISIONS ARE MADE? DO YOU WANT THESE  
DECISIONS TO REFLECT YOUR OWN OPINION?

It's time to take an active interest in this organization, to assure its effective pursuit of our common goals. We each have our own ideas about how TMIA should work towards KEEPING TMI CLOSED FOREVER and encouraging SAFE AND SWIFT CLEAN-UP OF UNIT II.

It is our obligation as members of TMIA to be ALERT towards ever-changing issues and to be ACTIVE in our protest of our unwelcome nuclear neighbors. The drain caused by the enduring and uncertain nature of both the problems and solutions, as well as the strain caused by the difficulty of trying to consolidate divergent ideas about the best methods to achieve our common goals, have left many of us exhausted, frustrated, confused, and inactive.

This describes fairly well my own condition before I recently volunteered to edit this newsletter. Although recently involved in door-knocking for Project David, my anti-nuclear activism was primarily devoted to personal communication with friends and acquaintances, and my TMIA participation was largely limited to newsletter reading, subsequent to the meeting at which Bill Vastine's position was replaced by a committee and prior to the March Membership Meeting at which the clean-up funding proposal was rescinded.

The conflict over the funding plan stirred deep feelings among TMIA members. It left some people hurt and discouraged, others angered and indignant, and many aroused and energized. There are many unresolved aspects of the controversy. The future of the Economic Planning Committee rests on decisions we need to make regarding such questions as: Do we want to develop an alternative plan which does not involve rate-payer moneys or do we think such action is inappropriate for our organization? Do we want to develop principles or guidelines for an acceptable clean-up budget? Do we want to research community ownership in the event of bankruptcy? And who will serve on the committee, to work towards the goals and directions we formulate?

These and other issues will be discussed in the TMIA Membership Meeting in June. This is the time to renew YOUR participation and to rededicate YOUR energies towards KEEPING TMI CLOSED FOREVER. After the referendum, new goals must be adopted and implemented, new strategies and ideas are needed.

It is my obligation as editor to inform you, to stimulate your interest, and to encourage your participation in TMIA affairs. It is my aim to present the issues to you in an unbiased manner, as I believe that together, as a group, we can debate and decide wisely only when we respect everyone's opinion and share our ideas openly. It is my hope you will utilize this newsletter to achieve these goals. I welcome any contributions or criticism, and am grateful for the assistance and advice offered by newsletter workers who are willing to work with me. Help us to make this a viable channel of communication for TMIA.

*Susan*

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Scientists making a preliminary study of psychological stress in the TMI area admitted at a Newberry Township Residents Meeting on April 14 that they expect to have their report ready by June as to the need for the NRC to do a more comprehensive, in-depth study of stress.

NRC staff members and their consultants, including social scientists, sociologists and attorneys from Oak Ridge, Mountain West Research, and the National Institute of Health, faced a three-hour barrage of questions and comments from aroused citizens venting frustrations, fears, and pent-up anger over the possible restart of TMI UNIT 1.

A number of individuals in a 5-mile radius have already been subjected to searching psychological inquiries by teams of stress investigators operating under NRC orders. The process is NRC's response to Federal Court orders barring any TMI UNIT 1 restart decision by the NRC until the extent and nature of stress among area residents is evaluated.

In attendance at the April 14 meeting, arranged by the Newberry Township Steering Committee, were some members of TMIA. The following evening the research team was scheduled to meet with the group known as "Friends and Family of TMI."

## NEW NRC RULES

The NRC recently issued a rule which entirely eliminates financial qualification reviews for utilities applying for construction permits or operating licenses. Joanne Doroshov, on behalf of TMIA, along with 98 private citizens, 27 public interest groups, and various government organizations, submitted comments strenuously objecting to this rule change. The NRC ignored all health and safety issues raised by these commentators, once again succumbing to the pressures from the utilities.

TMIA, asserting that GPU is financially incapable of making needed safety improvements to TMI Unit 1, challenged the NRC's removal of consideration of the company's finances by the TMI-I Restart Licensing Board. TMIA was ordered by the court to present its case at a later date -- if and when restart is ordered. This new rule makes TMIA's challenge much more difficult.

Included in the rule change is the requirement that utilities obtain on-site property damage insurance, which only protects the utilities in case of an accident, and which will of course be paid for with ratepayer money.

The TMI Litigation Team is working hard to gather names of individuals to participate in a lawsuit against the NRC for venting krypton in June and July of 1980. (See April's TMIA ALERT.) If you wish to participate, call the TMIA office, or send your name to the TMI Litigation Team, 315 Peffer St., Harrisburg, PA 17102 as soon as possible.

Yes, I want to join TMIA and others in this lawsuit against the NRC. When the NRC denied a hearing before venting the radioactive gas from the Unit-2 reactor:

I suffered physical, mental and/or emotional distress.

I or members of my family left town, incurring expenses of \$\_\_\_\_\_.

I suffered other injuries. Specify:\_\_\_\_\_

I know someone who moved from the area because of the venting.

Please send me more information about this lawsuit.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$\_\_\_\_\_ to help defray your costs.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_





Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

TMIA Island Updates, a news clipping service which carries pertinent stories from TMI area papers and sends them to schools, libraries, and other interested parties as far away as Germany, was given approval to charge \$5.00 annually for the 12 monthly issues at the TMIA Planning Council Meeting on April 27, 1982. Formerly funded by grants and donations, the service will now become self-sufficient. Update editors Cathie Musser and Kathy Manfred presented cost estimates based on monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly costs, as well as various letters of appreciation and endorsement. Planning Council members agreed that the service's effectiveness would be reduced if the news were not distributed on a monthly basis.

## U.N. SPECIAL

The United Nations' Second Special Session for Disarmament will be held in June, 1982. After the 1978 U.N. Special Session on Disarmament, the General Assembly concluded that "we must halt the arms race and proceed to disarm or face annihilation." Several events are scheduled to show support for this position.

The World Peace March, which was recently in the TMI area, will arrive in New York on June 7. An International Religious Conference and Convocation will be held in New York June 8-11.

On June 12, a demonstration and rally will be held at the U.N., focused on the need to stop the arms race and to transfer military funds to meet human needs. Bus tickets may still be available for this event.

On June 14, nonviolent civil disobedience action will be held at the U.N. Required training is available through 212-777-4737.

### STEERING COMMITTEE UP-DATE

During the April 27 TMIA Planning Council Meeting, three new members were elected to temporarily fill vacancies on the Steering Committee. Gary Mitchell, Randy Smedley, and Paul Lujanac were unanimously approved to fill the positions until elections can be held at the June General Membership Meeting. The Steering Committee presently consists of these new members in addition to Sandra Choma, Mitch Turnauer, Georgiana Nyce, and Bob Shaw.

## news - bits

### Free List!

Charts...

Studies.....

Reports....

graphs, maps, transcripts and more, are available to you through the Nuclear Information and Resource Service. NIRS collects the latest key resources on nuclear issues and distributes them at low cost (even cheaper if you're a NIRS member).

To get your **free** copy of our Publications Distribution List (over 200 items listed), send a SASE to NIRS, 1536 16th Street NW, Washington DC 20036.

CHRIS SAYER, former staff member of TMIA, is now living and working in New York City. Chris put in long hours as a volunteer working on various aspects of the TMIA struggle, and will be remembered for applying his considerable writing skills in drafting several of TMIA's original-position papers.



Project David coordinators were pleased to announce that Met-Ed's delinquency rate for March was a record 15.8%. Ratepayers are encouraged to continue withholding their payments, to protest having to pay for the clean-up of the TMI Unit II accident. Door-knocking in Lebanon will be conducted on May 15, to solicit support for the project and to encourage voters to VOTE NO in the May Primary Election.



# Fun and Fund Raising

7

## REFERENDUM CELEBRATION, MAY 20

Court Dorsey, of the Bright Morning Star, will entertain local residents and activists on May 20, at the Lakeside Lutheran Church. Hopefully a victory party, the festivities will begin at 7:30 p.m. Bring food to share and raffle ticket stubs, as the drawing will take place around 8:30 p.m. Nonalcoholic refreshments will be provided.

Court Dorsey, who has performed locally on several occasions, will sing, and play the piano, sax, banjo & harmonica. Tickets, ONLY \$2.00, are available at the TMIA office at 315 Peffer St. and at the Bipartisan VOTE NO committee office. Music begins at 9:00 p.m.

JOIN US -- MAY 20 -- AND BRING FRIENDS!

## RE-CYCLING DAY --- JULY 17, 1982

When: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Where: Colonial Park Plaza Parking Lot, southwest corner

What: Newspapers, cardboard, steel (cans, wheels, etc.), & aluminum items, glass (any color, need not be sorted)

Who: Anyone! Tell your family & friends to drop their useless recyclables off.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Wear goggles, gloves, long-sleeved shirt.

CONTACT: Sandra Choma 233-2788.

## 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



## REFERENDUM WORKERS NEEDED

If you have any spare time between now and May 18, please volunteer to help the Bipartisan VOTE NO Committee. VOTE NO!!

.....

### TMIA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There will be a General Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 10, 1982, in the basement of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament church, at Third and Woodbine in Harrisburg, 7:30 p.m.

The agenda will include: The future of the Economic Planning Committee; the recent billings for environmental consultant fees related to previous legal actions; the proposed TMIA By-Laws; and other vital issues.

Please plan on attending. Bring your very best ideas about what TMIA should do to KEEP TMIA CLOSED FOREVER!!

# MAY DATES

May 11 -- Planning Council Meeting

May 18 -- ELECTION DAY--VOTE NO!

May 20 -- Party at Lakeside Lutheran  
Church: Court Dorsey performs.

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

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Charles E. Leising  
Long Rd. R.D. 2  
Boiling Springs, PA 17007

**CHECK YOUR  
RENEWAL  
NUMBER!**



THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

JUNE 1982

vol.4, no.6

## REFERENDUM A VICTORY VOTERS OPPOSE T.M.I. RESTART

On May 18, voters in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon counties voted overwhelmingly against the restart of TMI Unit I. Although the referendum was non-binding, the results give ample evidence of local citizens' opposition to the resumption of nuclear activity at the neighboring power plant. The Bipartisan Committee to Vote No worked hard at contacting local residents and encouraging them to vote against the restart of Unit I.

GPU, which spent approximately \$257,000 on an advertisement campaign in the 8 months prior to the election, refused to admit that the vote was a defeat, citing the number of people who did not vote at all or did not vote on the referendum. Apparently, however, the public was not convinced by their claims of improved safety and clean-up progress.

Although the referendum results are encouraging, local activists are very much aware that the victory is only one step in a long process. Anti-nuclear groups are meeting this month to plan strategies aimed at enforcing the voters' mandate to KEEP TMI CLOSED FOREVER.

Congratulations and thanks to all those who worked on registering and contacting voters prior to the election.

### Please Attend

There will be a General Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 10, 1982, in the basement of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament church, at Third and Woodbine in Harrisburg, 7:30 p.m.

The agenda will include: The future of the Economic Planning Committee; the recent billings for environmental consultant fees related to previous legal actions; the proposed TMIA By-Laws; and other vital issues.

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# PUC Agrees : No CWIP \$'s

In a series of unprecedented actions, the Public Utilities Commission on May 7 threw out Philadelphia Electric's request for \$106 million in CWIP (Construction Work in Progress) funds to help the financially strapped utility complete its costly Limerick twin nukes project in Montgomery County. The move, if the PUC adheres to it in later cases, is expected to discourage the construction of more plants with greater cost overruns.

The decision likely will have local repercussions, say those who have studied PUC actions. As John Murdoch testified on May 5 on behalf of TMIA, before Senator Bell's committee considering SB 1366, GPU Nuclear was thought to be looking longingly at CWIP as a device to enable the company to saddle ratepayers with much of the multi-million dollar cost of repairing the 8,000 to 10,000 leaky steam generator tubes discovered in TMI-1.

On three separate occasions during the May 5 hearing, Senator Bell advised those supporting SB 1366 to contact their state senators and representatives and make their feelings known. SB 1366 would require the PUC to disallow CWIP in utility rate cases beyond its present narrow applications.

The PUC also recommended that PE either cancel or suspend construction of Limerick's Unit II, as they will not receive funds for Construction Works in Progress. Consumers will have to monitor the company's financial transactions, however, as PE just received an extremely high rate increase and may be tempted to misdirect the funds.

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## CUMBERLAND PETITION SUCCEEDS: County Meeting Scheduled

Volunteer efforts to collect petition signatures paid off this month when Cumberland County Commissioners agreed to citizens' requests by scheduling a public meeting to hear comments and questions about the County's Response Plan for "incidents" at TMI, dated Nov. 1981.

The petitions, bearing the names of 190 residents from throughout the county, were presented on May 10 to Commission Chairman Jake Myers by John Murdoch, representing the 10 individuals, most of them members and friends of TMIA, who secured the signatures in recent months.

Myers indicated that Tom Blosser, director of the County Emergency Management Office, would preside at the June 3rd meeting at the Old Court House in Carlisle. Officials representing the 22 townships, 12 boroughs, and nine school districts in the county are expected to attend.

Although only a portion of New Cumberland Borough lies within the 10-mile primary evacuation zone on which FEMA and PEMA are concentrating, escape routes traverse the county, and resources throughout the county probably would be called upon in event of a TMI emergency. In addition, as Commissioner Myers noted in sympathizing with those urging a 20-mile planning zone, many persons living beyond the 10-mile radius were among the estimated 250,000 persons who fled the area during the March 28, 1979 accident.





TMIA received a copy of the GPU motion to the NRC commissioners asking them not to hold a hearing on psychological stress related to the restart of TMI Unit 1, even though the NRC environmental assessment (which is expected to be completed in June) might suggest that such action is necessary or advisable.

## and Evacuation's EMOTIONAL FALLOUT

The Gettysburg Times reported that a new sociological study, sponsored by the National Science Foundation's section on Ethics and Values in Science and Technology, concludes that "Mass evacuations like that at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in 1979 have long-term psychological and emotional fallout, and the government has not adequately dealt with that problem." Regarding government response to TMI, the study states that although the government helped devise evacuation plans, "it has not addressed the long-term implications of social upheaval caused by the evacuations."

Due to the sense of outrage that accompanies an evacuation, states Jane C. Kronick, associate professor at Bryn Mawr College's Graduate School of Social Work and Social Research, social order is hard to restore. "Maintenance of social order in the area around TMI was a serious problem as long as a year after the accident", she said in an interview. The government's plans to remove citizens do not include talking to people about making realistic provisions for what might happen to them during an evacuation.

## Penna. May Get Radioactive Dump

A compact to decide who will get the Northeast U.S. low level radioactive waste dump is now being devised by a group called the Coalition of Northeast Governors' Low Level Radioactive Waste Policy Working Group (PWG for short). This group has also established a Public Information and Education Task Force to convince reluctant citizens that this radioactive garbage is exactly what they'd like in their backyard.

Pennsylvania is a member of this group, which includes the six New England states, New Jersey, and New York. We could be faced with having to establish a low-level dump here, as all states must sign a compact or dispose of their own waste by January 1, 1986. The PWG hopes to have a compact ready for the nine legislatures to vote on by the 1983 session. These states generate 40% of all low level waste in the country through 21 nuclear power plants (creating  $\frac{1}{2}$  of the 40%), 1,250 licensed medical and research facilities, and 2,000 industrial generators. Most of this waste is now trucked to Barnwell, South Carolina.



WERE YOU PLEASED AT THE REFERENDUM RESULTS?

DID YOU HEAVE A SIGH OF SATISFACTION AND SIT BACK A MOMENT TO SAVOR THE VICTORY?

WELL, DON'T SIT BACK FOR LONG -- IT'S TIME TO MAKE NEW PLANS AND STRATEGIES TO KEEP TMI CLOSED FOREVER!

The taste of victory is sweet, but remember that this is only one battle. We must fight against: GPU's monstrous advertisement and public relations resources; apathy on the part of many citizens; and our governmental systems which promote and support nuclear generation of electricity rather than public health and safety.

The referendum victory should be our "foot in the door" with those seeking elected public offices. We must pressure them to speak out clearly and strongly against restarting TMI, and let them know that unless they are working with us, we will work hard to see that they do not get elected.

The June 10 TMIA General Membership Meeting will be an opportunity to re-organize and revitalize our group. The By-Laws Committee has worked hard to draft by-laws which will be presented at that meeting. You can have a say in what the final by-laws will be only if you attend, participate in the debate, and honor your membership right/responsibility to vote on this and other vital issues.

"WHAT'S NEXT?" should be our main focus at this point. Bill Keisling of Project David will address the meeting to solicit support for his plans and ideas. New ideas are needed and renewed commitment is essential.

"WHAT CAN I DO?" is the spirit with which we should attend this meeting. The referendum shows that working together, we can succeed. Hopefully the victory will rekindle our enthusiasm and hope.

Come to the June 10 TMIA General Membership Meeting and help shape our future. June's calendar is full for the first ½ of the month. Let's make the end of June productive by planning and pursuing our efforts towards achieving our primary goal, to KEEP TMI CLOSED FOREVER.

*Susan*



## Volunteers Solicited

The TMIA office is in need of volunteers. As we congratulate Kay Pickering on her new position, we must remember all the major and minor tasks she has faithfully performed over her years with TMIA. She will still be around to assist, but the following chores are among the list of volunteer work needed:

- \* Keeping records
- \* Reviewing correspondence
- \* Filing
- \* Help update membership list

Many thanks to Kay for all the work she has done and will continue to do towards keeping this organization operational.

## & thanked

Many thanks to all who helped make this newsletter possible: to John Murdock & Bev Davis for articles submitted; Joanne Doro-show for information rendered; Fran Bryan for typing help; our favorite printer, American Quick Print; Kay Pickering; and all who help to collate & mail.



The TMI Litigation Team announced that the krypton case will be filed in Federal District Court in Harrisburg. Over 100 individuals have joined as plaintiffs in this action against the NRC. Joanne Doroshow, along with Rob Hager and John Clewett of Washington, are serving as the attorneys for the plaintiffs.

The NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board issued a tentative draft, describing charges against Micheal Ross, TMI Manager of Operations, as "unfounded," in effect reversing the report of NRC appointed special master, Gary Milhollin.

TMIA representatives Joanne Doroshow and Louise Bradford submitted comments on the report.

Washington State has agreed to receive TMI waste once more after having closed its dump to Pennsylvania for more than a week after it received a shipment which was not sealed shut according to regulations. GPU blamed the problem on faulty equipment.

Four thousand gallons of puddles remain in the TMI Unit-2 Readtor Building after GPU gave up pumping out the remaining water when the filter clogged on May 2. No more pumping appears to be planned.

When all the MetEd warning sirens went off in Dauphin County on the night of May 23, the NRC said it was because some "compatible noise" set them off. No other explanation could be found, including what that compatible noise was. The sirens sounded again when set off by lightning just a few days later.

Six smoke detectors inside Unit 2 Reactor Building were tested on April 29. They are part of the reactor building fire protection system and are designed to activate an alarm in the control room to automatically secure portions of the reactor building ventilation system. Not one of the 6 worked.

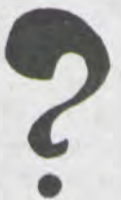
**complicated  
issues:**



1972



1982



1992

*Won't get Fooled Again!*

by  
JB  
+  
SLM





Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

TMIA Island Updates, a news-clipping service which carries stories from Harrisburg, York, and Middletown newspapers, distributes information related to the status of TMI to interested individuals and institutions. The May issue was recently mailed to 411 subscribers, along with a request for their cooperation in contributing \$5.00 annually to cover the cost of publication. New subscribers are encouraged to utilize this resource personally, or to have it sent to their local library or public officials. A gift subscription, along with the TMIA Alert, would keep an out of town friend well informed or would be a good going-away present.

The Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power, one of the leading anti-nuclear groups in Pennsylvania, is celebrating its 11th year of organizational activity. With headquarters at 433 Orlando Ave. in State College, ECNP is a loose coalition of Pennsylvania anti-nuclear groups under the direction of Judy Johnsrud and Phyllis Zitzer. Its victories, brought about by the group's main method of working, citizen action, include the abandonment of mammoth Energy Parks, the vetoing of the Plowshare program to blow nuclear storage holes for gas under Pennsylvania, and the cancellation of a chain of nuclear plants throughout the state.

TMI Unit 1 and 11 have been opposed by ECNP on an on-going basis. The group, which has acted as intervenors and supported other intervenors, is still appealing Unit 11's license based on the danger of large aircraft from the neighboring airports and on the danger to the fuel cycle created by the construction of the plant.

ECNP's comprehensive newsletter is available to members who pay \$10.00 annually. Meetings are generally held the second Saturday of the month; however, the next meeting is June 10 at the PSU HUB in State College. Frank Davis of TMIA is ECNP's representative to PIRC.

PIRC, Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center, will hold a meeting on Tuesday, June 8, at the Friends' Meeting House on Sixth Street in Harrisburg, at 7 p.m. Leaders from all PIRC coalition groups are encouraged to attend, to develop a unified strategy for follow-up to the recent referendum victory. Anyone wishing to submit ideas should contact Steve or Suzanne Patton prior to June 2, 1982.



## TMIA PLANNING COUNCIL MEETING -- MAY 11

During the May 11 TMIA Planning Council Meeting, Project David coordinator Bill Keisling presented plans and requested that Project David be discussed in the TMIA General Membership Meeting on June 10. He solicited support and received suggestions. A PUC request and rate strike may occur.

Randy Smedley was authorized to sign checks and to help oversee financial transactions and records.

The proposed TMIA By-Laws were discussed. Suggested changes were debated. These By-Laws will be revised at least once before they are presented at the TMIA June General Membership Meeting, when all members of TMIA will be able to debate, revise, and authorize the organizational structure.

Authorization of press releases and issues related to financial systems were deliberated.

Kay Pickering is now employed as the coordinator for the Hbg. office of the Pa. Campaign for Nuclear Weapons Freeze. She will be moving upstairs to the front office (once the redecorating is completed) and will be hiring part time staff to work with her.

Joanne Doroshov is moving to Washington D.C., but will continue to work on the krypton litigation and the cheating issue.

Project David coordinator, Bill Keisling, presented ashes from the March 28 Met-Ed Bill Burning to Governor Thornburgh on May 22, along with a clear message, mandating his rescission of his proposed TMI clean-up funding plan. Thornburgh's plan, relying on the restart of TMI Unit 1 and requiring ratepayers' to bail out the corporate stockholders, was cited as an example of Thornburgh's continual siding with the rich and powerful, at the expense of the poor and unorganized. At the TMIA June General Membership Meeting, Project David strategies and plans will be presented, including local Town Meetings to gather support for a formal action requesting the PUC to rescind the January 15 Met-Ed rate increase. If the PUC turns down the request, an expanded Rate Strike will be organized.



# Fun and Fund Raising

7

## RAFFLE RESULTS -- WINNERS!!

- #1 -- Basket of Cheer  
won by Jean Keet
- #2 -- Dinner for Two at Tom's  
won by Paul Lujana
- #3 -- Hand Woven Silk/Wool Scarf  
won by Gloria Stepp
- #4 -- Professional Chimney Sweeping  
won by Sally Morgan

THANKS TO ALL WHO CONTRIBUTED  
AND/OR SOLD TICKETS!!!

\* \* \*

ASK A FRIEND TO JOIN TMIA!

HELP INCREASE MEMBERSHIP!

BUY A GIFT MEMBERSHIP FOR  
A FRIEND, REPRESENTATIVE,  
OR PUBLIC LIBRARY!!

## RE-CYCLING DAY --- JULY 17, 1982

When: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

Where: Colonial Park Plaza Parking  
Lot, southwest corner

What: Newspapers, cardboard, steel  
(cans, wheels, etc.), &  
aluminum items, glass  
(any color, need not be  
sorted)

Who: Anyone! Tell your family &  
friends to drop their  
useless recyclables off.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Wear goggles,  
gloves, long-sleeved shirt.

CONTACT: Sandra Choma 233-2788.

RECYCLING -- SAVES TREES!

-- PRESERVES RESOURCES!

-- CONSERVES ENERGY!!

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED:

\_\_\_ \$ 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



# JUNE EVENTS

- June 3 -- 5 p.m. "Pilgrimage for Peace" Picnic  
Join California anti-nuke friends for a picnic in Goldsboro. Bring a picnic supper to share.
- 7 p.m. Cumberland County Commissioners Meeting  
Attend this public meeting on emergency evacuation plans in the event of another TMI accident, at the Old Court House in Carlisle. Bring questions & friends.
- June 7 -- 10:30 a.m. National Meeting of Insurance Commissioners  
Meet at 9:30 a.m. to prepare for Press Conference at 10:00 a.m., to dramatize the questionable nature of present nuclear insurance policies, in Philadelphia.
- June 8 -- 7 p.m. PIRC Leadership Meeting  
Help develop strategies for future actions, at the Harrisburg Friends' Meeting House.
- June 10 -- 7:30 p.m. TMIA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
Attend and discuss by-laws, finances, strategies, and more issues vital to our organization, O.L.B.S. basement
- June 11 -- Evacuation Planning Meeting with the director of PFMA
- UNITED NATIONS SPECIAL SESSION ON DISARMAMENT II -- NEW YORK CITY
- June 11 -- International Religious Convocation
- June 12 -- Rally and March to support reduction of nuclear weapons  
(Bus tickets available at TMIA office, 315 Pepper St.)
- June 14 -- Blockade of U.N. offices. Training Mandatory.

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT  
315 Pepper Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Non-Profit Org.  
U.S. Postage  
PAID  
Harrisburg, PA  
Permit No. 807

**CHECK YOUR  
RENEWAL  
NUMBER!**



THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

JULY 1982

vol.4, no.7

## NRC Lawsuit Filed

The TMI Litigation Team filed a complaint against the NRC commissioners who authorized the venting of krypton in June/July, 1980. More than 100 plaintiffs are listed on the complaint, among which are many members of TMIA, as well as the organization. As the first name listed on the complaint, TMIA will be used in referring to the legal case, filed in Federal District Court in Harrisburg.

The TMI Litigation Team, headquartered at 1324 North Capitol Street in Washington, D.C., utilizes TMIA's Pepper St. offices when working in the Harrisburg area. Attorneys who are providing legal assistance on a pro bono basis, Joanne Doroshov & Rob Hager, mailed each participant a letter outlining topics which may be included in preparing an affidavit for each plaintiff.

**Please Attend:**

**RECYCLING**

**July 17**

\* \* \*

**PICNIC**

**July 25**

### IN THIS ISSUE

TMIA is requesting your financial and personal assistance this month.

Help our RECYCLING efforts by volunteering your time and/or recyclables.

Attend the PICNIC and meet other local activists.

Donate MONEY to keep TMIA alert and active.

Read the other side to find out the details.



# Fun and Fund Raising

## PICNIC --- JULY 25 --- PICNIC

When: Beginning at 12:00 noon  
Where: Camp Reilly, Route 443  
Fishing Creek Valley Road  
What: Swimming, volleyball, music  
and general picnic fun  
Who: Anyone! Meet local political  
activists from Common Cause,  
Legal Aide, Human and Repro-  
ductive Rights groups, & of  
course, TMIA members.

JOIN THE FUN. Bring your own picnic  
basket full of goodies and prepare  
to meet other people who are working  
in the Harrisburg area on some very  
vital issues.

THIS EVENT IS COMPLETELY FREE!

Donations gladly accepted to  
defray the expenses of rent-  
ing the camp and pool.

CONTACT: Ed Nielson @ 236-0521 or  
Suzanne Magda @ 232-5515

## RECYCLING DAY --- JULY 17, 1982

When: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Colonial Park Plaza Parking  
Lot, southwest corner  
What: Newspapers, cardboard, aluminum  
and steel items (cans, wheels)  
& glass (need not be sorted)  
Who: Anyone! Tell family & friends to  
drop off recyclable items.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED...Wear protective  
clothing: long-sleeved shirt, sturdy  
shoes, goggles (if available).

CONTACT: Sandra Choma at 233-2788

\* \* \*

RECYCLING -- SAVES TREES!

-- PRESERVES RESOURCES!

-- CONSERVES ENERGY!!



This abbreviated issue of the TMIALERT is brought to you in the  
hope that you will read it in its entirety and respond appropriately  
to our appeals.

from  
your

RECYCLING not only helps the environment, it also helps our or-  
ganization, as we will share in the money generated by the sale of  
those reusable items we each use and throw away every day. Clean  
out your closets and store rooms and bring recyclables on July 17.  
VOLUNTEER to help collect and sort the items which will be brought.  
Any job is more fun and less labor if we pitch in together.

Attend the PICNIC being organized to let us get to know other  
active people with some of the same concerns we all have. TMIA is  
not holding our usual summer-time fund-raising picnic, in the hope  
that you will attend the July 25 affair. Enjoy yourself, relax, &  
maybe you'll be inspired to get reactive or more active.

DONATIONS REQUESTED: we are not asking you to bake a cake, wash  
a car, or otherwise go out of your way to raise funds for TMIA this  
summer, other than the recycling project. We do, however, have an  
endless need for funds to cover basic expenses, and memberships are  
not coming in as frequently these days. So, please, give what you  
can to help us KEEP TMI CLOSED FOREVER and enjoy your summer!

*Susan*

PLEASE FILL OUT THE ATTACHED CARD AND RETURN IT WITH YOUR DONATION

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# ALERT

AUGUST 1982

vol.4, no.8

## CHEATING DECISION APPEALED

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's decision not to prosecute TMI operators who cheated on NRC examinations is only one example of the points on which it differed from the findings of Administrative Judge Gary Milhollin. The board stated that it could not prove "a deterring effect upon those still employed at TMI...over and above...the fact that 'O' and 'W' were separated from their employment in disgrace." This does not explain why "G" and "H", who cheated on NRC exams over an extended period of time, were merely suspended for two weeks without pay. Although Milhollin suggested sanctions such as loss of license for cheating on the exams, "G" and "H" were given the choice of two week suspension or individual licensing action would be taken.

The board rejects Mulhollin's conclusion that TMI's training program reflects an inadequate response to the 8/79 NRC order to upgrade their training program. While admitting that the program has serious problems, they justify their decision by stating that it was upgraded, thereby meeting the requirements of the NRC order.

"The document is filled with internal contradictions," according to Louise Bradford, TMIA intervenor who has written around 200 exceptions to the ASLB decision. She said they seem more interested in supporting the company than in examining the issues. Assisted by Joanne Doroshow, Louise is preparing the arguments to be sent to the Licensing Appeal Board. She feels that one very disturbing aspect is the mild recommendation that an investigation be conducted related to GPU management personnel making material false statements to a government agency. "We worked hard to get it on the record" in the Milhollin hearings, she stated, adding that an investigation is not needed, just a sentence for the admitted crime.

(continued on page 4)

## Elected PUC?

PUC Commissioner Michael Johnson criticized his colleagues for their alignment with special interest groups and utility lobbyists at the expense of the ratepaying, taxpaying public. Johnson urged that PUC commissioners be elected to four year terms and be responsible for only one area of regulation. He indicated that utility rates increased drastically over the past three years, and that large increases are being granted with no apparent justification.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Allen Ertel also proposed PUC changes, urging their ten year term be reduced to five years and practices related to passing utility taxes on to customers be modified.

## IN THIS ISSUE

PICNIC FLYER ENCLOSED!!

CRBR & Bad News.....2

Editorial Page.....3

Up-Dates/More ASLB.....4

TMIA By-Laws.....5

Calendar and Tiny Items..6



# NO MORE FUNDS FOR CRBR 2

The Clinch River Breeder Reactor is in need of \$252 Million additional funds to meet the tremendous cost overruns of the project, originally estimated to cost only \$400 Million. Present estimates run from \$3-6 Billion. YOU must write your national legislators and tell them to vote against further funding for this inefficient, unsafe project. Three good reasons you can cite in your letter are:

1) Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactors have a history of problems with their steam generators. The General Accounting office reported that the DOE "is not minimizing risks in its steam generator testing program", and the project's prime contractor indicated that DOE tests are inadequate concerning structural integrity and the ability to withstand temperature changes or vibrations.

2) The project will not be cost effective until the price of uranium, presently selling @ \$23.00/Lb, reaches \$130.00/Lb. The CRBR was developed because it was believed that the U.S. would be running out of nuclear fuel by the year 2000, but the slow growth of the nuclear industry and the low price of uranium have undermined the rationale for the project. Predictions indicate that we presently have enough fuel to last until 2020 and that the CRBR will not be cost effective until 2050.

3) The recently requested allocation of \$252 million is more than half the original projected cost. President Reagan is asking Congress to pass these funds at a time when unemployment benefits, disability benefits, and alternative energy programs are being cut or defunded. We cannot afford to pay \$6 billion for an unnecessary and unsafe technological project such as the CRBR.

Pa. Rep. Allen Ertel and others serving on the committee on Science and Technology voted last year to discontinue funding, but it was included in the 1981 Omnibus Reconciliation Act which Reagan backed. Ertel recently sent a letter to his constituents affirming his continued efforts to discontinue funding for CRBR, and offering his assistance in supplying additional information on the project.

WRITE TO YOUR LEGISLATORS. TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL. TELL THEM:

NO MORE \$\$\$ FOR CRBR!!!

## BLOOD DISEASE Near Nuke Plant

The Savannah River Plant, operating since 1953, produces weapons-grade plutonium and tritium for the Department of Energy. It may also be responsible for an alarming increase of a rare blood disease, polycythemia vera, among local residents. The disease normally occurs only once in every 250,000 Americans, but of the 700,000 people living within a 60 mile radius 25 cases have been diagnosed in the last 25 years, roughly eight times the average rate.

Dr. Robert Winslow of Atlanta's Center for Disease Control said it is "reasonable to assume" a link between Polycythemia vera and radiation, which "damages the DNA of the blood cells, leading to mutations" (emphasis added), although he said there was no proof that radiation was causing the disease. He further stated that he believes "a very dangerous situation" might well exist near the Savannah River Plant—referring to the blood disease, not the nuclear production operations. Polycythemia vera sometimes leads to leukemia, heart disease and stroke. The Plant is operated by E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.

## Berwick Blues

Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. is seeking a 20% rate increase to begin recovering the \$3.85 million invested in the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick, Pa. Arguing that in six years PP&L customers will be paying less than if the plant had never been built, company spokesman John Saeger cited the long-term benefits to the customers. As of Monday, August 2nd, about 1/3 of the 764 uranium fuel bundles had been loaded into the Unit I reactor; the fuel rods contain approximately 11 million uranium pellets. Saeger admitted the company is "doing a lot of things for the first time...We expect to find minor problems."

The NRC and Pennsylvania Power and Light are conducting investigations resulting from allegations that certain criteria were not followed in the design and installation of some joints in the small-bore piping at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station under construction near Berwick. The letter containing the allegations was received by the NRC in May, and was written by an engineer for the Bechtel Power Corp., the Plant's main construction contractor.



RESTART IS A REAL POSSIBILITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE!

NEVENBER ELECTIONS ARE APPROACHING, AND WE NEED TO CONTACT CANDIDATES & CAMPAIGN FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES OF TMIA.

OUR ORGANIZATION IS REORGANIZING AND IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN DECISION-MAKING, PLANNING AND ACTUALIZING OUR IDEALS.

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There's three good reasons to become more involved in TMIA.

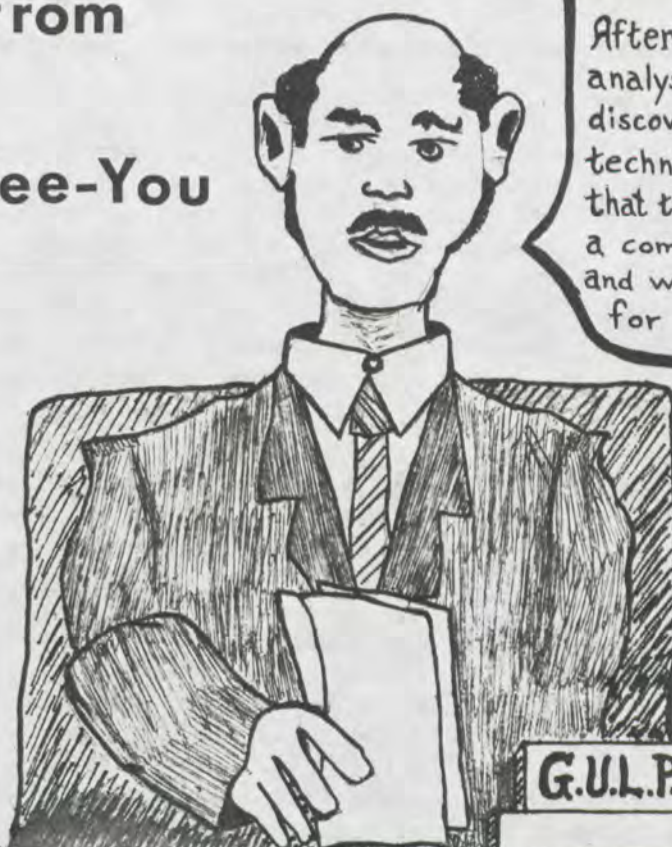
You can begin by coming to the August 29 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC. There'll be fun activities and shared food. New members will be welcomed with FREE HATS. But, more importantly, you will be able to participate in the election of the Planning Council members who will shape our organization's immediate future. You can volunteer or nominate someone who you think will get the job done. We really need a broad base of members to be active at least in the quarterly general membership meetings. Planning Council meetings are held twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; committees meet every month, sometimes several times a month. Surely you can make four meetings a year. Come on and get active. If the decision is made to restart Unit I, we are going to be swamped with work, and we need to start increasing the number of workers NOW!

Another ideas we need to hear from you about is a recent proposal that TMIA take over the responsibility for the monthly RECYCLING collection at the Colonial Park Plaza. It would mean a lot of work, but it would also mean a steady, outside source of funds; a chance to increase the public awareness of our organization and to emphasize the need for a safe, clean environment; the opportunity for a large number of people (members and others) to do something to make the planet a little nicer or SAVE THE EARTH's resources for the future generations. BUT, we need help to do it. We need to know if and when YOU can help. We are going to have to collect names and get commitments for assistance before we can even decide if this is a feasible project. Interested? Let us know.

Thanks to all those who sent in donations as a result of our green request cards. It's good to know that members are willing to give a little more than the minimal fee, especially when some of us donate our time and energy to keep TMIA going. Thanks again.

## To Set The Record Straight : a message from

Mr. Gee Pee-You



After careful video analysis of the RUBBLE discovered in UNIT II, technicians confirmed that the CORE suffered a compound-complex fracture and will be **CRIPPLED** for several years.....

G.U.L.P. Nuclear Ink.





Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

TMIA Island Updates is reorganizing as a subscription-based publication. Update editors, Cathie Musser and Kathy Manfred, are meeting in August to determine how this reorganization will effect the process of preparing, publishing and distributing the Island Updates. They may soon be requesting volunteers to assist with specific tasks.

.....

## Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center

PIRC has formed an as hoc committee to meet with all member organizations to discuss: needs of member organizations which PIRC may help fulfill; methods of funding PIRC; and overall future goals/directions for the local anti-nuclear movement. They hope to complete these meeting before their Sept. 15 meeting.

\*\*\*\*\*

MARCH 28th COALITION is considering conducting a worker safety campaign which would involve leafleting at TMI during shift changes. Several leaflets would be prepared and distributed every few weeks. Anyone interested in helping with this effort should contact Randy King or Keith Bentz @ 233-2207.

TMIA extends a hearty "thanks" to JOHN MURDOCH, who is retiring from active participation to attend to personal business that has been neglected due to his extensive anti-nuclear activities over the past several years. The TMIA newsletter has benefitted from his research and writing assistance. He also served on the Steering Committee and Planning Council, and presented testimony at legal hearings on such issues as CWIP and nominations for the PUC. In addition, John did public speaking and private work related to nuclear issues, including instigating further hearings on Cumberland County's evacuation plans. Many thanks for all your pleasant assistance, John, and may the best of luck bless your future.

\*\*\*\*\*

## HELP WANTED

TMIA is in need of office volunteers. IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for anyone willing to file, type, answer telephones or address newsletters, Updates, and correspondence. Also, we need someone who will make current membership cards. PLEASE HELP!! Contact Georgiana Nyce by leaving a message for her at the TMIA office (233-7897) or home (564-0966). If you can help with addressing, contact Sandra Choma (233-2788).

(from page 1)

A

Another very disturbing element is their rejection of Milhollin's conclusions regarding Michael Ross' role in the cheating, because Milhollin based his decision on Ross' demeanor on the witness stand. This overrides the "very crux of our legal system, Bradford maintains, as all juries and judges rely on the personal evidence of witness testimony and credibility, as well as on material evidence. She sees this as the board's unwillingness to implicate Ross, who they see as GPU's most valuable employee.

S

Milhollin's report was very helpful in this whole process, Louise believes. It verified the legitimacy of TMIA's arguments and politically forced the board to respond directly to the case. She feels we "have a good chance at this appeal."

L

The ASLB rendered severe criticism against GPU in recommending the \$100,000 fine: "negligent failure to safeguard the integrity of its examination process, failure to instill an attitude of respect for...NRC administered examinations, failure to insure the quality of training instruction, and negligence in the procedures for the certification of candidates for the NRC licensing exams. This is the same company which the ASLB recommends should be allowed "to return to the important matter of preparing the unit for restart without further distractions" (emphasis added).

B

However, local residents should beware (be aware) that the ASLB has determined that TMI Unit I should be reopened as soon as possible. Their ability to contradict themselves and to ignore the evidence of their own investigations is evident in their having "no confidence that further investigation will produce a more reliable record than that made in the hearing before Judge Milhollin" while they blatantly reject his recommendations. It seems the board is more concerned with licensing than with safety.

4

Another matter for consideration is that if the NRC approves restart, an injunction will probably be filed, resulting in the need to fund professional legal assistance.



# Our New By-Laws

5

New By-Laws for TMIA were approved at the June 10 General Membership meeting. This is the first complete rewriting since the organization was founded, and reflects the more centralized organization which has evolved.

The Steering Committee and Planning Council will telescope into one 15 member body which will meet twice a month. Four officers, elected from the 15 members, will make day to day decisions.

Planning Council members will be elected at large and will not represent any specific neighborhood group. Each member will serve for one year, with staggered terms. Elections will be held every six months.

Duties of the new officers are detailed in the new By-Laws. The Chairperson shall preside, set the agenda, oversee office volunteers and speak for the organization. The Vice-Chairperson will be in charge of information to the public in any emergency, as well as substituting for the Chairperson as needed. The Secretary shall record all actions, receive and reply to communications, send notices, and maintain a current membership list. The treasurer will supervise receipt and disbursement of money, keep records, and prepare any financial forms. Specific duties may be delegated.

Seven standing committees are written into the By-Laws. Others can be formed or disbanded by the Planning Council. These committees are: Finance, Fund-raising, Nominating, Membership, TMIA alert, Island Updates, and Legal. Chairpersons must report to the Planning Council at least once a month, as must representatives from TMIA to other organizations.

Meeting of the total membership will be held at least four times a year. Each member will receive regular updates through the TMIA alert to other organizations.

Copies of the By-Laws may be obtained from the TMIA office at 315 Peffer St., or by contacting the members of the Committee: M'Liss Halsey, Georgianna Nyce, Mary Hartnett or Beverly Davis. Copies will also be available at the August 29 General Membership Picnic/Meeting. Any member who wishes to propose amendments or changes to the By-Laws is encouraged to do so.

## 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



# AUGUST EVENTS

August 10 -- Planning Council Meeting

August 24 -- Planning Council Meeting

August 29 -- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC

at Negley Park, Lemoyne

3:30 p.m. Activities

5:00 p.m. Dinner

6:30 p.m. Meeting

FREE HATS FOR NEW MEMBERS!

The Pa. Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze will hold a state-wide conference in Harrisburg on Saturday, September 11, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Workshops and speakers will be scheduled throughout the day, and you are invited to attend all or part of the conference. Bring a box lunch; dinner will be available for \$3.50. The conference will be held at the Salem United Church of Christ at Third and Chestnut Streets. For more information, contact: Harrisburg Nuclear Weapons Freeze office, 315 Peffer St; or call 233-3914.

The following interim leaders were chosen at the July 20th Steering Committee meeting. They will serve until the August 29th picnic/elections.

Chairperson -- Georgiana Nyce  
Vice Chairperson -- Randy Smedley  
Treasurer -- Paul Makurath  
Secretary -- Divided among  
Planning Council Members.

A cheer for those who braved the heat and humidity to help out at the RECYCLING CENTER in July. Gnats and nasty jobs were the order of the day. Your hard work was well-appreciated by Sandra Choma and all TMIA'ers. Thanks also to those who brought in items for recycling; you helped, too. TMIA will receive \$50.00 now and a percentage of the years' total as a result of your efforts. Thanks again.

*thanks to:*

Ken Jordan, Gary Mitchell, Eric Gerber and Bev Davis for direct assistance and Kay, M'liss, Sandra, Randy, Louise, Kathy, John & Lynn for information and advice; also our great printer, American Quick Print. *SUSAN*

The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the Planning Council. If you would like to volunteer, or have a nomination, contact Gary Mitchell or Kay Pickering.

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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**CHECK YOUR  
RENEWAL  
NUMBER!**



THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

SEPTEMBER 1982

vol.4, no.9

## TMIA ASSEMBLES AGAIN

### Elects Council, Shares Info & Plans

TMIA Planning Council elections were held during the August 29th General Membership Meeting at beautiful Negley Park. Members elected to serve until May 1983 are: Mac Albright, Bev Davis, Randy King, Paul Lujanes, Gary and Susan Mitchell (shared), Georgiana Nyce (acting Chairperson), and Kay Pickering. Ed Charles, Mary Hartnett, Charles Leising, Steve and Suzanne Patton (shared), Bob Shaw, and Randy Smedley were elected to serve until the November, 1982 General Membership Meeting elections. At that meeting they or any other interested members may volunteer or be nominated for a six month term.

Recycling was unanimously adopted as an organizational fund-raiser. Bob Shaw is working out the details with the Stony Creek Valley Conservancy, and starting on October 16, TMIA will contribute volunteer help on a regular basis at the Colonial Park recycling cite and will receive financial recompensation for our time and efforts. SCVC will supply containers, transportation, and necessary assistance, and we have the opportunity to expand the local recycling availability, if we choose to supply the workers and publicity to do so. Other up-coming activities and events were also discussed, including the Silkwood play featured in this issue.

The meeting was preceded by a picnic supper and activities, including softball and volleyball. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING AND PARTICIPATING IN THE NOVEMBER GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING.

Please Attend:

**SILKWOOD**

**Saturday**

**October 23, 1982**

**8:30 p.m.**

### Berwick Blues

Did you hear the latest news?  
Berwick's back into the blues.

If it's not a pipe,  
then it's a wire.

Sure hope we don't all expire  
Upon some nuclear funeral pyre.



# The Play

Opening with the haunting sound of a single flute (which Karen played), Silkwood is dramatically performed by Jehane Dyllan, accompanied only by photographs of Silkwood and the shrill sound of alarm sirens and announcements. An intimate portrait of Silkwood's thoughts and feelings shortly before her death and, through flashbacks, her memories of the various stages of her tumultuous life, are offered in this acclaimed performance. The play is set in an empty union hall, an hour before a scheduled meeting of her local chapter of the Oil, Chemical and Atomic Workers Union. She addresses the audience as her yet-to-arrive union members, and predicts reprisals for her courageous activities aimed at protecting the workers and exposing the perilous negligence of their nuclear employer.

Karen Silkwood led a full and varied life. From teen-age aimlessness, through marriage and motherhood (both of which she lost through divorce), to the excitement and challenge in handling nuclear fuel and in learning of its gross mishandling and frightful disappearance, Silkwood eventually became a union organizer and outspoken critic of the nuclear industry. After attempts to move Congress at testimony before the Joint Committee failed to inspire investigation or action, Karen obtained documented evidence of prolific worker contamination, falsification of records, and missing plutonium. This woman, who raced motorcycles, was killed on her way to present the material to a New York Times reporter in a one-car accident, and the documents disappeared from the mangled car. The tragedy of her death is equalled by the horrible realization that she had already been lethally contaminated by plutonium, both from her job at Kerr-McGee and from the plutonium discovered in her own refrigerator and apartment.

## \* The Profit \*

Proceeds from tickets sold by TMIA will be shared among two labor unions, our organization, PIRC, & the Campaign for a Nuclear Freeze. At the TMIA General Membership Meeting, it was unanimously decided to contribute \$1.00 of our profits from each ticket towards the support of PIRC. This is YOUR CHANCE to bring in funds for our organization merely by enjoying an evening at the theater. Refer to the order form below for prices and send for your tickets today! Money must be in to the TMIA office BEFORE OCTOBER 15!

## The Case

After an Oklahoma Jury found the Kerr-McGee Corp. legally liable for the radioactive contamination of Karen Silkwood in May, 1977, a 10th Circuit Court of Appeals panel rejected their decision in December, 1981, and refused to award the \$10.5 million in personal damages to the Silkwood children. They determined that only \$5,00 were owed for furniture and clothing which had to be destroyed due to radioactive contamination. The case will be pursued through appeal and/or further lawsuits.

|                                                 |    |  |
|-------------------------------------------------|----|--|
| General Admission tickets @ \$7.50              | \$ |  |
| Senior citizens, students and unemployed @ \$5. | \$ |  |
| *Reserved seats @ \$20.                         | \$ |  |
| *10 for \$150.00                                | \$ |  |
| * 6 for \$108.00                                | \$ |  |

\*Each reserved ticket includes 1 admission to reception hosted by Julius Uehline, honoring Joyce D. Miller.

Send  
TOTAL \$

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Title

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UNION SISTER PRODUCTIONS, INC. PRESENTS

# SILKWOOD

JEHANE DYLLAN IN A ONE-WOMAN SHOW

## Forum Auditorium

Commonwealth Avenue & Walnut Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

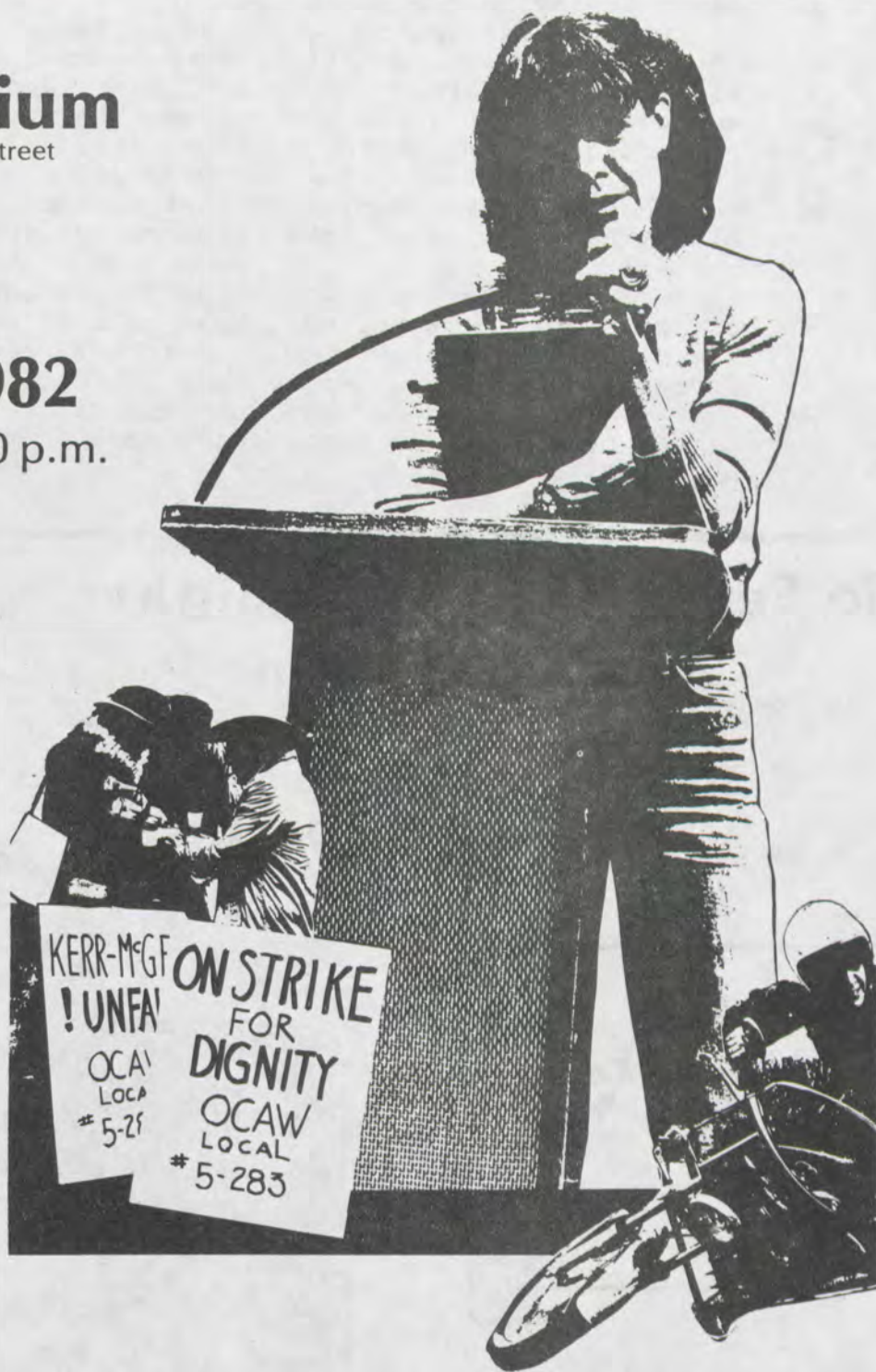
**Saturday**  
**October 23, 1982**  
8:30 p.m.

*Sponsored by:*

**I.L.G.W.U.**  
**Local 170**

Office, Professional, Communication  
and Data Processing

**General**  
**Admission**  
**\$7.50**





from  
your

THERE'S MUCH BEING DONE!  
THERE'S SO MUCH TO DO!  
THERE'S A LOT YOU CAN DO !!!

4

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As the possibility for restart increases, and the November elections draw near, you must decide whether any of us (meaning you) can afford NOT to increase our participation and action regarding our own future as it relates to our hazardous nuclear neighbor.

The "can and will" sheet is enclosed with this newsletter in an attempt to ease your way back into action by listing several areas in which you "can and should" apply your own interests and/or talents towards achieving our common goals.

If we are going to try to motivate our elected officials to work in our behalf, we must first work towards seeing that those sympathetic with our cause are voted into office. Candidates need to be contacted and questioned. Those who declare their support for our positions must be brought to the attention of voters. If we help them get elected, they will be more willing to speak out and work for our goals. Before the restart referendum, political action was strong AND IT PAYED OFF. Please help now to see that tomorrow's leaders are people who endorse our aims.

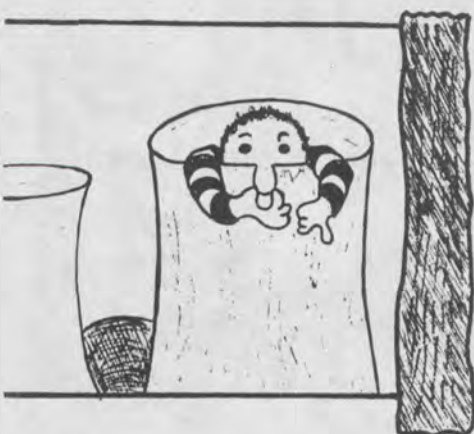
THANKS to those who responded to our requests for help in the office and with recycling. More help is needed in those areas and others. The more probable and imminent restart becomes, the more we need to join forces and work together to KEEP TMI CLOSED FOREVER.

Please send us your "can and will" commitment, and your Silkwood ticket money TODAY! Hope to see more of you.

Susan

## To Set The Record Straight: a message from

Mr. Gee Pee-You



Although Some Folks  
say that our  
P.R. campaign only  
makes them more  
nervous....our  
studies show that...  
even though we  
can't fool ALL the  
people All the time..  
we can fool  
the NRC!!!

R.G.-S/GLM



THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

OCTOBER 1982

vol.4, no.10

## NOVEMBER EVENTS

Please Attend:

**2<sup>nd</sup> Election Day**

**9<sup>th</sup> NRC Public Hearings**

**13<sup>th</sup> Regional Anti-Nuke Meeting**

**16<sup>th</sup> TMIA Membership Meeting**

**17<sup>th</sup> TMI Advisory Panel Meeting**

SEE DETAILS IN THIS ISSUE !



9

The NRC will hear oral presentations on November 9 from 3-5 p.m., from the parties involved in the cheating decision and in the proceedings related to hardware/design issues, the separation of Units 1 and 2, and emergency planning. This hearing has been ordered preliminary to an NRC decision, by Dec. 10, on lifting the effectiveness of orders directing that TMI remain in a cold shut down condition. Louise Bradford and Joanne Doroshow will present arguments on behalf of TMIA in the afternoon session to be held at the Wm. Penn Museum (Third & Forester Sts. Hbg.).

From 7:30-10 p.m., the NRC will hold a public meeting at the Central Dauphin High School Auditorium (4600 Locust Lane, Hbg.) in order to hear the views of interested citizens, who will be allotted 3 minutes for their statements. No questions will be entertained by the NRC.

Please ATTEND this MOST IMPORTANT MEETING. Written statements may be submitted by any concerned citizen. Participants in the afternoon session may submit written comments to the NRC about information presented in the evening's public session. Show the NRC that we are vitally interested in this issue and feel that our views should weigh heavily in their decisions about our future safety. Bring your friends and form a car-pool. We must be present in order to be heard - let your pressure speak of your concern while you listen to the views of your neighbors.

13

A regional conference of anti-nuclear activist groups will be held on November 13 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at the Lakeside Lutheran Church (Third & Division Sts., Hbg.). This conference, hosted by TMIA, is one of a series sponsored by Mobilization for Survival to plan and strategize for a national conference to be held in Washington D.C.

on March 28, 1983. The coordination of efforts by those opposed to nuclear power plants and those supporting a nuclear weapons freeze will be explored. The purpose of this meeting is to revitalize the movement against nuclear power and establish goals. Please attend and bring a bag lunch.

16

TMIA General Membership Meeting will be held on November 16 at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament church basement at 7:30 p.m. Elections will be held for planning council members to serve from November through May 1983. A videotape of the nuclear debate aired on the Phil Donahue Show, including local activist Kathy McCaughlin

along with nuclear industry representatives, will be shown. Please plan on attending this quarterly meeting - surely you can make 4 meetings a year to show your support for TMIA.

17

A TMI Advisory Panel Meeting will be held on November 17 at the Holiday Inn Town (2nd and Chestnut Sts., Hbg.) from 7-10 p.m. The panel will hear prepared presentations by GPU, NRC, and EPA on clean-up and waste water dumping issues. Public opinion and questions are welcome, so please plan on attending this important meeting, as the panel may vote on a recommendation to the NRC.

2



DO YOU FAVOR RESTART OF TMI UNIT 1, WHICH WAS NOT DAMAGED DURING THE MARCH 28, 1979 ACCIDENT?

| <u>Office/Candidate/Party</u>                      | <u>Response</u>  | <u>Reason/Comments</u>                                                                                                                                                                                     |
|----------------------------------------------------|------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| GOVERNOR                                           |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Richard Thornburgh - Rep.                          | NONE             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Allen Ertel - Dem.                                 | NO               | Unit II clean-up must first be completed; nuclear power is not a safe or economically efficient way of producing electricity.                                                                              |
| Lee Frissell - Cons.                               | NONE             | Repeal Price-Anderson Act and nuclear industry would collapse.                                                                                                                                             |
| Richard Fuerle - Lib.                              | --               | Nuclear industry should be shut down; coal and renewable energy resources should be developed.                                                                                                             |
| Mark Zola - SWP                                    | NO               |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| LT. GOVERNOR                                       |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Bill Scranton - Rep.                               | NONE             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| James R. Lloyd - Dem.                              | NO               | GPU thus far has failed to demonstrate TMI safely; customers should not pay for clean-up; referendum vote NO should be considered.                                                                         |
| Judith Faulkner - Cons.                            | NONE             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Katherine Sojourner - SWP<br>(William Osteen, Jr.) | NO               | Nuclear power is dangerous; people should not be sacrificed for profits. Repeal Price-Anderson Act and no utility companies would operate nuclear plants; owners should bear cost of clean-up.             |
| David K. Walter - Lib.                             | NO               |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| U.S. SENATE                                        |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| John Heinz - Rep.                                  | NONE             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Cyril H. Wecht - Dem.                              | YES              | But not until clean-up of Unit II finance formula is formulated, on-site insurance is mandated, and promised psychological stress study is finished.                                                       |
| Kathy Eminizer - SWP<br>(Kipp Miriam Dawson)       | NO               | Nuclear power is an unnecessary threat to our lives; owners should pay for clean-up.                                                                                                                       |
| Barbara Karkutt - Lib.                             | NONE             |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Liane Norman - Cons.                               | NO               | Nuclear power is dangerous and expensive; high tech, highly centralized power sources reduce local political autonomy; favors renewable energy.                                                            |
| U.S. HOUSE OF REP. - 17th DISTRICT                 |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| George Gekas - Rep.                                | NO               |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| Larry Hochendoner - Dem.                           | NO               | Should not even be debated until Unit II is entirely cleaned up. Continues to oppose restart restart as a father and Dauphin County Comm. in charge of evacuation planning; referendum vote NO also cited. |
| U.S. HOUSE OF REP. - 19th DISTRICT                 |                  |                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
| William Goodling - Dem.                            | YES              | Plant is undamaged; people need electricity; there is no option.                                                                                                                                           |
| Larry Becker - Dem.                                | Not<br>Contacted | On the record as opposed to restart.                                                                                                                                                                       |



## TMIAlert Pre-Election Candidates Poll -- November 1982

DO YOU FAVOR RESTART OF TMI UNIT I, WHICH WAS NOT DAMAGED DURING THE MARCH 28, 1979 ACCIDENT?

## PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

| <u>District/County</u> | <u>Candidate</u>          | <u>Response</u> | <u>Reason/Comment</u>                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|------------------------|---------------------------|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 103 - Dauphin          | Albert Branch (R)         | --              | Vote would be determined by constituents; personally feels nuclear power is necessary.                                                                                                                            |
| " "                    | Pete Wambach (D)          | --              | Safety and psychological stress must be considered; Unit II clean-up is chief concern, and must first be completed.                                                                                               |
| 104 - Dauphin          | Jeffrey E. Piccola (R)    | --              | Did not reply, as he feels this poll has no bearing on the job he is seeking; is concerned about clean-up funding.                                                                                                |
| " "                    | David F. DeWees (D)       | NO              | GPU has not yet proved it is qualified to run TMI.                                                                                                                                                                |
| 105 - Dauphin          | Joseph F. Manmiller (R)   | NO              | No restart unless GPU can prove that all safety factors & backup systems work perfectly.                                                                                                                          |
| " "                    | Lori K. Seratelli (D)     | NO              | Opposes nuclear reactors in general, and particularly Unit I, which sits next to a container of nuclear waste, Unit II.                                                                                           |
| 106 - Dauphin          | Rudy Dininni (R)          | NO              | Restart of Unit I would place unnecessary psychological burden on local residents.                                                                                                                                |
| " "                    | Joe O'Connor (D)          | NO              | Clean-up of Unit II is taking too long; competence of the operators is questionable; psychological concerns w/restart                                                                                             |
| 86 - Cumb./Perry       | Fred C. Noye (R)          | YES             |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 87 - Cumberland        | Hal Mowery (R)            | NONE            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| " "                    | Fred J. Lauver (D)        | NONE            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 88 - Cumberland        | John Kennedy (R)          | NO              | Referendum vote was 2 to 1 against restart in Cumberland Cty. Referendum vote indicates people's concerns about safety, health and psychological stress of local residents.                                       |
| " "                    | Mary Weller (D)           | NO              | TMI safety record is poor; restart would potentially have economically depressing effects; expensive & dangerous.                                                                                                 |
| " "                    | David J. Leach (I)        | NO              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 199 - Cumb./York/Adams | Monte Shoemaker (R)       | NONE            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| " " "                  | John Broujos (D)          | NO              | GPU & NRC must prove that human, mechanical & health problems are resolved to satisfaction of state & local governments.                                                                                          |
| 91 - Adams             | Thomas L. Collins (R)     | YES             | Recognizes problems & need for safety checks, but feels need for nuclear power due to high replacement costs.                                                                                                     |
| " "                    | Kenneth J. Cole (D)       | NONE            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 101 - Lebanon          | George W. Jackson         | NONE            |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| 102 - Leb./Lancaster   | Nicholas B. Moehlmann (R) | NONE            | Fed. & state Gov't. must guarantee clean-up and off-site waste disposal; NRC, EPA & Pa.DER must guarantee safety & procedural standards & worker eligibility; consumers must not be burdened with clean-up costs. |
| 129 - Berks/Lebanon    | John S. Davies (R)        | NO              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| " " "                  | John D. Rausch (D)        | YES             | Does not favor new construction, but plants proven safe should be allowed to operate; favors alternate energy dev.                                                                                                |



DO YOU FAVOR RESTART OF TMI UNIT I, WHICH WAS NOT DAMAGED DURING THE MARCH 28, 1979 ACCIDENT?

## PENNSYLVANIA HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

| <u>District/County</u> | <u>Candidate</u>            | <u>Response</u> | <u>Reason/Comment</u>                                                                                                                                                                                                                 |
|------------------------|-----------------------------|-----------------|---------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| 92 - York              | Bruce Smith (R)             | NO              | Opposed restart since March, 1979 accident due to inadequate evacuation plans, lack of insurance protection, loss of confidence in GPU due to accident and cheating; desires additional public input/hearings; cites referendum vote. |
| " - "                  | M. Sue Daugherty (D)        | NONE            | Utility rates increased due to shut-down.                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| 93 - York              | A. Carville Foster, Jr. (R) | YES             | Corroded tubing, embrittled pressure vessel walls & other systematic deterioration of TMI Unit I.                                                                                                                                     |
| " - "                  | Robert S. McAdams (D)       | NO              | Only if it can be proven to operate safely; need for jobs & energy; alternate energy sources should be developed.                                                                                                                     |
| 94 - York              | Gregory Snyder (R)          | YES             | Opposes any attempt to restart.                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| " - "                  | Carroll I. Anderson (D)     | NO              | Restart should not be considered until Unit II is cleaned up.                                                                                                                                                                         |
| 95 - York              | Stanford I. Lehr (R)        | --              | Strongly opposed; will work towards legislation to oppose.                                                                                                                                                                            |
| " - "                  | Elizabeth E. Brooks (D)     | NO              | Safety problems such as corrosion, leaks, & embrittlement; favors conversion of TMI to coal-burning w/filtration..                                                                                                                    |
| 96 - York              | Donald W. Doors (R)         | --              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |
| " - "                  | Michael E. Dows (D)         | NO              |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                       |

These are the results of the TMIAlert Pre-Election Candidate Poll, in which local candidates were asked the same question which we voted on in the May referendum, "Do you favor restart of TMI Unit I, which was not damaged in the March 28, 1979 accident?"

These results were distributed to the local news media in the hope that they will help pass this information along to the voters.

Please note the following:

- \* No Republicans running for state office responded to the survey.
- \* Of the 33 respondents who said "yes" or "no", 28 said "NO".
- \* There is a strong sentiment that "We, the People" have a say in whether TMI should be allowed to restart.

Items included in the Reason/comment section are abbreviated from the candidates' responses.

Keep this information in mind when you vote on November 2. Tell your friends and neighbors. Watch the election results to see how many candidates who oppose restart are elected. Then keep the pressure on.

At least most of the candidates seem to realize that the majority of their constituents have already voted: NO RESTART OF TMI UNIT I !!



DO YOU SENSE THE APPROACH OF TMI RESTART DECISIONS?

ARE YOU WILLING TO SPEAK OUT OR WRITE DOWN HOW YOU FEEL ABOUT THE ISSUES?

CAN WE, WORKING TOGETHER, STOP THE RESTART OF TMI UNIT 1?

Activity is increasing, both in the nuclear industry/regulation area, and in local activism. There are many important meetings coming up, and it is our business to show up. to show that we care.

The referendum was a clear message from the people. We, the people, must follow up on that victory by actively participating in the approaching meetings to make visible our opposition to restart.

We can no longer be content with sitting back and letting someone else carry on. We can not afford to let the NRC think that local people are not deeply concerned about the issues, or else the power and influence of the nuclear industry will tip the scales against us. It is at these meetings that vital decisions which will greatly affect our future safety will be decided.

- \* The decision makers are coming to our public square and it is here that they must finally realize that WE DON'T WANT TMI RESTARTED.
- \* You must write down your thoughts and feelings. Submit them to the NRC on November 9; write to the NRC commissioners; use them to write letters to the editors of local papers. SPEAK OUT.
- \* We must: revitalize our own organization; plan and strategize together; support coalition activities; create a strong, united effort to keep TMI closed forever.

This issue is dedicated to inform you of coming events and to urge your attendance and participation in these activities. Please send us your "can and will do" sheet which was mailed with your last ALERT. We'd like to develop groups of people willing to work in the various areas.

Thanks to several folks who contributed informative articles which will appear in the next issue. Any other articles would be appreciated. This news letter is your chance to communicate with and pass information along to others with common interests.

*Susan*



November 9th is only the beginning of citizen input into the NRC Commissioners' decision on reinstatement of GPU's license to operate TMI. Starting November 9 and continuing through December 5, the March 28th Coalition is coordinating a mass letter-writing campaign concerning this decision. Please write to each of the five commissioners by name, so that they will realize that people are affected by their decision. Write to:

**Write to :**

Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino  
Commissioner Victor Gilinsky  
Commissioner John F. Ahearne  
Commissioner Thomas J. Roberts  
Commissioner James K. Asselstine  
c/o NRC; Washington D.C. 20555

**NRC**

Beginning December 5th through December 10th, a mass phone-in campaign is planned. Details on the phone-in campaign & other plans will be in the next issue of TMIA alert.

A Christmas Peace Pilgrimage will be held on Saturday, December 11. The pilgrimage involves a 10-mile walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem. Walkers can go the full or any part of the distance. Although the gathering at noon for the 1 p.m. start will be at the Nazareth Moravian Church on the Center Square, walkers will be encouraged to park in Bethlehem and be shuttled to Nazareth. Speakers are scheduled to address the pilgrims upon their arrival in Bethlehem. For further details, contact the TMIA office on Peffer Street.

### 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



# To Set The Record Straight : a message from

## Mr. Gee Pee-You



We're venting krypton  
everyday now...to  
prevent overradiation  
of TMI workers who  
enter the containment  
building. There is  
NO DANGER to the  
public, but  
Superman has  
been evacuated.

G.U.L.P. Nuclear Ink.

R.G.-S/GLM

IF YOUR ADDRESS IS ALMOST UNREADABLE...RENEW NOW--  
You're long past due... .. Those who can read their  
addresses can check their renewal date below.....

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**CHECK YOUR  
RENEWAL  
NUMBER!**

NOV 5 1982



**THREE MILE ISLAND**

# ALERT

**1982**

**vol.4, no.11**

## **NRC Public Hearings**

The NRC's recent visit to the TMI area was marked by afternoon hearings in which GPU asked to have the deterrents to restart lifted while admitting that even their own investigation into the cheating on exams was incomplete. Testimony was delivered by the utility and intervenors on November 9 at the William Penn Museum.

Anti-nuclear messages were delivered loud and clear in the packed auditorium of the Central Dauphin High School as the NRC held a public hearing. Emotions were strong on both sides of the issue, but those who opposed restart greatly outnumbered the ones who favor it, both in the audience and among the speakers. Chairman Jack Minnich was able to maintain order with a few requests and reminders, but pro-restart messages of financial gain were often lost in vocal responses from the majority who oppose restart. Only 9 speakers of 40 heard spoke in favor of restart, and their entire approach was economic. They were countered by reminders that a "lemon" is not a good investment.

**WRITE OR CALL THE NRC COMMISSIONERS!!! TELL THEM TO KEEP TMI CLOSED!!!**

**REMIND THEM THAT THE VOTERS OF THE TMI AREA ALREADY VOTED -- NO RESTART!!!**

The NRC plans to decide about lifting the current restraints by December 10. Keep your eyes and ears open for word of their decision. But write them NOW, call TODAY.

## **TMIA Membership Meeting**

The TMIA General Membership Meeting, held on November 16 at Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament church basement in Harrisburg, began with a viewing of the Phil Donahue show in which Cathy McCaughin discussed nuclear issues with pro- and anti-nuclear guests. Cathy informed the gathering that the audience was very emotional and largely against nuclear power plants. She described heated off-camera exchanges and the distress of the production staff at Donahue's reluctance to break for commercials. It was encouraging to learn of a national feeling of concern about an issue of such local importance.

Planning Council elections were held, in which Charles Leisig, Steve/Suzanne Patton, Randy Smedley were reelected and Bill Cologie was newly elected. There are still empty seats on the Planning Council, if anyone would like to volunteer to serve, special elections may be held. By-law amendments approved by the members included election of planning council members by a "plurality" rather than a "majority"; provision that a shared position on the planning council be entitled to only one vote at council meetings; and clarification that officers are to be elected by the planning council members.

Suggestions for further activities included trying to get the county to pass legal ordinances barring operation of TMI due to psychological stress factors which lie outside the domain of the NRC; donating anti-nuke books to school or local libraries; and recycling.

Other items of interest include the decision to mail second notices to overdue members; approval of reimbursement for part of the printing costs related to the NRC hearings' posters and hats; and an announcement that a direct action would probably be held in front of the governor's mansion is the NRC approves restart.



# TMI Advisory Panel Meeting 2

## Quick Look at TMI-2 Clean Up

The GPU report of clean-up operations at TMI Unit II presented at the NRC Advisory Panel meeting on November 17 included pictures taken inside the damaged reactor core by their "Quick Look" operations. This simple diagram will help to illustrate the information summarized from their report.

In Quick Look 1, cameras were inserted at point A. They descended 5' into the core (which normally contains 12' long fuel rods and control rods) before encountering a bed of rubble  $\frac{1}{2}$ " pieces. They were able to insert a slender probe 14" into the rubble, but have no idea what lies beneath it.

In Quick Looks 2 and 3, it was determined that larger pieces were settled away from the center of the core and were piled higher towards the edges.

Views of the top of the reactor core were produced in each operation. Near the center there appear to be gas bubbles. Further views revealed damaged fuel assemblies and control rod guides as well as metal chips and flakes lodged or plastered to the top.

Their own conclusions were that:

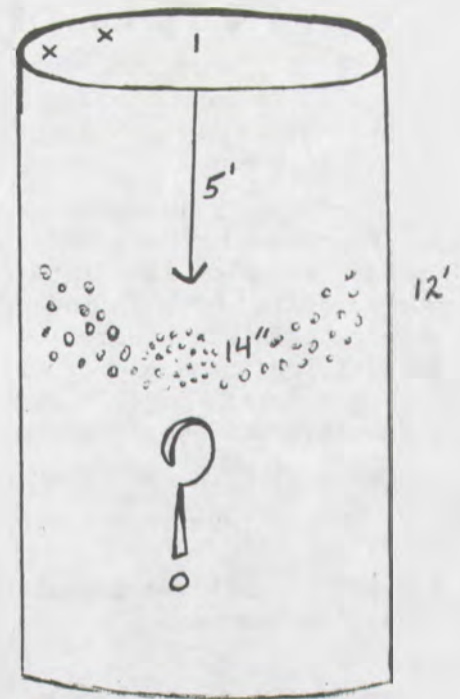
- there are segments of control rods clinging to the top;
- there is a large void in the center core region;
- there is 14" bed of loose material;
- there is partial melting of non-fuel material, but no evidence of melted fuel.

They were pleased with the results of these Quick Look operations and considered it a great success because now they have a basis for proceeding to the next step. In other words, it gives them some information which will help them to figure out how to find out more information.

GPU also reported that they were successful in removing the loose radioactive particles, but had no signs of gain in reducing the dosage of airborne radiation. They are considering the removal of radioactive equipment and materials, decontaminating these items, or installing a radiation shield between them and the workers who enter the reactor building.

In response to questions about worse case dosages in Quick Look workers, GPU reported that they were able to keep the men/rem doses close to the original estimates by reducing the man-hours because the actual fields (of radiation) were higher than anticipated.

A series of slides were shown recording the 8 $\frac{1}{2}$ ' of water that had been in the basement of the reactor building, now  $\frac{1}{2}$ - $\frac{1}{2}$ " deep sludge with high gamma radiation as a result of their removal processes. Pictures of the vessels used to ship the contaminated water were shown, and it was reported that only 10 of the 50 liners had been shipped because of the shortage of shipping casks, only 4 or 5 in the country(').





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Mayor Reed of Middletown, an advisory panel member, questioned the route used to transport the waste materials away from the plant, as the Wilson Street bridge over which it travels was recently assessed as needing \$1-2 million worth of improvements. He stressed the need to find an alternate route, possibly over the new airport bridge, by relating that a few years ago a mailman who was walking over Wilson Street bridge had his foot go through the cement bridge walkway. He further stated that in 1979 when equipment was brought in to the island, they were not allowed to use this route for safety reasons. He was told that that route had been chosen as the result of an NRC study of a few years ago, but that the problem would be explored in the near future. He was assured that overweight trucks carrying waste from TMI had received the necessary permission.

DER representatives reported that they have installed a remote chart recorder to monitor the main water leaving TMI. They will start monitoring krypton in the air as soon as they complete remodeling.

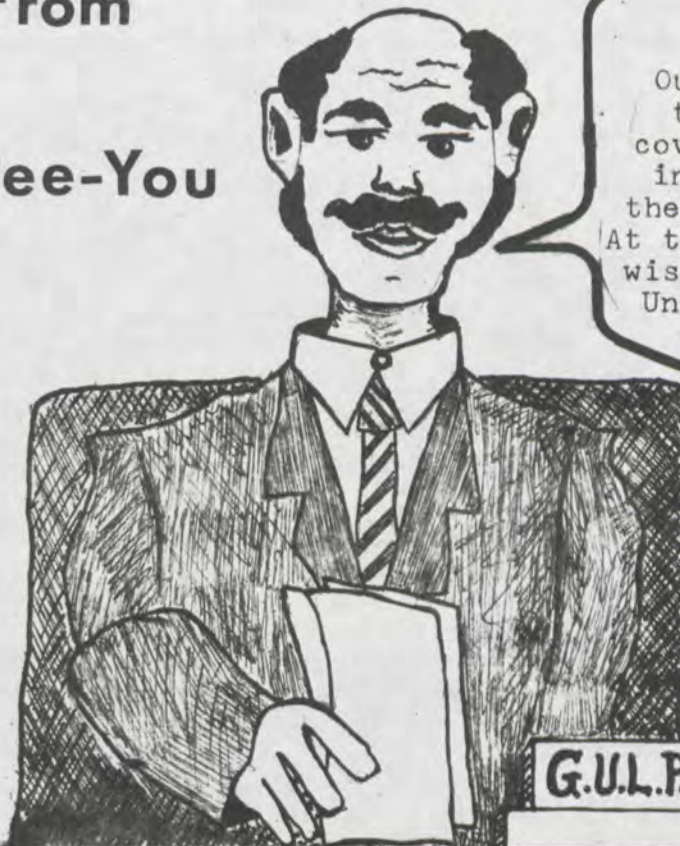
DOE representatives gave information about funds for this year and next year related to TMI clean-up and about waste water. They are asking to see if any of the water is wanted for research & development projects.

When disposition of waste water was introduced as the second item on the meeting's agenda, GPU reported that it will not present plans to the NRC until the summer of 1983. At least 27 alternatives are being considered, including evaporating it, and solidifying and burying it.

Finances play a major part in determining the speed of TMI Unit II clean-up. Estimates range from a 5-6 year clean-up if \$1.3 billion were immediately available, to 15-20 years if funding is slow. Plans to spend from \$70-100 million on clean-up over this and next year depend on industry contributions to reach the higher figure. Ratepayers and restart are assumed sources of future clean-up funds.

## To Set The Record Straight : a message from

Mr. Gee Pee-You



Our "Quick Look" technicians discovered a 5' void in the center of the Unit II core... At this point, we wish we could AVOID Unit II altogether.

G.U.L.P. Nuclear Ink.

R.G.-S/GLM



# Radiation & NUCLEAR WASTE

The atom is said to be the smallest component of chemical elements. It consists of a central nucleus encircled by electrons (negative charges). Most of the weight of the atom comes from its nucleus. The nucleus consists of protons (positive charges) and neutrons (neutral). The atom as a whole, however, is electrically neutral. The simplest atom is Hydrogen, consisting of a single electron revolving around a nucleus having one unit of positive charge. The nucleus of an atom is divisible.

Some atoms have nuclei that are unstable. An unstable nucleus will decay, which means it "spits out" nuclear particles and produces a new nucleus. The new nucleus is called a daughter nucleus, which may or may not be stable. This process is spontaneous. If the daughter nucleus is unstable, the process will continue until a stable daughter nucleus is produced. This process is called a decay or disintegration series. The half-life of an element is the amount of time it takes for  $\frac{1}{2}$  the atoms to undergo radioactive decay.

As the nucleus decays, it emits certain rays -- Alpha, Beta, and Gamma Radiation. Alpha Radiation consists of streams of Alpha particles, the most massive particles emitted by radioactive substances. External Alpha radiation can be stopped by a piece of paper, however, it can produce a burn on the skin in intense doses. If inhaled or swallowed, Alpha particles can greatly damage the body. Beta Radiation consists of streams of particles, electrons ejected from a decaying nucleus. Beta particles, much smaller than Alpha particles and with more penetrating power, can pass through a piece of paper but would be stopped by a piece of wood. They can penetrate dead outer layers of skin and cause damage to the skin tissue so that it appears to be burned. If inhaled or swallowed, they can damage internal organs. Gamma Radiation is high-energy radiation similar to x-rays which does not consist of particles. The daughter nucleus produced by Alpha or Beta emitters are often in an excited state, a high state of energy, and in order to become more stable, it can release this energy in the form of gamma rays. These rays, which must be stopped by thick concrete or lead, can easily penetrate the human body and cause cellular damage as they pass through it by transferring all or part of the energy to electrons.

It is important to understand how radiation acts on matter as it passes through it. When an energetic particle, such as an Alpha or Beta particle, moves through atoms, it interacts with the electrons in the atoms. This action may be a violent one, and an electron may be excited to a higher state of motion than it previously had. The excited electron may stay within the atom or molecule, or it might be ejected. If it is ejected, it moves on to some other site and the original atom is said to be ionized. As a charged particle moves in any medium it creates ion pairs, which cause the biological damage. Ions are unstable and highly reactive charged particles. Further, these ions can transfer energy to molecules in living tissues so that the molecules vibrate and separate to form high-energy, uncharged fragments called free radicals. These are more damaging than ions and can pull other molecules apart, causing havoc and damaging living cells.

This report was compiled by Georgianna Nyce using the following sources: Chemistry and the Living Organism by Bloomfield; Sourcebook on Atomic Energy by Glasstone; The Atomic Energy Deskbook by Hogerton; General Chemistry by Pauling; Our Nuclear Future by Teller and Latter.



There are five types of radioactive wastes produced by nuclear power plants:

1. Low-level waste products, such as discarded equipment, filtering devices, and used protective clothing which have been contaminated through exposure to radiation. The utilities are ultimately responsible for its disposal, although the NRC regulates disposal sites and procedures. Shallow burial is the method used. There have been accidental radiation releases due to pecking and shipping problems, but the Department of Energy (DOE) insists that safe technology exists for disposal. The Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) was charged in 1970 with developing safe disposal standards, but their latest estimate for completion of these standards is in 1984. Meanwhile the NRC has issued its own interim standards.

A 1980 law makes each state responsible for providing its own low-level waste disposal sites by 1986, unless it joins together with neighboring states to develop regional facilities. For example, Pennsylvania may agree to take low-level waste products from other states in exchange for a fee or for other waste disposal arrangements; Pa. is presently negotiating with neighboring states.

2. Mill tailings, residual by-products from the refinement of uranium, were not recognized as hazardous until the early 1970's. In 1978, Congress required the EPA to develop standards for controlling and stabilizing mill tailings. EPA has not acted, so once again the NRC issued its own interim standards. The NRC's authority to issue these standards is under attack by the American Mining Congress.

3. Spent fuel, used reactor fuel which may be reprocessed to recover uranium and weapons-grade plutonium, is sometimes disposed of as waste.

4. High-level waste is produced by reprocessing spent fuel. Spent fuel and high-level waste are extremely toxic and will remain so for hundreds of thousands of years. The General Accounting Office (GAO) says: "Currently, no man-made barrier can be constructed which will guarantee isolation of spent fuel for the life of its toxicity...existing disposal technology requires almost complete reliance on the geological features of the site to contain the waste" (emphasis added). In spite of this, DOE sees the principal problem as "gaining public and political acceptance..."

Transportation of these materials is a problem because of a shortage of shipping casks, railroad requirements for dedicated trains, and state and local restrictions. (See NRC Advisory Panel report in this issue.)

5. Transuranic wastes are man-made elements with half-lives of thousands of years. Commercial reactors have produced small quantities, but much more will result from reprocessing and decommissioning operations. Presently most transuranics come from weapons programs. Until 1970, transuranics were buried with low-level wastes. When they began to leach out and threaten the water table, the government required that they be disposed of in the same manner that high-level wastes are handled (whatever that may turn out to be).

The DOE, responsible for transuranic wastes from the weapons programs, will not accept any from commercial sources. The utilities store it on-site, and some utilities who would like to get out of the nuclear business cannot do so until they have gotten rid of this waste.

This only addresses nuclear waste produced by commercial power plants. The problems attributable to weapons and research programs have been mentioned only briefly, as little public information is available in this area.

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This report was compiled by Paul Lujanec from "Nuclear and Coal Waste Disposal Hampered by Legal, Regulatory, and Technical Uncertainties", GAO report EMD-82-63, May 4, 1982. GAO reports are available free from: U.S.GAO, P.O. Box 6015, Gaithersburg, MD, 20760. Ask to get on their mailing list, and you'll get a monthly catalog of new reports.

**WANT TMI
TO
STAY CLOSED?**

For three years the five men who run the NRC have been sitting on the fence about the restart of TMI-1. Now they are about to jump off. By December 10 the five NRC Commissioners will decide whether to give the license back to TMI-1. If you want TMI to stay closed, if you voted against the restart last May--then call or write

You can call the five NRC Commissioners at these numbers:

Nunzio Palladino,	
Chairman	202-634-1481
John Ahearne	202-634-3323
James Asselstine	202-634-3308
Victor Gilinsky	202-634-1461
Thomas Roberts	202-634-1459

You can write the Commissioners at this address:

U.S. Nuclear Regulatory
Commission
Washington, DC 20555

DEMONSTRATION!!

at the NRC
1717 H St. NW
Washington D.C.
DECEMBER 10th
9 a.m.

.....

KEEP ALERT for
news of local
activities on
DECEMBER 10th!

.....

There will be a
LAST RESORT
meeting on
JANUARY 9th, '83.
Contact Randy
King, 233-2207,
for details.

IF YOUR ADDRESS IS ALMOST UNREADABLE...RENEW NOW--
You're long past due... .. Those who can read their
addresses can check their renewal date below.....

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