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Three Mile Island Resources

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Date: 1990

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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

FEBRUARY
1990

315 Pepper Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

NRC Appeal Board Upholds Evaporation Ruling

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission's Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board (ASLB) has upheld the Commission's approval of GPU Nuclear's plan to evaporate 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water. The ASLB decision was made public on January 22, 1990.

TMIA and the Susquehanna Valley Alliance (SVA) have been represented by citizen intervenor Frances Skolnick of Lancaster. Frances has also filed appeals before the Third Circuit Court of Appeals and the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources Environmental Hearing Board.

Skolnick was notified on February 1 that the Third Circuit has appointed a three judge panel to review the case in mid-March. The DER hearings will be held sometime in 1990. As we go to press, GPUN has filed to dismiss the issue of psychological stress.

The evaporation is scheduled to start sometime during the month of February. The evaporator has undergone several months of testing, but has not received final NRC approval.

The 2.3 million gallons of water has been used for cleanup activities and contains strontium-90, cesium-137, and tritium. The tritium cannot be extracted and will be released into the air. The evaporation will extract the strontium and cesium and leave them in a sludge-like substance.

Frances has done a fantastic job for TMIA and SVA. Tokens of your appreciation are most appropriate. Financial contributions have been appreciated. Any written communication sent to the TMIA office will be forwarded.

Report Shows No Safe Levels of Radiation

The National Academy of Sciences (NAS) has concluded that the risks of exposure to low levels of radiation are at least four times—and in some cases up to 14 times—greater than previously acknowledged by most radiation scientists. The long awaited BEIR-V report, released in late December, confirms the view long held by dissident scientists that there is no safe dose of radiation and that the risks of radiation exposure follow a linear model. This means that the risks of contracting cancer or other health problems rises with the level of exposure, but there is no level below which risks drop off entirely.

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In 1980 the NAS' BEIR-III report had adopted a "linear quadratic" model which presumed low doses of radiation offered little to no risk. The BEIR-V report is based on more recent data about the amount of radiation released from the atomic bombs dropped on Hiroshima and Nagasaki, which was considerably less than previously believed, and on the fact that bomb survivors are developing cancers at much higher rates than projected by BEIR-III.

BEIR-V also concludes that normal background radiation poses a cancer risk up to 14 times higher than acknowledged in BEIR-III. According to the report, between 520 and 600 fatal cancers would be caused by lifetime exposure of 100,000 persons to 100 millirems annually—an average background dose. BEIR-III assumed that only 25 to 119 fatal cancers would develop.

The new study could throw a wrench into the NRC, EPA and nuclear industry's efforts to implement a "below regulatory concern" policy that would result in deregulation of some radioactive wastes and other radiation practices. The study's findings that background radiation poses a measurable risk and that there is no safe exposure level would appear to undercut the argument that some radioactive materials need no special confinement or regulatory control.

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell cited the BEIR-V report in calling for the removal of an amendment from the Clean Air Act that would forbid states and localities from establishing stricter radiation emission standards than the federal government.

Clean Air Bill Pending in Senate

It hasn't been a lack of common sense that has kept American Congress from passing clean air legislation. Most members of the U.S. House and Senate know and understand the need for legislation to reduce smog, tighten motor vehicle emissions, put an end to acid rain, slow down the "greenhouse" effect and end the dumping of toxic substances in the atmosphere. But many of them have been under pressure from big oil, the big auto companies, the chemical industry, and utilities—all of whom would experience short-term economic harm were responsible legislation signed into law.

It is difficult for members of Congress to vote for legislation that will put people in their own districts out of work, or hurt industries that are major employers in their districts. But with 80 percent of the American people telling pollsters they want a clean environment, while we can't outspend the special interests, we can out-work them and we must.

Write Senators Heinz and Specter (U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510) and tell them you support S. 1630 and want them to fight against efforts to weaken the bill.

GPU Says Last Fuel Removed from Reactor

If what the Patriot says is accurate (have they ever been wrong?) and if my mathematics and logic are where they were before the TMI accident, GPU completed the cleanup of fuel in the Unit 2 reactor and only left a ton of uranium behind! Here's what the Patriot said on Jan. 31:

Please renew your membership, then give more to support TMIA activities

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
 _____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

"About 150 tons of uranium fuel and various debris were removed during the defueling, (GPU Nuclear's Mary) Wells said. That included an estimated 99 percent of the 100 tons of uranium in the reactor at the time of the 1979 accident and partial meltdown."

If they recovered 99 percent of 100 tons, then they only missed a ton. The Patriot went on to say that Doug Bedell said the remaining uranium is in small pieces in inaccessible places and in the form of films on surfaces.

Stello Stalled

The chairman of the Senate Armed Services Committee (Sam Nunn) and its ranking Republican member (Sen. John Warner) said in a joint statement on January 31 that no further action will be taken on Victor Stello's nomination as assistant secretary of energy until the committee receives more information on the NRC's on-going probe in the Roger Fortuna matter. Fortuna is the former NRC investigator who was the target of an NRC probe approved by Stello. It is widely believed that Stello was out to get Fortuna because of this tough investigations of nuclear power plants. If approved, Stello would oversee the cleanup and operation of the nation's nuclear weapons plants.

In hearings before the Committee late last year, committee members heard from Julian Greenspun, the former deputy chief of litigation at the Justice Department who told them that Stello "lied to me" during the Justice Department's investigation of the TMI accident. According to Greenspun, Stello told him that power plant owners were not required to keep records of tests conducted on cooling pipes. Greenspun said he later learned that the records were required and were central to the Justice Department investigation.

Greenspun told the Committee: "Based on my extensive experience with the NRC, I can unequivocally state that I know of no other regulatory or investigatory agency where senior agency officials have taken as many bizarre and seemingly deliberate actions intended to hamper the investigation and prosecution of individuals and companies in the industry the agency regulates."

Rep. Sam Gejdenson (D-Conn.) whose House Interior oversight committee in 1987 sharply criticized Stello's performance on several safety issues told the Committee: "Stello was consistently on the wrong side of every issue, all the time...He stifled independent inquiry and he was such a believer that he didn't have the temperament necessary to be a watchdog of the industry."

If you'd like to add your voice to the chorus of opposition to Mr. Stello, write to Pennsylvania's senators—John Heinz and Arlen Specter—and any or all of the below-listed members of the Senate Armed Services Committee. You can write all Senators in care of the U.S. Senate, Washington, D.C. 20510.

Senate Armed Services Committee

Sam Nunn	Albert Gore
J. James Exon	Timothy E. Wirth
Carl Levin	Richard C. Shelby
Edward M. Kennedy	Robert C. Byrd
Jeff Bingaman	John Warner
Alan J. Dixon	William S. Cohen
John Glenn	Pete Wilson

NEWS NOTES NEWS NOTES NEWS NOTES NEWS NOTES NEWS NOTES

The Philadelphia Inquirer reported January 21 that two companies hired by the Energy Department as independent investigators of environmental and safety conditions at nuclear weapons plants are on the payroll at the facilities they investigated. The Department says their investigators links to the weapons industry do not compromise their objectivity as judges of environmental and safety conditions at the plants. Some outside experts disagree.

The TMIA Planning Council will meet Monday, February 19 at 7:15 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg. All members are invited to this open meeting where the following issues will be discussed:

- TMI 11th Anniversary plans;
- April 22 - Earth Day activities;
- Distribution of funds recently acquired from two foundations;
- Update on Unit 2 cleanup and evaporation of radioactive water; and,
- Citizen radiation monitoring.

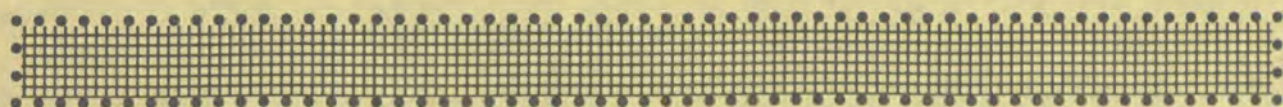
If you would like to be involved with any of these issues but cannot attend the meeting, please phone chairperson Deb Baker (566-7466) or Kay Pickering at the TMIA office (233-7897).

The Harrisburg East Mall's Spring Community Fair scheduled for March 2 and 3 is an opportunity to distribute literature on TMI and nuclear power to shoppers. We are looking for volunteers to help with the table for two hour periods between 10 a.m. and 8 p.m. Call Deb Baker (566-7466) or Kay Pickering (233-7897).

Our chairperson writes: Joyce Corradi and I recently returned from a trip to Los Angeles where we participated on the game show "3rd Degree." The purpose of the game is to guess the relationship of the contestants. We, of course, were people from the Three Mile Island area. The show gave us an avenue to express our concerns of the accident, past, present and future. We expressed the people's feelings of the impact the accident had on our lives and the need to take a closer look at the safety of operating a nuclear power plant. An additional bonus for us was bringing back \$750 in prize money which will be used to purchase monitors for the independent monitoring group operated by Debbie Davenport and myself. I will try to let you all know in the next newsletter when the show is to air, if time permits.

International Women's Day Celebration will be held on Saturday, March 3 from noon to 4 p.m. at Strawberry Square in downtown Harrisburg. Events included: unsung heroines awards ceremony; musicians and dancers; women's art display; information booths and much, much more. Sponsored by the International Women's Day Coalition, 1990, Harrisburg, PA.

Just for the fun of it... Come one, come all to the Valentine Party and Record Blast!! Wednesday, February 14, 8 p.m. to 1:30 a.m. at the Midtown Tavern, 1101 N. 2nd Street, Harrisburg. Bring your favorite record or tapes. Enter the prestigious Valentine Couples Contest. Cover charge only \$2 per person.



CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR

FEBRUARY 14	Valentine Party, 8PM Midtown Tavern, 1101 N. 2nd St. Harrisburg
FEBRUARY 19	7:15 PM, TMIA Planning Council Meeting. Open to the Membership, Harrisburg Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets. See agenda items above.
MARCH 2 & 3	East Mall Community Fair. Volunteers Needed. See "News Notes"
MARCH 3	International Women's Day. Events Noon - 4PM, Strawberry Square
MARCH 28	11th Anniversary of the beginning of the TMI accident. Details to be announced.
APRIL 22	Earth Day - Local activities scheduled for Fort Hunter Park.



• LEGISLATIVE
• REGULATORY

Alert

RADIATION ALERT!

February 1, 1990

- The U.S. Senate is taking away existing state and local rights to set clean air standards for radioactive air emissions!
- The U.S. Senate is exempting thousands of radioactive polluters from Environmental Protection Agency standards.
- The U.S. Senate is allowing higher risk levels from radiation than from any other air pollutants.

CONTACT YOUR U.S. SENATORS!

now

Capitol Switchboard Phone: 202-224-3121

The U.S. Senate Environment and Public Works Committee approved an amendment (by Senator Alan Simpson, R-WY) to the Clean Air Act Bill. The Simpson language was justified as a solution to the "problem of dual regulation" of some polluters by both the Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). The Committee was unaware that removing the EPA Clean Air Act control over NRC-licensed facilities (including nuclear reactors and uranium sites) would also remove state and local authority (existing under the Clean Air Act) and could adversely affect Superfund cleanups.

To restore state and local authority, retain EPA regulation and require radiation standards to be at least as protective as those for other "hazardous air pollutants," **THE SIMPSON LANGUAGE MUST BE COMPLETELY REMOVED** from the Clean Air Bill (S.1630). Adding express nonpreemption language (see next page) will prevent this threat from recurring in the future.

Senator John Glenn's (D-OH) proposed Clean Air Bill amendments come very close to accomplishing these goals. But more **active Senate support is urgently needed** to strengthen and combine the Glenn Amendments into one that will completely remove the Simpson language and expressly prohibit preemption.

FAST ACTION NEEDED:

The Clean Air Bill is **ON THE SENATE FLOOR NOW**, so the Glenn Amendments can come up at any time. Call on both your U.S. Senators to:

1. **VOTE FOR THE GLENN AMENDMENTS** which remove the Simpson language from, and add express nonpreemption language to, the Clean Air Bill (S.1630).
2. **SPEAK**, during the Senate floor debate, **IN FAVOR OF AMENDMENTS** that retain state, local and EPA control over radioactive pollution.
3. **COSPONSOR and STRENGTHEN THE GLENN AMENDMENTS** to assure the Simpson language is completely removed. We need active support.

Contact NIRS for more detailed information for yourself or your Senators. -->

Let's start the 1990's with a WIN in Congress--

Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell (D-ME) devoted 50% of his "Additional Views" on the Clean Air Bill to criticism of the Simpson language. He wrote, "The effect of this change is to preempt States from establishing their own standards...I do not believe that States should be barred from adopting standards that they believe are needed to protect the public health."

In response to a Preemption Alert from the **National Association of Attorneys General (NAAG)**, which has policies regarding "the need to preserve states' authority to protect their environments without the fear of federal preemption," **21 State Attorneys General (AGs)** wrote a letter to Senators Mitchell and Glenn urging removal of all the Simpson language from the Clean Air Act.

At least 2 state legislatures are scheduled to vote on resolutions to completely remove the Simpson language from the Clean Air Act and to add language that expressly prohibits preemption.

The **National Association of Towns and Townships** put out a legislative advisory and sent press releases to help alert the public, local governments and AGs to this threat to local rights. Parks Township, PA, one of NATaT's members, has successfully established and defended local radiation standards stricter than the federal government.

The National Governors' Association sent action alerts to every State Governor.

The **League of Conservation Voters (LCV)** is expected to make this vote one that affects Senators' environmental ratings. LCV publishes these records at election time.

The **National Clean Air Coalition**, consisting of at least 25 national environmental, labor, religious and public health organizations, supports removal of the Simpson language from the Clean Air Act.

Despite this groundswell of support for completely removing the Simpson language, **Senators have been painfully slow to respond. WAKE THEM UP TODAY!**

Encourage BOTH your Senators to vote, cosponsor and make supportive floor statements to remove ALL the Simpson language from the Clean Air Act. Below is language which, if added to the Clean Air Act, would expressly prohibit future attempts at preemption:

1. Delete Section 303. Senate S.1630 (p. 381, line 10 to p. 382, line 2.).
2. Substitute for Section 303. S.1630 the following:

Notwithstanding any other provision of the Clean Air Act, or of any other law, the regulation by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of toxic, radioactive or other hazardous emissions shall not affect, modify or preclude the traditional authority of any state or political subdivision thereof to adopt or enforce any requirement respecting the control of such emissions.

Isn't the Clean Air Act intended to clean the air? Simpson's language not only legalizes increased radioactivity in air but it removes existing local and state authority to protect citizens!

Now take a deep breath and call the Senators! Thanks.

FACTS ABOUT THE OWNERS AND OPERATORS OF PA'S LOW-LEVEL RADIOACTIVE WASTE SITE — CHEM NUCLEAR

- Chem-Nuclear Systems, Inc. is a wholly-owned subsidiary of Chemical Waste Management which is 81% owned by Waste Management Inc. In July of 1982, Chem-Nuclear was the object of an unfriendly take-over by Waste Management Inc. The bid for control of the company was accomplished despite a flurry of lawsuits regarding possible anti-trust violations and securities laws. Other charges stemmed from the offering of salary and compensation, by Waste Management Inc. to the Chairman of Chem-Nuclear Bruce Johnson, "vastly in excess of (his) present compensation," after takeover.
- Chem Nuclear has operated a low-level waste facility in Barnwell, South Carolina since 1969. This site has been plagued by several problems including "package degradation (cardboard and metal drums), trench cover subsidence, and water infiltration." In 1981 "radioactive tritium was detected at depths of 21 meters. Tritium has also been detected above background levels as far as 75 meters southwest of the buried waste. Another radionuclide, cobalt-60, was also found to have migrated below trenches."
- Chem Nuclear produces, markets and utilizes polyethylene high integrity containers for the disposal of classes B and C "low level" waste. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission determined (December, 1988) that these containers are not structurally stable. Apparently these "high integrity" containers "would buckle under a heavy earthen load. Further, the plastic would become brittle, a condition exacerbated by radiation. Consequently, without additional structural support, the plastic containers will fail. Thus, trench water would mix with the radioactive contents." Chem Nuclear continues to use these containers at the Barnwell site.
- Chem Nuclear's parent, Waste Management Inc. (WMI), has been convicted for "price fixing," bribery, charged with insider trading, accumulated environmental fines in excess of \$31 million through 1986, is subject to an antitrust investigation and corruption scandals, and has no environmental liability insurance for their toxic waste sites "at least 18 of which are leaking contaminants into local groundwater." In addition, WMI has been fined \$2,725,000 for price fixing in late 1987 and early 1988.
- During 1988, WMI consented to pay fines or penalties aggregating approximately \$300,000 in 16 environmental proceedings in which waste treatment, storage or disposal facilities were involved . . . WMI is involved in similar proceedings which may result in an additional \$400,000 in sanctions.
- The Environmental Protection Agency fined WMI \$4.5 million for improper operations at its SE Chicago incinerator. The fine included: \$2.25 million for allegedly letting PCB waste migrate into an adjacent low-income black community; \$525,000 for burning PCBs when scrubbers weren't working; and, \$250,000 for failing to stop to burn PCBs when stack monitors failed. The remainder of the fine (\$1.17 million) was for improper record keeping.

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

MAY
1990

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

Monitoring Network Now has 32 Readers

by Deb Baker

The Three Mile Island Citizen's Monitoring Network is going strong with its 32 readers. We are in the process of obtaining monitors for all readers.

Thank you to TMIA for providing the network with five monitors and to Susquehanna Valley Alliance for providing the network with one monitor. Each monitor is of major importance because it provides data for a specific quadrant around TMI.

Beware of the newspaper accounts of emissions reported on a monthly basis. Per GPU spokesperson Gordon Tomb in an April 23 phone conversation, those totals only reflect the Reuter-Stokes Sentri System information which only measures Gamma (not Beta) radiation. Most of the noble gasses emitted from nuclear facilities emit Beta along with Gamma. Our Radalert monitors measure both and we reflect totals two times higher than what GPU reports.

The response from our elected officials who receive our reports: they wish to continue receiving this information as they are concerned with the operation of TMI and this gives them an additional avenue in which to monitor the utility.

We are always looking for additional readers. The reader is the backbone of the monitoring network and without them we would fail. If you wish to take an active part in monitoring, contact Deb Baker at 566-7466. Each reader will remain confidential to ensure their privacy.

Soviet & US Environmentalists Meet at Earth Day Conference

On April 19, Eric Epstein participated in a Soviet-American Earth Day conference sponsored by Keystone Junior College and ECOLOGIA in La Plume, Pa. The theme of the conference, "Linking Local Problems with Global Solutions," featured the following workshops: environmental problems and grassroots politics; Soviet and American environmental law; Soviet-American joint business ventures; and Chernobyl and Three Mile Island: Comparing Official and Public Response. Representatives were on hand from citizens' environmental groups from Estonia, Moldavia, Lithuania and the Ukraine. The workshop on TMI and Chernobyl featured Epstein, Tom Gerusky of DER's Bureau of Radiation Protection, and Jonas Tamulis, a member of Lithuanian's Parliament.

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GPU Shareholders Meet in Johnstown

On May 3, General Public Utilities (GPU) chief operating officer Stanley Hoch announced that the utility was one of the top 15 investor-owned utilities in America at GPU's annual shareholders meeting in Johnstown, Pa.

Hoch boasted of a dividend increase of 18% over the last year and an increase in return of equity from 7.4% in 1985 to its present rate of 13.8%. He also noted that GPU's stock was selling at a near record high of 42 3/4 as of May 2. In addition, GPU was able to retain \$1320 million in capital last year to be devoted to new projects.

TMIA representative Eric Epstein pressured Hoch to disclose in what businesses GPU's new holding company, General Portfolio Corporation (GPC), was investing. Hoch was evasive, but finally explained that GPC's subsidiary, Energy Initiatives, Inc. (EII), is primarily involved in investing in cogenerating plants outside GPU's traditional rate base, i.e. three cogenerating plants in California and one in New Jersey. Through December 31, 1989, GPU has invested \$25 million in EII and GPC and is currently seeking SEC approval to invest an additional \$60 million.

Epstein also pressured Hoch to disclose GPU's plan to finance decommissioning at TMI. Hoch provided no assurances that GPU will have the ability to finance decommissioning and added that GPU has no plans to conduct decommissioning research. Although Hoch had earlier commented that the, "Cleanup program was essentially finished," he later modified his statement to "the defueling process is now complete." It is interesting to note that GPU has money on hand to speculate in new investments, yet is reluctant to devote any additional resources to the decommissioning fund.

Stello Withdraws as Nominee for Weapons Program Post

As though a fresh wind blew a dark cloud from the skies, Victor Stello, Jr. withdrew his name from consideration as President Bush's nominee to head the Dept. of Energy's nuclear weapons program. Within weeks, DoE Secretary James D. Watkins has ordered the release of thousands of pages of documents which showed most of the allegations anti-nuclear activists had made over the years concerning the operations of the nuclear plants was valid, including news of off-site irradiation. Suddenly, sunshine at DoE.

Stello was opposed by many environmental groups because of his penchant for secrecy and cover-up. Central Pennsylvanians will long remember Stello for lying to the Justice Department during its investigation of the TMI accident.

62 Pounds of Plutonium (enough for 7 bombs) Lost at Rocky Flats

Seven nuclear bombs' worth of plutonium escaped into air ducts at the Rocky Flats nuclear weapons plant in Colorado during the 30 years the plant has been in operation. "This is a very substantial quantity of plutonium that was simply not accounted for," said Dan Reicher of the National Resources Defense Council. That such a quantity could be found without the government's knowing it was missing casts doubt on the government's system of keeping track of the material. Plutonium is so toxic it is usually accounted for in quantities expressed in grams or thousandths of a kilogram.

Please renew your membership, then give more to support TMIA activities

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
 _____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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TMIA Helps Derail INPO Training Program

A three-judge federal appeals panel ordered the NRC to establish training requirements for nuclear plant operators. The order came as a result of a lawsuit filed by Public Citizen, TMIA and six other safe energy groups which argued that Congress had required the NRC to set up training requirements.

Instead, in 1985, the NRC issued a policy statement that encouraged utilities to set up training programs. In practice, all operator training programs are established and certified by the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), an industry trade group. The NRC welcomed this arrangement as part of the general deregulation approach it has adopted in recent years.

The appeals court, however, accepted TMIA's contention that Congress had intended that the NRC itself establish and enforce specific training requirements. The NRC has not yet decided if it will appeal the decision.

Landmark TMI Studies Coming to a Close

The February, 1990 issue of the Audubon Science Quarterly reports that the "behind-the-scenes scientific studies" about the TMI accident are "quietly coming to a close," including the one on which Jan Beyea, the National Audubon Society's Senior Staff Scientist, worked. Beyea has served as Principal Investigator of the Dosimetry Research Program and consultant to the Epidemiology Study for the TMI Public Health Fund. Anyone wishing to receive a copy of the final TMI report should write to Beyea in care of the National Audubon Society, 950 Third Avenue, New York, NY 10022.

The Epidemiology Study, done in collaboration with the Epidemiology Department of Columbia University, has been a detailed analysis of the possible links between doses of radiation and the occurrence of cancer at Three Mile Island. "This study is the most sophisticated ever done for an energy facility," Dr. Beyea asserts.

The primary objective of the Dosimetry Project was to review all published data on TMI and to obtain the best possible estimation of the amounts of radiation delivered to the population. Of interest were the noble gas doses delivered to the "whole body," ingested radioiodine, and long-lived radio-nuclides, such as radiocesium or radiostrontium. All possible retainers of radiation signals from the accident, including vegetation, red blood cells, bricks or tiles, and enamel or porcelain in people's teeth, have been considered as sources of information.

With the admitted possibility that non-radioactive yet harmful chemicals may have also been released, the abnormal taste and smell sensations reported by people at the accident site have been investigated. And other studies continue: Streams and other waterways that may have transported released radioiodine are being sampled, as are deer tongues. Of particular importance has been validation of the Epidemiology Study computer models tracking the paths cut by the radiation plumes and the development of complex models for air pollution exposures.

Recycle Your Household Batteries at Rutter's Farm Stores

Instead of putting their heavy metals into the waste stream (i.e. Mt. Ashmore) you can recycle your household batteries in special containers in the Rutter's Farm Stores in York County. The batteries collected are sent to a battery recycler who recovers a portion of the metals and discards the remainder in a hazardous waste landfill. For more information, contact Mary Jane Rodkey, Recycling Coordinator for the York Co. Solid Waste Authority (717)845-1066.

Penn State Professor Authors Work on Citizen Mobilization around TMI

Edward J. Walsh, an associate professor of Sociology at Penn State, has authored a book titled "Democracy in the Shadows: Citizen Mobilization in the Wake of the Accident at

Three Mile Island." The 241-page book covers the political struggle surrounding the TMI accident. Walsh documents the dynamics of the conflict between local communities and the national nuclear elites in the wake of the accidents. The book examines how the citizens made their voices heard, particularly in the effort to block the restart of Unit 1. The publisher says: "*Democracy in the Shadows* is indispensable for students of sociology and political science, as well as community activists and others with significant interest in nuclear power issues." The book may be ordered from Greenwood Press, 88 Post Road West, PO Box 5007, Westport, CT 06881 at \$39.95 and \$2.00 shipping. The ISBN code is 0-313-26063-X. A discount may be possible if ordered through the TMIA office. Call Kay at 233-7897.

TMIA Had Earth Day Role

TMIA was one of 30 organizations participating in the April 22 Earth Day celebration at Fort Hunter. Hundreds of interested people took literature, asked questions, and purchased tee-shirts, buttons and posters. Thanks to Vera Stuchinski, Phil and Cheri Friedrich, Eric Epstein and Kay Pickering for staffing the TMIA booth.

"Everyday is Earth Day for Nuclear Power"

The words above appeared in ads placed by the U.S. Council for Energy Awareness (that patriotic sounding front for the nuclear industry) in Newsweek and the New York Times in April. Combining those words with claims that nuclear energy will fight global warming and stories about how wildlife is flourishing near various nuclear reactors, the Council is trying to sell Americans on the myth that nuclear power is good for the environment.

Something the nuclear industry won't tout is a report released last year that California's San Onofre nuclear power plant's intake system kills at least 20 tons of fish each year, that 13 species of snails and populations of sea urchin were reduced by 30 to 90 percent below the levels that would have occurred had the plant not been operating. The report also showed that fish living near the bottom of the area's kelp beds have been reduced by about 70 percent.

Other information you won't find in the Council's ads include:

- As of November, 1989, the Dept. of Energy estimated that nuclear power plants had generated 19,600 tons of highly radioactive wastes;
- By the year 2000, an estimated 40,200 tons of highly radioactive wastes will require permanent storage;
- There's still no proven safe method for storing these wastes;
- The nuclear industry is pushing to deregulate up to 30 percent of low-level radioactive wastes from power plants to allow it to be burned in incinerators buried in municipal landfills, flushed into rivers or recycled into consumer goods;
- The National Academy of Science concluded in 1989 that low-dose radioactive exposures will cause three to four times more fatal cancers and leukemias than previously thought, and that exposure to radioactivity of any level and duration is potentially harmful; or,
- That the French Atomic Energy Commission reported in June, 1988: "With approximately 500 nuclear reactors in operation in the world today, it is reasonable to expect a core meltdown once every five years and a major accident (on the order of Chernobyl and TMI) every ten years."

New Explosion Threat Identified at N-Plants

A federal study says some tanks that store atomic wastes at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington could explode and spew radiation into the air because hydrogen gas is building inside them. A Department of Energy official in announcing the study said the Department did not believe an explosion is likely, but added: "I can't sit here and say it's not going to happen."

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TMIA 1989 Financial Report

Beginning Balance, December 31, 1988	\$2,613.99
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1989 Receipts

Contributions	\$3,278.68
Special events (less cost of event)	344.86
Sales to the public (less cost of goods)	1,060.53
Membership & dues	2,999.60
Other, including interest	<u>155.67</u>
	7,839.34

Net Proceeds Available	\$10,453.33
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1989 Expenses

Literature, newsletter postage and printing	4,180.96
Telephone	1,418.08
Rent	720.00
Fundraising costs	<u>323.24</u>
Total Expenses	\$6,642.28

December 31, 1989 Ending Balance	\$3,811.05
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.....

The tank, one of Hanford's 20 new double-walled storage tanks, holds a million gallons of radioactive waste. The waste level has risen and fallen by up to 33 inches because of the buildup of hydrogen. All transfers of waste into or out of the tank have been stopped, and care is taken to avoid generating heat or sparks nearby.

New York Times Offers "How to" for Reporters Covering Nuclear Accidents

The Times has an ad that reads: "If you're sent out to cover a minor nuclear accident or a major nuclear accident like Three Mile Island, you risk exposure to radiation. Are you prepared to do your job as safely and efficiently as possible? Radiation is invisible, but it's easily detected. And with preparation, radiation exposure and the risk to health can be reduced."

The price of the tape, "Covering a Radiation Accident," is \$249. There's a 10% discount if you buy two or more copies. To order call 1-800-972-3550. Ask for Joe Sokoloski.

Nuclear Workers Absorb Record Exposure - Peach Bottom Among Worst

There were 105,265 recorded instances of worker exposure to measurable amounts of radiation at the nation's 107 commercial nuclear reactors in 1988, the most recent year for which there is complete data. This is the highest number of incidents of worker exposure ever recorded by the U.S. commercial nuclear power industry.

These workers were exposed to a total of 41,077 person-rem of radiation, the equivalent of more than two million chest x-rays, with each exposed worker receiving an average radiation dose of 0.390 person-rem, roughly equivalent to 20 chest x-rays.

These are among the key findings of a new study, **Glowing on the Job: Worker Exposure to Radiation at Nuclear Power Plants**, issued April 10 by Public Citizen and 35 citizen groups around the country. The study is based on documents obtained from the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"While the precise, long-term health impacts of this exposure are uncertain, any level of radiation exposure is potentially harmful," charged Joan Claybrook, President of Public

Citizen. "Thus, the exposure of tens of thousands of nuclear power plant workers to radiation every year represents one of the on-going, but hidden, costs of nuclear power."

Public Citizen also noted that, during 1988, 100 of the nation's 107 commercial nuclear power reactors exposed individual workers to radiation doses of at least 1.00 person-rem (an annual exposure equal to about 50 chest x-rays and approximately three times the average annual radiation dose received by each person in the U.S. from all sources). In total, there were 12,584 instances in which individual workers received radiation doses of at least 1.00 person-rem.

Further, the total amount of radiation released from all reactors and the radiation dose per exposed worker had both increased from 1987 levels.

Among the five worst reactors in the country during 1988 were GPU's Oyster Creek plant in the #1 position. Numbers 3 and 4 were Peach Bottom units 2 and 3 respectively.

TMIA Postcards Available

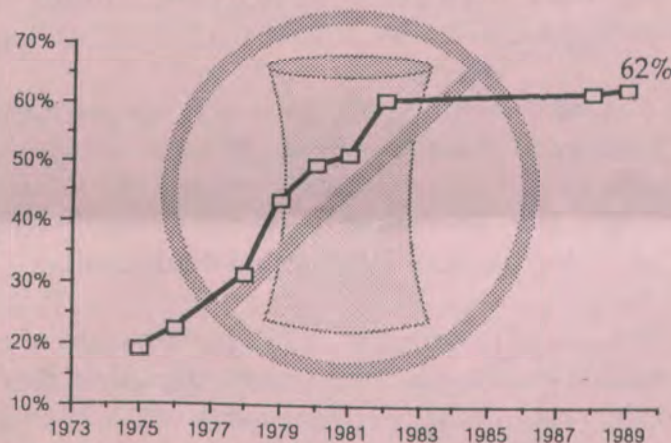
TMIA has printed Michael Lomma's photograph of two TMI cooling towers with tombstones in the foreground on postcard stock. The opposite side is blank and just perfect for sending short messages and meeting notices. Postcards are 25 cents each or five for a dollar. Send your money to TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

50+ Commemorate 11th Anniversary

More than 50 people attended the March 28th commemorative dinner at the Friends Meetinghouse marking the eleventh anniversary of the beginning of the TMI accident. Alan Hetrick of Warm Springs Lodge supplied home-made breads and salads for the pot-luck meal.

Nuclear Power Opposition Continues to Rise

Over the past 14 years, public opinion against more nuclear power has risen with every new survey, reaching an all-time high of 62 percent in 1989.



Sources: Louis Harris Polls, Research/Strategy/Management

© Safe Energy Communication Council

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

JULY
1990

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102 TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

NRC Deregulates Some Nuclear Wastes

As predicted in the December 1989 Alert, the NRC has adopted a policy to treat certain nuclear wastes as "Below Regulatory Concern (BRC)." This means radioactive wastes will be treated like ordinary household garbage and soon show up in garbage incinerators and landfills. The vote on the policy was 4 1/2 to 1/2, with Commissioner James Curtiss supporting the outlines of the policy, but dissenting from many of the specifics.

According to *The Nuclear Monitor*, the announcement of the policy on June 27 was met with a firestorm of criticism. Citizens groups in many cities held press conferences and demonstrations, with some dumping garbage at local utility offices. The U.S. Public Interest Research Group characterized the deregulation as an attempt at "linguistic detoxification"—the government takes pollution and declares it clean, even though it is not.

The policy's only justification seems to be to save the nuclear industry money. Four states (Pennsylvania's legislation is pending, see below) and more than 50 local jurisdictions already prohibit the unregulated disposal, radioactive wastes within their borders. While the National Academy of Science recently concluded that radiation is far more dangerous than the government had ever previously admitted and that there are no "safe" levels of radiation, the NRC seems once again ready to sacrifice the public health to advance the interests of the nuclear industry.

State Senate Action Needed to Ban "BRC" and Establish Waste Facility

by Eric Epstein

Last summer the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources (DER) selected Chem Nuclear to operate the Appalachian Compact's low-level radioactive waste facility (U.S. Ecology was the only other corporation to bid on the project). Pennsylvania had earlier agreed to be the host state.

However, Chem Nuke has not signed a contract with Pennsylvania due to the legislature's delay in approving House Bill 1743, a bill which provides \$30 million for the site-selection process and also includes language which would empower Pennsylvania counties and municipalities to bar the disposal of Below Regulatory Concern radioactive wastes in landfills, incinerators or at recycling facilities. --continued on next page--

See the enclosed flyers for information about this year's Hiroshima-Nagasaki Day Observance and for information about TMIA's August 26 Picnic at Camp Reilly

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IS REQUESTED

Three Mile Island Alert

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Chem Nuke's signing of the contract is contingent on the passage of HB 1743 which has already passed the House and is awaiting action by the Senate. Due to legislative and procedural impediments, the Appalachian Compact's facility will not be on line until at least 1996.

On April 30, 1990, representatives from the Compact's states (Delaware, Maryland, Pennsylvania and West Virginia) met for the first time as the Waste Compact Commission. Two demonstrators from Three Mile Island Alert attended the meeting and unfurled a banner which read: "Chem Nuke Is A Criminal." During the question and answer period, TMIA again requested that DER Secretary Arthur Davis disqualify Chem Nuke as the site operator based on Chem Nuke's, and their parents' (Waste Management) abysmal environmental record. Once again, DER's counsel maintained that after "extensively" evaluating Chem Nuke's and WMI's "compliance history" there was "no basis to disqualify" Chem Nuclear.

"Final" Testing Underway on Evaporation Unit

Saying the actual evaporation of 2.3 million gallons of radioactive water could start in August if tests are successful, GPU announced it was conducting the "final" tests of its evaporation equipment in early July. GPU says all the radioactive elements except for radioactive tritium have already been processed out of GPU's final solution.

TMIA has waged a four-year battle to block the evaporation of the radioactive wastes and continues to oppose the unproven technology. By releasing radioactive steam into the atmosphere, GPU is conducting what TMIA Chairperson Debbie Baker has characterized as a "massive nuclear experiment with unforeseen health consequences." Baker explains TMIA members remain unconvinced as to the safety of the process and hold serious concerns about the potential adverse health effects.

Health Records on Nuclear Workers Finally Opened to Researchers

In what can only be described as a major victory for those concerned about the effects of radiation on health, the U.S. Department of Energy has finally agreed to release the health records of more than 200,000 nuclear workers to scientists with the Three Mile Island Public Health Fund. The fund—which first requested the data in 1986—was formed to study the effects of radioactivity after the TMI accident.

U.S. Senator John Glenn (D-Ohio) had also repeatedly sought the record since 1980. "You name the excuse and we heard it through the years," Sen. Glenn told The New York Times. "First they couldn't find it. They they said they couldn't release it. Then our request wasn't proper. It's been a long push. But the release of all this data will finally let the researchers outside of the Energy Department to start assessing whether workers and the public were hurt by radiation hazards."

Records from workers at the weapons plants at Hanford and Richland Washington; Los Alamos; Savannah River, South Carolina; Fernald and Miamisburg, Ohio; and Amarillo, Texas will be released to Dr. Alice Stewart, an epidemiologist from Birmingham (England) University who is the TMI Health Fund's principal investigator.

Please renew your membership, then give more to support TMIA activities

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
 _____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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Dr. Stewart and two other researchers were once dismissed by the Energy Department after a study of data on employees at the Hanford nuclear reservation in Washington showed that plant radiation was causing unusual numbers of pancreatic, lung and bone marrow cancers among workers. The finding, announced to the Government in 1976, led to Dr. Stewart's dismissal and began the struggle between the Department of Energy, Congress, and independent scientists on access to the data. In appearances before Congress Dr. Stewart has argued that by keeping the records secret, the Government was seeking to prevent disclosure of the hazards of its atomic weapons plants.

New Button, Bumper Stickers, T-Shirts Available

Buttons proclaiming TMI's legacy, **TMI Contaminated Forever**, are now available at the TMIA office for just 50¢ each. In addition, the office now has bumper stickers at \$1.00 and a new stock of the ever popular **They Lie** t-shirts at a mere \$8.00 each. They are perfect for summer birthday gifts or belated June anniversary presents.

TMIA Secures Education Grant

National Community funds has awarded a grant of \$2,000 to TMIA to be used for general support for educational activities. News of the award reached the TMIA office in mid-June and, after the completion of some necessary paperwork, the funding is expected sometime in mid-summer.

Volunteer Acid Rain Monitors Sought

The Alliance for Acid Rain Monitoring (ALLARM), a group of citizens united by their concern about acid rain, has formed a group to provide education on the issue and to document the effects of acid precipitation in the Commonwealth by monitoring the acidity of streams.

Acid rain is formed as the result of a chemical reaction that occurs when water in the air reacts with air pollutants sulfur dioxide and nitrogen oxide. These pollutants result mainly from coal-fired power plants and automobiles, causing precipitation to be more acidic than normal.

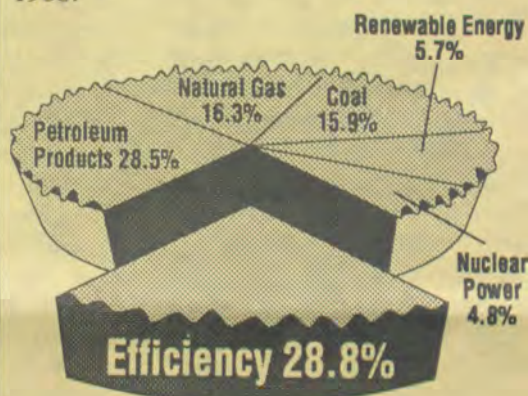
ALLARM volunteers weekly monitor a stream or lake in a location convenient to them. The monitoring consists of measuring the pH and alkalinity and sending the results to ALLARM for interpretation and analysis. The weekly tests only take 10 or 15 minutes and volunteers are asked to commit to test a stream for a full year. For a tax-deductible donation of \$20, volunteers receive a test kit, a newsletter subscription, and invitations to periodic workshops. Scholarships are available for those not able to afford the \$20 contribution. For more information about ALLARM, contact Dr. Cindie Wilderman, Dickinson College, Carlisle, PA 17013 or call 717/245-1573 or 717/245-13555.

CALENDAR

- | | |
|------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| August 4-9 | Arts for Peace Exhibit at Strawberry Square |
| August 5 | 2PM, YWCA Peace Site, "Peace: A Legacy for Children" |
| August 9 | 7:30PM Candles on the Water - meet at Market Square
Presbyterian Church, processional to river |
| August 26 | TMIA Picnic at Camp Reily - Noon until dark |
| Sept. 11 | 7PM - Earth Day Planning Meeting, Friends Meeting House,
6th & Herr Streets. Pa. Rain Forest Action Committee is
planning the 1991 celebration |

Energy Efficiency

Savings through energy efficiency and energy conservation provided more than a quarter of U.S. energy services in 1988.*



* latest figures available

Sources: Department of Energy, Energy Information Administration, Solar Energy Research Institute

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VIEWPOINT

A Forum on Energy and Environmental Issues

Energy Efficiency: Good News From New England

By ARMOND COHEN

Among the environmental issues of the 1990s, energy - especially electricity - is sure to be the biggest.

America's fossil fuel plants produce about two-thirds of our acid rain and one-third of smog-causing chemicals and carbon dioxide (the leading culprit in global warming). Nuclear power plants produce a prodigious amount of radioactive waste. Few Americans welcome power plants or transmission lines in their backyards.

When generated from these sources, electricity is dirty energy. Yet current utility projections suggest that we will need a lot more of it over the next two decades. They say we need to build many more power plants.

By using electricity more efficiently, we can create a different scenario. Several New England power companies have set out to do just that with the help of the Conservation Law Foundation of New England (CLF) and other consumer and environmental advocates.

This change is due in part to recent efficiency breakthroughs in high energy-use technologies - motors, lights, cooling equipment and building construction methods - that use much less electricity than, but perform the same as, current models. For example, a compact fluorescent light bulb that fits into a conventional light socket can provide the same quality of light with one-fourth the energy of a conventional bulb.

Together, these technologies could cut U.S. power demand by 50 percent. Saving energy this way could cost one-half to one-third less than generating it from new power plants.

Utility investment in energy efficiency is a simple idea with logical

applications. But key questions arise:

If efficiency is so great, why aren't people already buying high-efficiency lights and motors?

First, these technologies are new and unfamiliar. In addition, many cash-poor businesses and financially strapped homeowners are reluctant to buy these items today - even when it is proven they actually can save money after one or two years.

In New England, the utilities are footing the bill. That's because under the law, a utility and its customers would have to pay for expensive new energy supplies to power inefficient lights and motors. Therefore, it's in everyone's best interest for the utilities to install and pay for more efficient lights and motors that "produce" energy (through savings) more cheaply than producing energy from a new power plant.

Since utilities traditionally have made money by selling more, not less, electricity, New England's power companies initially resisted this approach. But after much public debate and litigation, the utilities sat down with the CLF and other consumer and environmental advocates to design the programs to meet this challenge.

Now, 12 New England utilities are fielding aggressive programs to retrofit houses, mills and offices with high-efficiency lighting, reflective windows, energy-wise motors and other equipment. The utilities also are investing millions of dollars in new buildings to make them 25 to 30 percent more electrically efficient than state codes require. The companies will spend 2 to 5 percent of their 1990 income on these efficiency programs, with more to come in future years.

What about the power companies' bottom line? That, too, is in-

cluded in the New England program. Recent rulings in Massachusetts and Rhode Island allow the utilities to earn slightly more profit on their energy efficiency investment than on power plants, even as their sales decline from less power use. Many utilities now see that making their customers efficient is the best way to become financially strong and economically competitive.

Under the New England program, everyone wins - utility ratepayers, shareholders, local communities, the environment.

Why aren't similar programs under way everywhere in the United States?

Good question.

Armond Cohen is a senior attorney with the Conservation Law Foundation of New England, a Boston-based environmental law group representing members throughout New England.

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Letters should be addressed to **VIEWPOINT**, c/o SECC, 1717 Massachusetts Ave., NW, Suite LL-215, Washington, D.C. 20036

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please join us...

11 Years After the accident for a **TMIA Summer Picnic** and... **SPLASH Party**

Fun, food, frolic and friends at the annual Camp Reily picnic.

Date: Sunday, August 26 (Rain or Shine)

Time: Noon until...

Come early & get in the pool!

Place: Camp Reily

Go north on Front Street past Fort Hunter (or 322 West until you reach Rt. 443), then turn right onto Rt. 443 east. Go less than 2 miles. The road to Camp Reily will be on your left.

Live Music: Jam Session after dinner -
Bring musical instruments*

NEW

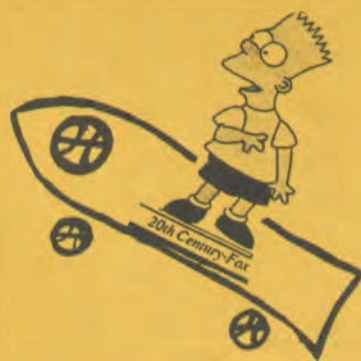
T-SHIRTS - &
BUTTONS -
& BUMPER STICKERS

AVAILABLE

Donation: \$5 per adult
\$2 per child

Activities Include:

Swimming 1:00 - til- 7:00
Land and pool volley ball
Greased watermelon contest
Rockin' & Rollin'
Much, much, much, much more!!!



Bring food to share for the big potluck dinner at 5 PM.
Beverages provided.

* Bring your favorite NO-NUKE SONGS +

JOIN Two imaginary BANDS forming: "WITHIN THE RADIUS"

&
THE "GIVE US A BREAK
NOT A LEAK" BANG



The Harrisburg-Hiroshima-Nagasaki Committee & The Interreligious Forum present

Peace:



A legacy
for our children

AUG. 4-9, 1990

10 AM - 6 PM
DAILY, EXCEPT SUN.

GALLERY 110, STRAWBERRY SQ., HARRISBURG

* **PEACE ART** - AN EXHIBIT OF WORKS BY INTERNATIONALLY KNOWN CERAMICIST, KITA, AND THOSE OF AREA ARTISTS AND POETS

AUG. 5, 1990

2 PM TO 5 PM
YWCA PEACE SITE

MARKET AND COURT STREETS, HARRISBURG.

* **MILE ZERO** - A DOCUMENTARY. THE STORY OF FOUR CANADIAN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WHO ORGANIZED A CROSS-COUNTRY SPEAKING TOUR TO PROMOTE NUCLEAR DISARMAMENT. THEY SPOKE TO 120,000 STUDENTS COAST-TO-COAST. A PASSIONATE STORY THAT CAN INSPIRE PEOPLE OF ALL AGES.

* **POETS OF THE PAPER SWORD** A LOCAL LITERARY GROUP WILL READ THEIR WORKS. - REFRESHMENTS -

AUG. 9, 1990

(NAGASAKI DAY) 7:30 PM
FELLOWSHIP HALL.

MARKET SQUARE PRESBYTERIAN CHURCH, HARRISBURG.

* **CANDLES ON THE WATER** - LETTERS TO THE FUTURE INTERFAITH WORSHIP AND REFLECTION WITH AREA CLERGY PARTICIPATING. LIGHTED LANTERN BOATS WILL BE FLOATED ON THE SUSQUEHANNA RIVER IN THE TRADITIONAL JAPANESE SERVICE FOR THE DEAD.

THE PUBLIC IS ENCOURAGED TO ATTEND!

• FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CALL: 763-9552 OR 232-7816 •

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

October
1990

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

TMI, NCI Studies Give Industry Clean Bill of Health; Or Do They?

Adapted from The Nuclear Monitor

Two major studies of health effects around nuclear power installations were introduced in September and both seemingly support the nuclear industry's position that operations—both routine and non-routine—pose no danger to nearby residents.

But both studies quickly came under attack from environmentalists for methodological shortcomings and, in reading the fine print, neither study can in any way be called conclusive. Indeed, both studies are likely to add further fuel to the debate over health effects, especially cancers, caused by nuclear plants, rather than serving as definitive pronouncements.

The biggest study was clearly that of the National Institute of Health's National Cancer Institute (NCI), which for the past two years has been studying cancer deaths in 107 counties containing or near nuclear power and weapons facilities. The study, released September 19, found "no increased risk of death from cancer for people living" in those counties.

The study provided some reassurance for the nuclear industry which was hurt by the BEIR-V report, which found higher risks than previously believed for low-levels of radiation, and the study from around England's Sellafield reprocessing plant, which found high risks of leukemia for children whose fathers worked at the plant.

The Physicians for Social Responsibility said the NCI study "raises more questions than it answers" about nuclear facilities and cancers. Greenpeace called the study a "fraud." And it was the methods which raised the most questions about the study.

For example, it is generally recognized that cancer *incidence* rather than cancer mortality is a more appropriate benchmark for measuring the health effects of radiation exposure (in many cases, given the long latency periods, death could be years away). Further, the study did not differentiate for "pockets" of cancer mortality. It treated areas upwind from nuclear facilities the same as those downwind, where higher than average exposure to radiation is more likely. In addition, they didn't allow (as anyone who has ever used a five-year-old mailing list knows) for the transient nature of the American population. Anyone who moved away a week before the study wasn't included; while anyone who moved in a week before the study was given the same statistical weight as someone who lived next to a nuclear plant since birth.

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In short, environmentalists found ample reason to criticize the study while supporters, including an ad hoc advisory committee to NCI, were reduced to acknowledging that the study only pointed out several areas where further research is needed.

Another study released early in September purported to find that no excess cancers resulted from the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island. The study's authors were forced to admit that the existing data were largely inconclusive and the study was refused publication in the prestigious New England Journal of Medicine precisely because of its inconclusive nature.

While the TMI study measured cancer incidence, the authors acknowledged that too little time has gone by (11 1/2 years) to measure incidence of most cancers which could be related to radiation. The study's peer reviewer, British radiation expert Colin Muirhead, was noticeably unenthusiastic about the study, noting that it lacked "statistical power," and thus unsurprisingly failed to yield conclusive results. He called for more methodologically-sound studies.

The nuclear industry is expected to use the studies—despite their dubious nature—as a call for the expansion of nuclear power. In this regard, it is noteworthy that nuclear industry associations were faxing press releases about the NCI study on the afternoon of September 14, at the same time the first NCI releases about the study were going out. This indicates the industry had prior knowledge of the study's findings—a fact that in itself causes great concern over the NCI study's objectivity. Complaints were also raised about GPU's being allowed to review the TMI study before its publication in the American Journal of Epidemiology.

The two studies may ultimately provide some valuable baseline data to which future studies can be compared. But they fall far short of reliable scientific information from which conclusions about the safety of nuclear power can be measured.

TMIA Joins Suit to Block "Below Regulatory Concern" Policy

TMIA was among 29 organizations filing suit in Washington asking the U.S. Court of Appeals to set aside the NRC's policy known as "Below Regulatory Concern," BRC. The policy allows that low-level radioactive waste be dumped into local landfills, flushed into sewer systems, incinerated, or recycled into other products without scrutiny from the nuclear agency. The NRC says the policy poses a minuscule public health risk. Pennsylvania, which has a law banning such unrestricted disposal of nuclear waste, may, like the state of Maine, become a plaintiff in the lawsuit.

TMIA Voices Concern Over BRC

by Debbie Baker

A meeting was held September 18 at King of Prussia for citizens to voice their concerns on the NRC's BRC policy. Debbie Baker attended and submitted TMIA's letter opposing the BRC policy, expressing our position that just because some nuclear waste is considered low-level doesn't necessarily mean it is not harmful. There is a general consensus in the nuclear field that there is not enough evidence regarding health risks from low-level exposure. The general attitude is since there is no proof, let's just keep on dumping.

Please renew your membership, then give more to support TMIA activities

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____ **ZIP** _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes).

Membership: ☐ \$15 Regular Members ☐ \$50 Sustaining Membership
☐ \$25 Non-Profit Organization ☐ \$100 Patron
☐ \$5 Low Income/Student ☐ \$200 Club Member
☐ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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TMIA's letter noted that the NRC's proposed BRC limit would exceed the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's standards by a factor of 25. This is an outrage. We cited data from the International Commission on Radiological Protection (ICRP) and the National Academy of sciences "BEIR-V" report which concluded that 500-600 of every 100,000 Americans die due to routine exposures to background radiation.

We would like to see the NRC reverse itself, withdraw the BRC policy and act in a responsible manner. Only then will they start to adhere to their mandate of protecting the public's health and safety.

There were many groups there from Washington, Pennsylvania, New York and Maine. Many people came forth to express their concerns on the BRC policy. We can only hope the NRC listens to the thousands of people who oppose their policy.

The Monitoring Report

by Debbie Baker

The Three Mile Island Citizen's Monitoring Network (TMI-CMN) is going strong. In the last three months we have picked up numerous alarms on the two monitors closest to the plant (Goldsboro and Middletown). These spikes have lasted one minute each and were three times higher than background radiation, some were four times background.

I contacted GPU on September 28 to express my concerns regarding the spikes. They were going to look into our alarms and get back to us. It is interesting that on September 29 GPU reduced power to 50% to correct a leak in one of their condensers which has been leaking for a couple of months—a leak they said was not radioactive and which posed no threat to the public. It will be interesting to see if our alarms cease in the next couple of months.

Anyone interested in joining the network may do so by contacting Debbie Baker at 566-7466. Dedicated people is what makes this network a success.

Nuclear Industry Mounting IOU's to High Level Waste Fund

The Department of Energy (DoE) recently issued a report which revealed that 17 utilities (including General Public Utilities) owe more than \$3 billion to the fund which will cover the cost of high level waste storage. DoE found that more than \$900 million has already been collected from ratepayers, but that 13 utilities are using the collected monies "to meet general expenses." DoE also warned that if a utility cannot meet its obligations for waste removal "it could threaten orderly disposal of the waste and present the NRC a more serious problem with decommissioning."

TMI Advisory Panel Meeting Set

The TMI Advisory Panel will meet from 7 to 10 p.m. on October 18 at the Holiday Inn, 23 South 2nd Street, Harrisburg. The panel will receive a presentation from GPU on the status of the clean-up and provide a presentation on their Decommissioning Funding Plan, recently submitted to the NRC. The Advisory Panel will continue the discussion on the future role of the panel now that the clean-up is "nearly completed." Anyone wanting to speak for more than three minutes at the meeting should contact Dr. Michael Masnik at the NRC (301/492-1442). Citizen involvement is important, particularly in light of the impending evaporation and the recent Columbia Health Report on cancer.



Items Worth \$45 Million Missing from Livermore Lab

In July, the New York Times reported that \$45 million worth of inventory is missing from the Lawrence Livermore Laboratory in California. The General Accounting Office said that laboratory officials could not account for 27,528 inventoried items, some of which they assume was stolen so workers would have money for drugs. The laboratory conducts nuclear weapons research and development.

Investigators said that among equipment that costs more than \$5,000, there were 1,605 items missing, valued at about \$20.6 million. Such equipment includes X-ray generators and oscilloscopes. For equipment valued at more than \$500 per item, 25,516 items were stolen, valued at \$24 million. In addition, 407 pieces of equipment costing at least \$150 per item—binoculars, cameras, tape recorders, etc.—valued at about \$800,000 also walked away. While 7,000 vehicles enter and leave the facility daily, they average about 17 vehicle searches per day.

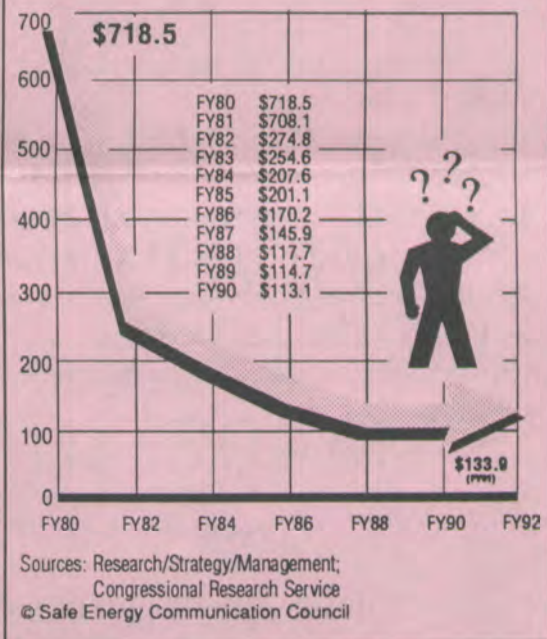
News Notes

Congratulations and best wishes to TMIA Planning Council member Eric Epstein and Veronica Rodriguiz, married September 19. Eric is a long-time, key, indispensable, solid, committed TMIA volunteer and an instructor with OIC. Veronica is a middle school language teacher.

The Peace Calendar's 20th Anniversary Edition (& other holiday gifts) Available from TMIA - The Peace Calendar is one of the most popular social issue publications in the USA. It blends dynamic artwork, graphics and poetry by more than 25 artists with life-affirming, progressive values. For the 20th anniversary each grid carries a vignette about the calendar's evolution written by Dik Cook, its founder. People's history dates (revised each year) provide little known information on world history. Full color; 14x11; lunar cycles; religious holidays for many faiths. Available from TMIA for only \$10. TMIA also has the new "TMI Contaminated Forever" buttons for just 50¢ each and the ever-popular "They Lie" tee-shirts at a mere \$10 in all sizes.

Energy Funding: On the Wrong Track

In 1989, 77 percent of Americans ranked renewable energy, like solar and wind, as their #1 or #2 choice for government funding. Yet the funding is now less than one-sixth of what it was in 1980.



TMIA's Planning Council met September 10, 1990 at the Harrisburg Friends Meeting-house. The Planning Council conducts the business of the organization between membership meetings and includes officers Deborah Baker, Vera Stuchinski, Cheryl Friedrich, and Betsy Robinson, as well as Eric Epstein, Dan Welliver, Bill Cologie and Kay Pickering. Agenda items included a Treasurer's report, monitoring network report, report on new sales items, discussion of the NRC's Below Regulatory Concern policy; Seabrook activities; GPUN's proposed evaporation of radioactive water; and our community education materials.

Calendar∞∞∞Calendar∞∞∞Calendar∞∞∞Calendar

- October 12-13** TMIA table at the East Mall's community days, 1st floor near the Hess entrance. To volunteer, call TMIA at 233-3072.
- October 18** 7-10PM TMI Advisory Panel meeting at the Holiday Inn, 23 S. 2nd Street, Harrisburg
- October 26** 9PM Halloween Party at the Circle-G, 2 miles north of Dauphin on Rts. 22-322. See enclosed flyer for details.
- December 15** Christmas Peace Pilgrimage. A ten-mile walk via Rt. 191 from Nazareth to Bethlehem, PA. 11:30AM-7:30 PM.

104th Annual
HALLOWEEN PARTY

DATE: Friday, Oct. 26

TIME: 9 P.M. Till ???

PLACE: Circle-G
(2 Miles North of DAUPHIN on 22 / 322)

MUSIC BY:
DEWEY & THE DECIBELS

Plus....Special Guests **The OVERTONES**

DONATION -- \$8.00 / Person
\$15.00 / Couple

Prize for Best Costume

Price Includes Cold Buffet

Info??? Call Dewey 232-7402

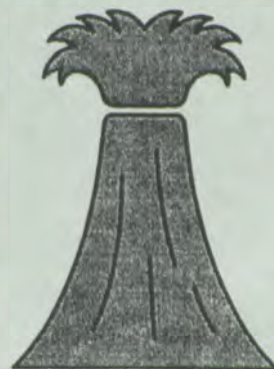
Joe Overtone 234-3949

Advance Tickets Available.

- Cash Bar -

Please Drink Responsibly

NO ONE UNDER 21 ADMITTED



THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

December
1990

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

Working Effectively for You, TMIA Wins a Couple

TMIA Wins at Supreme Court

On an 8-1 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand the ruling of a federal appeals court which forces the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to develop training standards for nuclear plant workers. The NRC was given that charge by Congress in 1982, based on a recommendation of the presidential commission appointed to investigate the TMI accident. The NRC, however, handed-off the responsibility to the Institute of Nuclear Power Operators (INPO) and industry trade group. A coalition of groups including TMIA and Public Citizen filed suit in 1986 arguing that the NRC had not complied with the 1982 law's provision for "regulations or other appropriate regulatory guidance."

Appeals Court Checks NRC on "Streamlining" Effort

A federal appeals court ruled in early November that the NRC went too far in attempting to streamline the licensing of future atomic power plants. The unanimous decision in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit was a victory for TMIA and other groups that had argued the streamlining was not in the public's interest. The court specifically said a "one-step" licensing scheme violated the Atomic Energy Act.

Evaporation Hits Snag

GPU Nuclear's plans to dump additional radiation on us hit a snag when the evaporator started making funny noises. What a company! When they aren't busy picking up awards from their nuke industry colleagues, they seem to constantly be working overtime just trying to get things right. At press time (Sunday, 12/2) they were assuring us the evaporator factory reps would be on hand to get any problems corrected and our delayed exposure would be underway in an expeditious manner.

It appears our daily dose will be accompanied by daily assurances of the innocuousness of the low levels of radiation let loose on the population. Cumulative effects? Of radiation? Don't ask them. Apparently GPU's employees are too busy posing for a newspaper ads (Be warned! They do live among us!) to worry about such matters. Wouldn't it be refreshing if in just one of those ads somebody said: "Evaporation is a lot cheaper than disposing of this stuff in a responsible manner. When you get down to it, the well-being of GPU stockholders is what this is all about."

A RED X INDICATES
YOUR DUES PAYMENT
IS REQUESTED

Three Mile Island Alert
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102



**OPEN
IMMEDIATELY**

**Your complimentary "No Evaporation at TMI" bumper sticker enclosed.
Happy Holidays from all your friends at TMIA.**

Baker Out Front on Evaporation - TMIA's Deb Baker was in front of TMI and on the front page of Wednesday, Nov. 28's Harrisburg **Evening News** (above the fold!) protesting the evaporation which was scheduled to start on Nov. 29. Deb's sign read: "GPU wants us to believe 1 (TMI Accident) + 1 (Krypton Release) + 1 (Evaporation) = 0 Health Effects. It does not require a math degree to know it's 3 times the risk to our children." Baker was with Deb Davenport of Concerned Mothers and Women for what Baker characterized as "our last, final attempt to have a say on this issue."

Please Shop at TMIA for your Holiday Gifts - While it isn't as glamorous as some of the Fifth Avenue shops in New York City, TMIA's Pepper Street office has gifts that might be just perfect for the social activist on your list. Consider:

TMI Contaminated Forever Buttons - a perfect stocking stuffer at only 50¢ each

Bumper Stickers - an assortment available at \$1.00 each

The popular "They Lie" tee shirt is back and at only \$10 this collector's item could serve to replace the one bought way back on the fifth anniversary. Available in all sizes in vivid blue and green.

The Peace Calendar is one of the most popular social issue publications in the USA. It blends dynamic artwork, graphics and poetry by more than 25 artists with life-affirming, progressive values. For the 20th anniversary each grid carries a vignette about the calendar's evolution written by Dik Cool, its founder.

People's history dates (revised each year) provide little known information on world history. Full color; 11x14; religious holidays of many faiths. Only \$10.00.

TMI Study Shows Increased Risk to Children from Background Radiation

from The Nuclear Monitor

When the TMI Public Health Fund's study of cancer risk from the TMI accident was released in September, most media and public attention focused on the study's disputed finding that no excess cancers resulted from the 1979 accident. Overlooked was a potentially much more significant finding: the study found "a statistically significant relation between increased childhood cancer" and background radiation.

According to Jan Beyea of the National Audubon Society, one of the four scientists who conducted the study, in breaking up the TMI area into 2300-person subgroups, the researchers found varying levels of background radiation. The variation was as much as 100 milirems/year. Beyea said that children living in the higher background radiation zones had double the risk of cancer as children in the lower zones. No similar risk increase was seen in adults.

The implication is clear: if background radiation itself poses risks to children, then every exposure above background—even the routine releases from nuclear plants—will add to the risk. The researchers plan to soon publish a new paper focusing on the background radiation issue.

Please renew your membership, then give more to support TMIA activities

Name _____ **Phone** _____

Address _____ **ZIP** _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: ☐ \$10 ☐ \$20 ☐ \$50 ☐ \$100 ☐ MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
 _____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TMIA, 315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Is Nuclear An Answer to America's Energy Woes?

by Scott Denman, excerpted from the Safe Energy Communication Council's "Viewpoint"

Nuclear power only provides 4.8 percent of America's energy services. Yet the nuclear industry is spending millions to convince Americans that more nuclear power is the answer to America's dangerous liaison with foreign oil. In fact, nuclear power is a "fool's gold" solution to reducing our addiction to foreign oil.

In the first six months of 1990, only 4.7 percent of our nation's oil was used to generate electricity. More than 95 percent of all oil consumed in the U.S. is used to run our vehicles, heat our homes and power our industry. Since nuclear power only supplies electricity, it is not a practical or economical substitute for 95 percent of our oil consumption.

Furthermore, the small amount of oil used to generate electricity is a byproduct of the gasoline distillation process. There currently is no concern about a shortage of this residual oil. Even if there were, nuclear power is a "baseload" power source, designed to operate at least 60 to 65 percent of the time. Unlike nuclear reactors, oil-fired plants can be turned on and off with relative ease and most often are used for "peak" power at times of highest demand. Of the roughly 400 oil-fired power plants now in use in the U.S., only 10 percent or fewer are considered baseload plants. For these reasons, nuclear power is an ill-suited replacement for oil—foreign or domestic.

Massachusetts Study Finds Increased Leukemia Risk Near Pilgrim

from *The Nuclear Monitor*

A three-year study by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health (DPH) has concluded that adults living and working within 10 miles of Boston Edison's Pilgrim reactor from 1978-1983 had a four times greater risk of contracting leukemia than those living elsewhere. The study also concluded that the risk of leukemia increased the closer one lived and worked to the plant. Said the DPH, "a dose-response relationship was observed in that the relative risk of leukemia increased as the potential for exposure to plant emissions also increased."

GAO Criticizes Safety of Nuclear Plants

The Harrisburg Patriot reported nearly two-thirds of America's nuclear power plants—including four in Pennsylvania—may have parts that do not meet government safety standards. The substandard parts include steel, pumps, fuses, valves, circuit breakers, and pipe fittings sold to the plants—including TMI, Limerick, Peach Bottom and Susquehanna—during the 1980s. The GAO reported that government investigators found substandard or counterfeit fasteners in more than half of the nation's 113 nuclear plants, some of them in safety systems designed to shut down a reactor in an accident.

VITAL STATISTICS

courtesy of Greenpeace

Number of barrels saved per day if the United States used oil as efficiently as Japan: 7 million

Number of barrels of oil imported per day (pre-boycott) from Iraq and Kuwait: 730,000

Cost, in one September week, of maintaining the U.S. military operation in the Persian Gulf: \$600 million

Amount devoted to renewable energy for fiscal year 1990 by the U.S. government: \$411 million

Average fuel efficiency, in miles per gallon, of cars in the United States: 18

Average fuel efficiency, in miles per gallon, of cars in Italy: 34

Average fuel efficiency of new U.S. cars in 1988: 28.6

Average fuel efficiency of new U.S. cars in 1990: 27.8

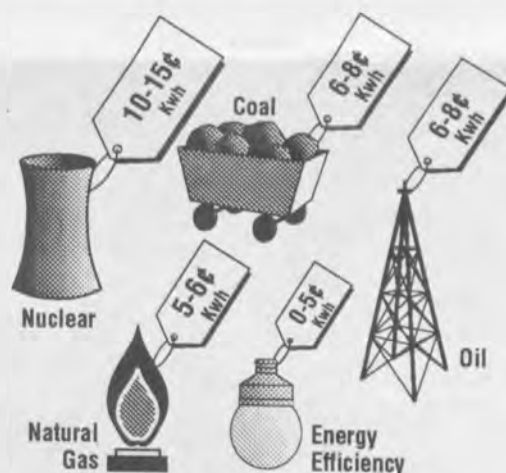
Number of years before the United States is completely drained of oil, if all sources were exploited: 30

Number of tons of CO₂ that a 15 mpg car releases into the atmosphere each year: 7.8

Number of tons of CO₂ that a 28 mpg car releases into the atmosphere: 4.2

The Cost of Energy

Consumers are billed for how much electricity they use. A quick comparison shows improving energy efficiency is cheaper than conventional energy sources like nuclear power.



Source: Komanoff Energy Associates
© Safe Energy Communication Council

Gofman Book Challenges Safe Radiation "Threshold"*from Radiation Events Monitor*

John W. Gofman's newest book, *Radiation-Induced Cancer from Low-Dose Exposure: An Independent Analysis*, (1990, Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, Inc., \$29.95, ISBN 0-932682-89-8) forcefully argues a daunting and important thesis: that the smallest dose of ionizing radiation can and occasionally does cause cancer.

Radiation-Induced Cancer comprises 342 closely-argued pages and more than 100 tables of data, all arrayed to give weight to the warning that "low-dose ionizing radiation may turn out to be the MOST important single carcinogen to which huge numbers of humans are actually exposed." Gofman focuses much of his independent analysis on the Atomic Bomb Survivors study carried on by Radiation Effects Research Foundation, as well as the most recent reports on ionizing radiation by the United Nations Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation and the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation Committee of the National Academy of Sciences. In each instance, Gofman offers a detailed critique of the assumption that there is any safe level of radiation exposure.

Although he has spent the past 20 years disputing these and similar "official" assessments of the human hazards of radioactivity, Gofman has not written a mere polemic. *Radiation-Induced Cancer* is detailed, comprehensive, tightly organized, well documented and well cross-referenced. Despite the book's density, it's surprisingly readable, its tone quite measured: "Readers who take our step-by-step journey in this book, from the evidence to the conclusions, will be in a position to judge for themselves whether or not our conclusions are believable." Gofman's presentation appears credible and inspires confidence.

Copies may be ordered from the Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, Inc., Book Division, PO Box 11207, San Francisco, CA 94101. Copies are \$29.95 for the first copy, \$15.00 for each additional copy. CNR pays shipping (book rate) unless expedited service is requested. For UPS shipping include \$4 for one book, \$5 for two books and \$6.00 for three books to the same address.

CALENDAR**CALENDAR****CALENDAR****CALENDAR**

December 15: Christmas Peace Pilgrimage. A ten-mile walk via Rt. 191 from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Pa. 11:30 AM-7:30 PM. Singing, fellowship, and warm food.

Every Thursday: Noon to 1PM gather at the Federal Building, 3rd & Walnut Streets, Harrisburg, to show support for bringing the troops home from the Persian Gulf.

Mid-January, '91 (date to be announced) TMI Advisory Panel will meet with Dr. Maureen Hatch, author of the Columbia University Health Report, in open session.

April, 1991 - A major conference on nuclear power issues is being planned for Washington, D.C. to be held in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident. Sponsors include Greenpeace, Public Citizen, NIRS and the SECC. Details will be included in the January Alert.

*Best wishes for the holiday season
to TMIA's many friends
Have a safe and happy 1991!*

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