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Three Mile Island Resources

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Date: 1992

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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

March
1992

315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-7898

Specter & Wofford Vote Wrong on Energy Amendment

Sen. Arlen Specter and Sen. Harris Wofford voted to table an amendment to the National Energy Strategy Bill (S. 2166) that would have protected the public's right to participate in hearings in the licensing process for nuclear power plants. The amendment, which safe energy advocates characterized as a "barely acceptable compromise," would have retained at least some rights for the public and state governments in the streamlined licensing process being sought by the nuclear industry. The Senate voted 52-43 to table the amendment offered by Senators Bob Graham (D-Florida) and Wyche Fowler (D-Georgia), and seems intent on granting the nuclear industry's every wish. About the only good news for environmentalists in the bill was the defeating of a proposal calling for drilling in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge.

While the odds of stopping S.2166 are slim, it is an effort that must be made. The 52 members of the Senate who voted to table the Graham-Fowler amendment must be reminded they were elected to represent the American people, not the miserable, hateful nuclear power industry.

S. 2166, largely shaped by the Bush Administration, promotes capital-intensive, polluting coal, nuclear, and oil industries above the job-intensive, energy efficient renewable technologies and conservation. Please write or call Senators Specter and Wofford today and let them know where you stand on Graham-Fowler and S. 2166.

The Honorable Arlen Specter
303 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202/224-4254 (Local: 782-3951)

The Honorable Harris Wofford
283 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
202/224-6324 (Local: 233-5839)

Or, send mailgrams to both Senators (thanks to the Nuclear Information and Resource Service) by calling Western Union at 1-800/641-1818 and asking for Hotline #9207. The cost is \$9.75 for both.

NRC Accepts GPU Proposal for Mid-River Waste Dump

After reviewing a GPU plan to seal Unit 2 for more than 20 years, the NRC said the proposal meets the agency's safety regulations and that the NRC staff "is not opposed to the utility's proposal." The Atomic Safety and Licensing board, which ultimately decides if the utility is allowed to seal the reactor until 2014 as part of their so-called "post defueling monitored storage" plan, will first rule on a TMIA request for public hearings on the issue. Rather than completing the clean-up and dismantling of Unit 2, GPU prefers to allow the radiation on site to decline gradually until it is time to decommission Unit 1.

A RED X INDICATES
YOUR DUES PAYMENT
IS REQUESTED

**TMIA's 15th
Anniversary**
Thursday, March 26

**OPEN
IMMEDIATELY**

Three Mile Island Alert
315 Pepper Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102



Chem Nuclear Takes Heat at Public Meeting

Chem Nuclear, the state's designee for developing a nuclear waste disposal facility, brought their "public involvement" show to Harrisburg in December and, with the exception of one speaker from the nuclear industry, were criticized by everyone who took the floor. "We have made a heroic effort [to reach the public]," Chem Nuke observed.

Residents of Fulton County, a potential site for the facility, gathered five thousand signatures (35 percent of the county's population) in opposition to "anything nuclear" being located in their county. A busload of county residents attended, led by a county commissioner and the president of the Fulton County Chamber of Commerce.

TMIA's Eric Epstein, also on hand, reminded Chem Nuke president H. Robert Meyer of his pledge not to build a waste site in a hostile locale. Meyer backed away from his pledge, saying he would "prefer" to locate the waste site in a receptive area.

Chem Nuke broke down the radioactive waste into volume and activity categories: Class A waste accounts for 96.7% of the volume, but only 27.3% of the radioactivity; Class B wastes account for 2.6% of the volume and ten percent of the radioactivity; and Class C wastes make up .7% of the volume, but 62.7% of the radioactivity. Chem Nuke says "tipping fees" will be based on toxicity, not volume.

NRC Lies to Congress

The January 29 *Boston Globe* reports the NRC deliberately lied to Congress about the readiness of the Seabrook reactor to begin operation. The lies occurred on the eve of the Seabrook licensing in March, 1990, during a Congressional hearing on the adequacy of welds at the plant.

Whistleblowers had alleged that x-rays of welds had been falsified and that the welds were not acceptable. The NRC told Congress, however, there had been a 100% review of the welds, that a 20% rejection rate was not unusual, and that specific allegations of defective welds had been reviewed. In every case, the NRC lied.

There was no 100 percent reinspection of the welds. A 20 percent rejection rate was highly unusual. In addition, the NRC told Sen. Edward Kennedy that a lawsuit settlement with one whistleblower did not prevent him from disclosing potential safety problems. In fact, it did.

Insulation Installed Backwards at Peach Bottom

Insulation in a backup emergency system at Peach Bottom was intalled backwards, and it only took the utility two years to discover the mistake. The emergency system could have failed if called upon in 1990 or 1991, says the NRC, but utility officials say it would have worked despite the improper insulation.

Two Hurt in Blast at Berwick

A small explosion at PP&L's Susquehanna plant injured two workers, but did not release any radioactivity into the environment. The explosion occurred in a recombiner, a device that combines hydrogen with oxygen to make water. Sparks from a grinding wheel touched off the explosion.

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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High Incidence of Down's Syndrome Around Canadian Nuke

High rates of Down's Syndrome, long noticed by Canadian nuclear opponents, have been confirmed in a government study that has found the abnormality occurring at an 86% higher rate near the Pickering nuclear plant near Toronto, than through the rest of Ontario. The study by Ken Johnson of Health and Welfare Canada on behalf of the federal Atomic Energy Control Board (AECB) tracked congenital abnormalities in a 25-kilometer radius around the plant from its startup in 1971 through 1988.

Three years ago a birth defect study by David McArthur, a York University graduate student, pointed to tritium releases from Pickering as the contamination pathway for childhood abnormalities. In June of this year, an AECB study also found a 34% excess childhood leukemia rate.

Opportunity Exists to Help Chernobyl Victims

ECOLOGIA, an international environmental organization based in Susquehanna County, and north-east Pa. Rotary Clubs are involved in a cooperative program to assist the children of Chernobyl by establishing homestays for them in Susquehanna County, beginning this month. Plans call for several dozen children, ages 9 to 15, to come to the U.S. for three or four months to get them out of the Chernobyl area and to breathe fresh air, eat nourishing food, and drink clear water, all of which is plentiful in northeastern Pennsylvania.

Although all of the children selected to participate will be in good health, it will also be necessary to provide medical insurance for them during their stay. The TMIA Planning Council authorized a modest contribution (\$25.00) from TMIA's treasury to help, and individual TMIA members are urged to augment that with personal contributions. Checks payable to ECOLOGIA (Chernobyl Child Program) should be mailed to Box 199, Harford, PA 18823.

TMIA on Agenda at Clean Energy Conference

Bev and Frank Davis will represent TMIA at the People's Action for Clean Energy Conference in Hartford, Connecticut on Saturday, May 2. They'll participate in panel and workshop presentations. Also on the agenda is Michio Kaku, professor of physics at City College of New York, who has delivered some fiery orations at rallies and meetings in central Pa. There will also be a hands-on demonstration of photovoltaics. There's a \$10 registration fee. Interested? Call TMIA for info at 233-7898.

Conference to Address Nuclear Waste Issue

TMIA has joined with the Nuclear Information Resource Service, Greenpeace, Public Citizen and other groups to sponsor an April 24-25 conference in St. Louis titled "A Mountain of Wastes Fifty Years High," which will focus on the growing volume of nuclear wastes America has been producing for 50 years with no disposal solution in sight. Why April 24? Why St. Louis? On April 24, 1942 scientists at Mallinckrodt Chemical Works in St. Louis began the task of purifying tons of uranium for the Manhattan Project. Uranium processing for nuclear weapons continued in St. Louis for another 25 years and the city now has 2.5 million cubic yards of radioactive waste.

Safe Energy Movement Loses Two Friends

Charles E. Leising 1913-1991	Larry Bogart 1924-1991
---------------------------------	---------------------------

It is likely that many readers never heard of Charlie or Larry, clearly, our reader's loss. Larry, who died June 19, was a leading figure in the movement against nuclear power since the 1960s. In 1966, he founded the Citizens Energy Council, which published "Radiation Perils" and "Watch on the A.E.C.," both devoted to explaining the risks of nuclear power at a time when the nation was hot for "Atoms for Peace." He was an untiring critic of the nuclear industry and he will be missed by the many anti-nuclear activists he inspired. Charlie, who served a couple of terms as a member of TMIA's Planning Council, was not quite as well known, but he exemplified what's best about the safe energy movement. He was an informed citizen spurred to action by the insensitivity of a bureaucracy he knew too well. Charlie, with a Master's degree from MIT knew science. As a retired Coast Guard captain and former director of the Pa. Fish Commission's Bureau of Waterways, he knew government. But mostly, he knew and cared about people, which was why he was with us at Planning Council as we fought some of our toughest battles. His dignified presence, wisdom, and insights brought order and elegance to our meetings and our organization.

Magazine Will Keep You Informed on Solar Issues

Published six times a year, *Solar Today*, a national magazine from the American Solar Energy Society, covers solar electric, solar buildings, passive solar heating, photo-conversion, education and more. Subscriptions are available at \$25 each and, if you don't like it, mark "cancel" on your invoice and return it. TMIA has subscription forms, or write directly to the American Solar Energy Society, 2400 Central Avenue, Unit G-1, Boulder, CO 80301-9880.

Fact Pack Available on Electromagnetic Health Effects

The Citizen's Clearinghouse for Hazardous Wastes (CCHW) has a "Fact Pack" available on electromagnetic health effects. If you are interested in learning why so many are outraged about GPU's proposal to build a cross-state power line, send \$2.00 to CCHW, PO Box 6806, Falls Church, VA 22040

Calendar:

Wednesday, March 11

6PM - TMIA Planning Council meets at the Friends Meetinghouse. Open meeting.

Saturday, March 14

9AM - All day conference - Resource Stewardship: Planning a Sustainable Future, Shippensburg University, call 717/486-3799 for more information.

Wednesday, March 18

Pa. Conservation Network meets in Heritage Rm. B, Education Building, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg. TMIA recently joined this statewide environmental network.

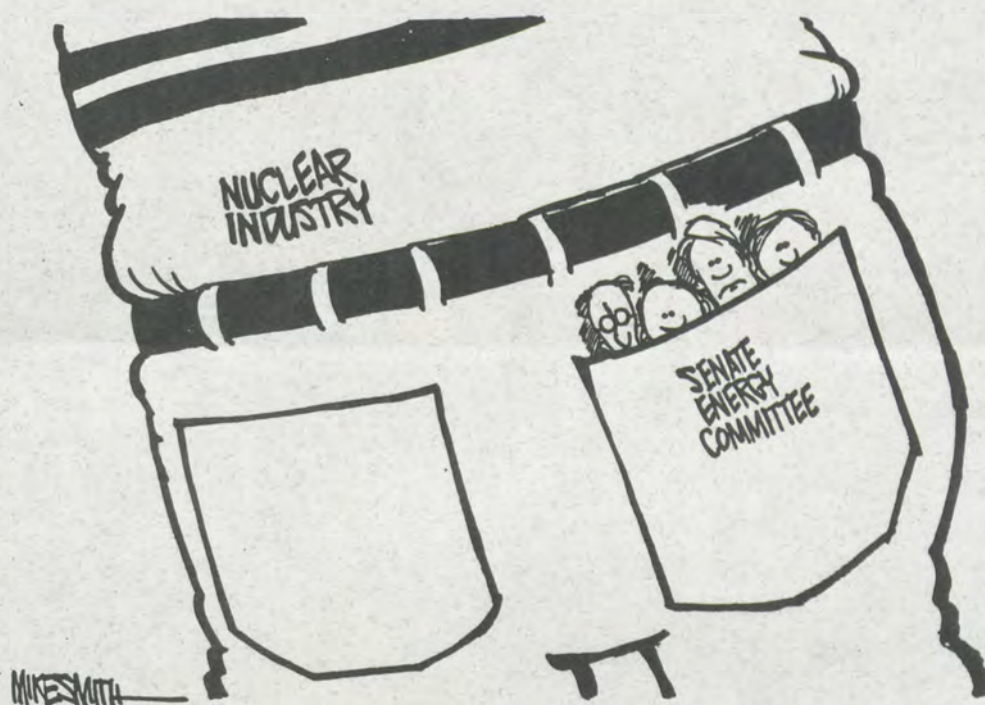
Thursday, March 26

6:15PM - TMIA 15th Year Party at Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse.

Saturday, April 25

Earth Day at City Island. Volunteers needed for the TMIA table - call 233-7897.

LAS VEGAS REVIEW-JOURNAL



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15**15**

Three Mile Island Alert Birthday Party

Celebrating 15 years of advocacy!

Date: Thursday, March 26, 1992

Time: 6:15PM

**Where: Harrisburg Friends Meeting House
6th & Herr Streets**

Please join us for an evening of food and fellowship. Bring a main dish or dessert to share. Beverages, salad, and homemade bread provided by Alan Hetrick of Warm Springs Lodge.

Requested contribution: \$3.00

**We'll also commemorate the 13th year since
the TMI accident began.**

RSVP by March 23 - 717/233-7897

**Sponsored by: Three Mile Island Alert
315 Pepper Street**

Harrisburg, PA 17102

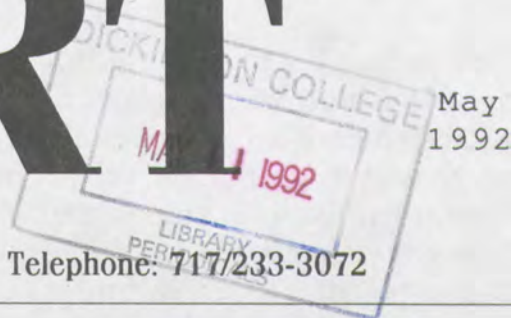
15**15**

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-3072



Chronic Safety Problems Continue at U.S. Nuclear Plants

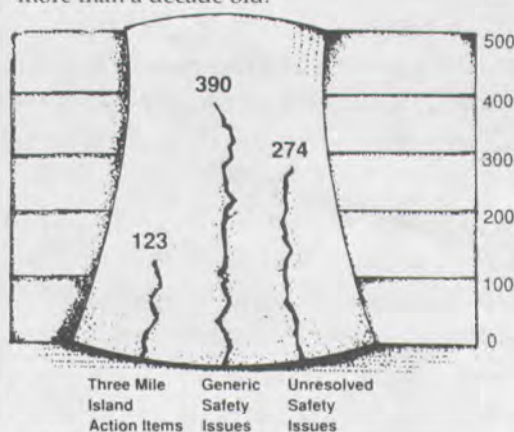
More than 787 chronic safety problems remain at the nation's 111 licensed nuclear power plants, according to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC). Many of these problems are more than ten years old, dating back to the 1979 TMI accident.

"Utilities claim that because these problems have been around so long, they are not really a safety hazard," said Martin Gelfand, research director of the Safe Energy Communications Council (SECC). "But each of these problems erodes the overall safety of a reactor. Waiting for a pipe to burst, a valve to jam, or a black-out in the control room before fixing these problems is like playing with fire."

Gelfand is a co-author of *MYTHBusters #7: Nuclear Reactor Safety*, a document which reports that aging reactors, the degradation of safety systems, lax regulation enforcement, and poor management by utilities all lead to decreasing safety margins at U.S. plants. It also finds that the new generation of nuclear plants being planned will not eliminate the existing safety problems and may, in fact, create new ones. Further, the report contends a Chernobyl-like accident could happen—and is likely to occur—in the U.S. in the next 20 years. For information on obtaining a copy of *MYTHBusters #7*, call SECC at 202/483-8491.

Chronic Safety Problems

Congress is pushing to further restrict public safety hearings for nuclear plant licensing. But the nation's 111 licensed reactors continue to operate with 787 Unresolved, Generic and Three Mile Island safety problems, many more than a decade old.



Unimplemented Safety Issues at U.S. Nuclear Plants

Source: Nuclear Regulatory Commission
© Safe Energy Communication Council

Petition to Block Waste Dump Siting in Pa. Enclosed

A petition to block the siting of a "low-level" radioactive waste dump in Pennsylvania and calling for the reduction of nuclear waste production is included as the last page of this **Alert**. Please collect signatures and return the completed petition to the Pennsylvania Environmental Network.

Chem Nuclear, the Waste Management subsidiary designated a Pennsylvania's "disposer" of choice, has been accused of using criteria such as skin color, poverty, wealth, and prior environmental opposition in its search for a "low-level" waste site in North Carolina. Chris Fullerton, a North Carolina activist, said, "The only real solution to the problem of nuclear waste is to stop producing

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it...Through its actions in North Carolina, Chem-Nuclear stated that some kinds of people are more 'expendable' than others. That's a message that just can't be tolerated."

If readers are wondering why the term "low-level" is always enclosed by quotation marks, it is because it is one of the most misleading terms ever coined. In the U.S., this term covers all nuclear waste that is not legally "high-level" waste, some transuranic waste (material contaminated with radioactive elements heavier than uranium, such as plutonium), and mill tailings. So "low-level" includes irradiated reactor hardware and pipes, control rods, the filters and evaporator parts from nuclear plants, and, once they're dismantled, entire nuclear power plants. This includes, for example, from a typical 1,000 megawatt nuclear reactor building floor, more than 13,000 tons of contaminated concrete and more than 1,400 tons of contaminated steel reinforcing bar.

So, please sign the petition, circulate the petition (take it to work, school, church, aerobics class, or your union meeting) and return it to PEN.

House Interior Committee Approves National Energy Strategy Bill; Stage Set for Floor Confrontation - Your Voice Should be Heard

Under the leadership of Chairman George Miller (D-California), the House Interior Committee passed a wide-ranging national energy strategy bill that in many respects is the virtual opposite of its Bush-Sununu counterpart passed by the Senate. Pennsylvania Democrat Peter Kostmayer played a major role in shaping the bill, which is now under attack by the nuclear and fossil fuel interests.

To pass this bill (H.R. 776) will require unprecedented effort by the grassroots environmental movement. Readers are urged to write their Congressmen and voice support for specific provisions of the bill. Among other things, the bill:

- +Limits reactor license renewals to 20 years and allows hearings on whether a reactor meets its "current licensing basis;"
- +Ensures judicial review of petitions challenging the adequacy of reactor operations after a reactor has been licensed;
- +Revokes the 1986 and 1990 Below Regulatory Concern (BRC) policies and ensures state authority to regulate "low-level" radioactive waste;
- +Requires the Environmental Protection Agency (rather than the NRC) to establish standards for the clean-up of contaminated sites;
- +Does not include the "Screw Nevada" provision that would remove Nevada's (and every state's) right to apply state environmental laws to radioactive waste dump siting; and,
- +The bill provides additional protection for whistleblowers and generally prohibits offshore oil drilling on the west coast and most of the east coast until at least 2002.

Address your correspondence to: The Honorable _____, U.S. House of Representatives, Washington, D.C. 20515.

Two Polls Show Public Opposition to One-Step Licensing

A SECC poll conducted in mid-March shows that 79 percent of Americans opposes one-step nuclear licensing and 81 percent oppose federal pre-emption of state laws for radioactive waste dump siting. Similarly, a poll conducted by George Bush's pollster, Fred Steeper, found only 18 percent of Ameri-

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 _____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
 _____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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cans believe one-step licensing would help America get the energy we need, help our economy, and help our environment.

EPA Says U.S. May Have 45,300 Radioactively Contaminated Sites

In the first major survey of its kind, the Environmental Protection Agency has estimated that there are more than 45,300 sites in the U.S. that may be radioactively contaminated. The Department of Energy, in an attempt to downplay the findings, noted the EPA study counted each contaminated area within one site separately. They noted EPA found 1500 contaminated sites at the DoE's Hanford nuclear reservation.

25,000 of the sites were designated as commercial, and 10,000 of those were listed as "manufacturing" sites. Nearly 6,000 of the sites are hospitals and other medical facilities.

TMIA Takes Part in Earth Day

TMIA had an information table at the April 25 Earth Day celebration on Harrisburg's City Island. One of the pamphlets distributed was provided by the National Audubon Society and urged recipients to join the "Solar Brigade" and help send a message that we want 10 percent of our electricity solar generated by the year 2002. The flyer notes this would eliminate up to 170 million tons of carbon dioxide each year and help spare the Earth from the worst effects of global warming. Included in the Audubon flyer were tags to be included with your payment to your electric utility notifying them of your desire for solar generated power. Call TMIA for a copy of the brochure: 233-7897.

Evaporator Fails, Evaporation on Hold

GPU officials reported to the TMI Advisory Panel on April 16 that the TMI-2 water evaporator has failed. The evaporator is currently being redesigned and has been out of operation for several months. It will take them until late May or early June to get back to evaporating the more than 1 million gallons of radioactive water still stored on the Island.

Chernobyl Victims in U.S. to Visit U.N.

Thanks in part to an invitation issued by TMIA, two Ukrainian victims of the Chernobyl accident, Valery Kosenko and Vitaly Mel'nichuk are in the U.S. until May 10 to convey to U.N. officials the urgent needs of Chernobyl victims.

A note on Chernobyl: April 26, 1992 marked the sixth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident. In commemoration, a New England safe energy group published a map showing what would be the effect (and it isn't that far-fetched an idea considering the technology in place) if the Connecticut Millstone reactor had a similar accident. Three-quarters of Pennsylvania would be within the 350 mile radius, where, six years later, a ban is still in place on the consumption of deer meat and wild berries. The entire state is well within the 630 mile radius where there are bans on all dairy products, fresh vegetables and meat.

Jane Perkins Named President of Friends of the Earth

Jane Perkins, a former member of Harrisburg City Council and a long-time safe energy activist, has been named president of Washington, D.C.-based Friends of the Earth. Jane, a longtime friend of TMIA (you might recall her shepherding resolutions through City Council and her outstanding work in putting together the Labor March against TMI), describes FoE as "probably to the left of the Sierra Club but to the right of Green Peace." The group merged with the Environmental Policy Institute and the Oceanic Society about two years ago and is active on virtually every front in the battle for a better environment. For membership information, write FoE at 218 D Street, S.E., Washington, D.C. 20003 or call 202/544-2600.

News Notes: TMIA's Annual Picnic will be held Sunday, July 19, from 1 to 9PM at Camp Riley ...Thanks to all who helped with the TMIA 15th anniversary party. Special guest Joanne Doroshov drove in from New York City and Alan Hetrick of Warm Springs Lodge supplied the delicious breads and salads...The following TMIA members were elected to serve on TMIA's Planning Council: Eric Epstein, Vera Stuchinski, Bill Cologie, Cherie Friedrich, Kay Pickering, Betsy Robinson, Deborah Baker...Those with a red X - Please renew your membership immediately!...



PEN

Pennsylvania Environmental Network

R.D. #1, Box 420
Houtzdale, PA 16651
814/378-5088

Chem Nuclear Systems, Inc. a subsidiary of Waste Management, Inc. is currently seeking a "low-level" radioactive waste dump site in Pennsylvania for unknown quantities of radioactive materials and wastes. This dump will encourage further production of more waste. If no facility is operating by 1996, each State is required by Federal law to take title to, liability for, and possession of the "low-level" waste generated within its borders, at taxpayers' expense.

WHEREAS: any exposure to ionizing radiation is capable of damaging health and safety of people and the environment;

WHEREAS: all nuclear waste disposal technology is experimental and has not been demonstrated to be able to successfully isolate radioactive wastes from the biosystem for the full hazardous life of the waste;

WHEREAS: the total volume, radioactivity, and biological hazard of these wastes are unknown to the four Appalachian Compact States (PA, MD, WV, DE) that are legally responsible for their disposal; and,

WHEREAS: Pennsylvania is required by Federal laws to "dispose" of all "low-level" radioactive waste generated in the Appalachian Compact States;

THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED THAT: We, the undersigned, call upon the State Legislature and Governor immediately to take all legally binding legislative and administrative measures to curtail and minimize the generation of additional quantities of radioactive waste; and

BE IT RESOLVED FURTHER THAT: Before any siting process goes forward, studies be conducted by research consultants, who are fully independent of any affiliations with those who produce and manage radioactive waste, in order to determine all potential sources and the long-term total volumes, radioactive concentrations, and biological hazards of "low-level" radioactive waste in the Appalachian Compact States.

This draft petition was initiated by concerned citizens. Date: _____

NAME	ADDRESS	PHONE
1. _____	_____	_____
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13. _____	_____	_____

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

June
1992

315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-3072

Chernobyl Study Shows Impact Worse Than Thought

The Chernobyl Disaster is worse than previously reported. In a move that will sound familiar to TMI neighbors, the International Atomic Energy Agency (funded by national utilities) spent six days in the area and concluded the major problem was stress, not radioactive fallout. Along with USSR bureaucrats they determined there was no such thing as chronic radiation sickness.

Now that the Ukraine and Belarus are independent and the truth can come out, a 13-month study by a Soviet-American team is finding widespread health problems, even among those in low-level radiation areas. They estimate a million people may be suffering adverse health effects. Dr. Zoreslava Shkiriak-Nizhnik from Kiev, Ukraine, delivered the bad news about Chernobyl victims at an early-May conference in Connecticut in which TMIA participated.

A startling 70 percent of newborns in the Ukraine fail to thrive due to immune deficiency and the lack of uncontaminated food. They get sick more often, are more seriously ill, and do not gain weight and strength. For the first time in history, 40,000 more Ukrainians died last year than were born. This, she pointed out, is in a region where big families are the rule.

What do they need most? The doctor put food at the top of the list, followed by medicine and medical supplies, such as anesthesia.

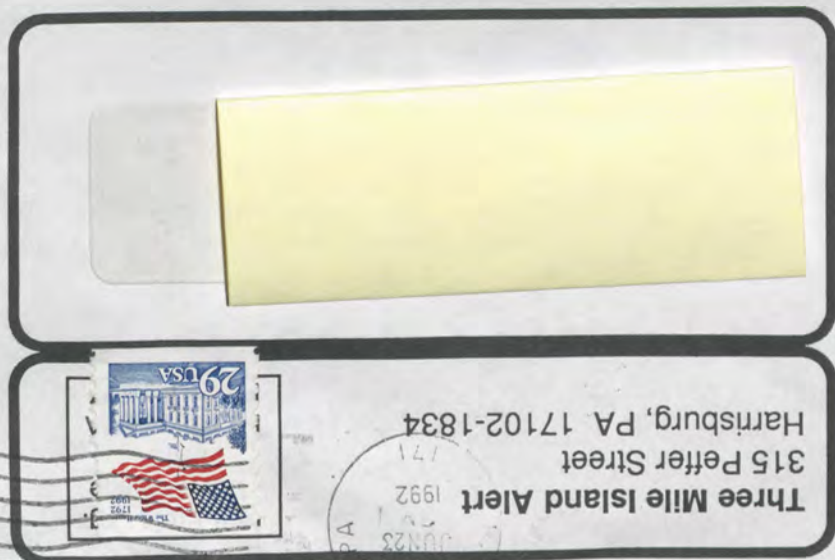
Americans have sent more than 300 planeloads of these supplies through The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, 207 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, New Jersey, 07078.

Johnsrud Addresses Nuclear Waste Symposium

"The nuclear industry survives on permissible emissions and acceptable risk," Dr. Judith Johnsrud told a national symposium on radioactive wastes held in late-April in St. Louis. She said the industry was founded on a basic belief that, so far, has proved unbelievable. "It is the religious faith that with time and money, some expert will devise a way to dispose of the undisposible."

The meeting was held in St. Louis to commemorate 50 years of accumulating nuclear waste in St. Louis County, dating back to when a local chemical company processed uranium for the Manhattan Project. "Sad to say, it's still here 50 years later," said conference director Roger Pryor.

TMIA's Eric Epstein, who reported on a nuclear waste facility sited in the middle of a flood-prone river, attended.



OPEN
IMMEDIATELY

Camp Riley Picnic
Sunday, July 19

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Nuclear Industry Wins Big on Energy Bill

Members of the nuclear power industry were the only ones smiling as the House of Representatives give final approval to the national energy strategy bill, 381-37, late on May 27. The nuclear industry won nearly every vote that mattered, proving that Congress remains captive to industry lobbying and political contributions over public opinion. The legislation now goes to a House-Senate conference committee where differences will be ironed out. As both bodies agreed on one-step licensing for nuclear power plants, there's no opportunity to influence the licensing language in place. "Below Regulatory Concern" (BRC) is a different story, however, as the Senate bill did not address BRC. The House language would modify existing standards, giving environmentalists their only victory in the bill.

The most important thing readers can do now to impact the outcome of the energy policy battle is to ask Senators Wofford and Specter to become co-sponsors of the anti-BRC bill (S. 1111) sponsored by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell. A groundswell of new Senate support for this bill will help ensure the conference committee will accept the House BRC language.

US Want Safe Energy - Nuke Industry Says "Too Bad"

According to a national poll, four of five Americans (79%) oppose Congressional efforts to roll back existing law and cut citizens out of meaningful participation in the nuclear power plant licensing process. The poll revealed by a similarly large margin(81%), the public opposes Congress's move to override state laws in order to establish a high-level nuclear waste depository, the so-called "screw-Nevada" language which was included in the House-passed energy policy bill.

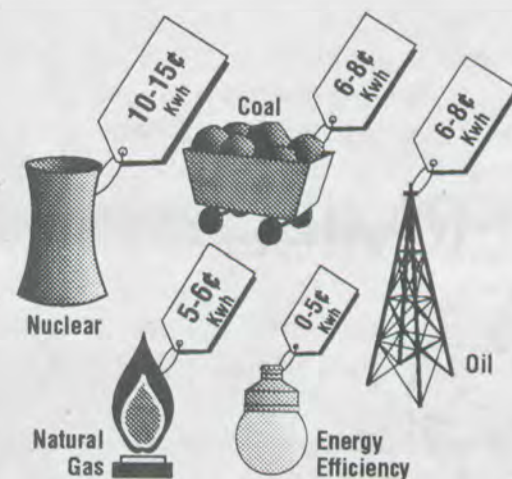
The survey conducted by the Safe Energy Communications Council (SECC) found 63% of the public believes America can best meet increasing electricity demand by using existing supplies more efficiently; 76% named solar and other renewable sources, energy efficiency, and natural gas as their choice for the government's highest energy funding priority (while only a combined 19% picked nuclear, coal and oil as their top picks).

That Congress would go against the clearly articulated views of the American public (again) demonstrates the strength of the nuclear lobby. Their efforts in Congress was rife with mischaracterization and outright deceit. And it appears they're now looking to do a number on Nevada, the proposed site for the government's high-level nuclear waste depository.

The nuclear industry has contributed \$3.3 million to a disinformation campaign in Nevada (GPU and PP&L contributed \$66,673 each, Philadelphia Electric \$100,347). It is obviously much cheaper and quicker to spend money on public relations than researching thorny technical issues required to confidently predict where the earth will stand for the next 100,000 years.

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

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Books Review Dangers of Low-Level Radiation

TMIA learned of two recently published books on the dangers of low-level radiation:

- *Deadly Deceit: Low-Level Radiation, High-Level Cover-Up* by Dr. Jay M. Gould and Benjamin Goldman. The book presents the results of a multi-million dollar investigation of government records on atomic radiation and mortality. \$10.95, paper.

- *The Petkau Effect: Nuclear Radiation, People and Trees* by Ralph Graeub with an introduction by Dr. Ernest J. Sternglass. Published in France and Germany to wide acclaim, this book presents evidence that low-level emissions from nuclear power plants have contributed to the death of forests in Europe and North America and, even more disturbing, that millions of people are dying from a combination of damage to their immune systems and exposure to mutated strains of viruses, again due to the the routine emissions of nuclear power plants. \$24.95 hard cover.

The books were published by Four Walls Eight Windows of New York. Copies may be ordered by calling 1-800/444-2524.

News Notes

- Evaporation is on again. After evaporating 1,222,775 gallons of accident generated water (AGW), the evaporator was shut down in February due to a failure of the blender-dryer. Though it will take until August to get a replacement blender-dryer in place, evaporation resumed in May with a temporary blender-dryer.

- Philadelphia Electric was fined \$285,000 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for improperly installing insulation at Peach Bottom. In one case, thermal insulation was installed on the wrong end of five of 11 safety relief valves in the plant's Unit 3 reactor, causing components to overheat and wear down (\$160,000 fine). The \$125,000 fine was for similar problems at their Unit 2 reactor.

- *Atoms & Waste* is a monthly newsletter published by Don't Waste U.S., Inc., a national grassroots organization of citizens opposed to nuclear pollution. Their June 5 edition reports on U.S. Army efforts to repair cracks in the shutdown reactor at Fort Greely in Fairbanks, Alaska, as well as a U.S. Navy practice of dumping wastes from a McMurdo Sound, Antarctica reactor at sea. When that reactor was shut down, 14,000 tons of contaminated soil were shipped to the Port Hueneme naval base north of Los Angeles. To keep abreast of what's happening on the waste front, a one-year subscription is \$30. Write DWUS, 310 Domer St. #1, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

- The Harrisburg-Hiroshima-Nagasaki Committee will be presenting its annual program as part of its sister city relationship (established by then Harrisburg Mayor Tim Doutrich in 1979) with the two Japanese cities. Scheduled events include:

ARTS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE - An exhibit of works by socially concerned artists and writers and by internationally honored ceramicist Kazuaki Kita. The exhibit will be held at Gallerie 110 in Strawberry Square from August 1 through August 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

CANDLES ON THE WATER - Interfaith worship and reflection by representatives of area faiths. Following the service, Japanese commemorative ceremonial lantern boats will be floated on the Susquehanna. Assemble at Fellowship Hall, Market Square Presbyterian Church, August 6, 1992 at 7 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS - *Proposition I: Peace Through Reason* which describes the international initiative calling for nuclear disarmament and economic conversion via constitutional amendments; and, *Deadly Deception*, which is an Academy Award winning expose of the terrifying human and environmental costs of General Electric's nuclear weapons development. The film depicts grassroots efforts to get GE and other companies out of the nuclear weapons business. Both films will be shown from 2-5 p.m. on August 9 at a location to be announced.

- There will be a seminar for those opposing the GPU-DQE transmission project on Saturday, June 27, at the Harrisburg Hilton from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost per person is \$15.00 and includes lunch. The seminar will examine the negative environmental concerns of electromagnetic radiation and present alternative energy technologies. It is sponsored by COUP (Citizens Opposed to Unsafe Power), CAG (Citizens Action Group) and AC-OUT (Adams County Opposes Unsafe Transmission lines). To register, make checks payable to COUP, PO Box 445, Fombell, Pa 16123. For more information: Chris Kochenderfer (717/432-4577) or Karen Carbeau (412/758-9810).

Summer Picnic Slated for July 19

See the enclosed flyer for more details about TMIA's annual Summer Picnic and Splash Party at Camp Riley.

CALENDAR

June 27 GPU-DQE Transmission Project Seminar, Harrisburg Hilton, 10AM to 3PM. See above for more information.

July 12-18 Conservation Workshop for Educators at the Pocono Environmental Center, Dingman's Ferry, sponsored by the Pa. Wildlife Federation, for information call Lauren Smith, 717/232-3480.

July 19 Summer Picnic and Splash Party, Camp Riley.

August 1-9 Arts for Peace and Justice, Gallerie 110, Strawberry Square.

August 6 Candles on the Water, 7PM, Market Square Presbyterian Church.

August 9 2-5PM, area premiers to two documentary films (see page 3).

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By American Quick Print

TMIA is 15 years old.
That's reason to celebrate.

TMIA Summer Picnic and Splash Party

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

Date: Sunday, July 19 (Rain or Shine)

Location: Camp Riley

Time: Noon until...

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 two miles. The road to Camp Riley will be on your left.

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

Activities include:

Swimming 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Land and water volley ball

Greased watermelon contest

Music - bring an instrument

Much, much, much, much more!!!

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

Beverages provided.

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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

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TMIA Will Gain Monitoring Systems in Settlement on Mothballing Unit 2

At presstime (late September) TMIA activist Eric Epstein was about to enter into an agreement with operators of Three Mile Island to end litigation over the utility's plans to put the crippled plant into a phase known as "monitored storage." As a result of the impending settlement, TMIA will drop its challenge to GPU's plan to postpone final clean-up and dismantling of the Unit 2 site until 2014, when the utility plans to decommission Unit 1. For GPU it means it won't have to go through costly hearings on its proposal. However, under terms of the proposed settlement, the utility will put money into decommissioning research each year. GPU will also fund an area-wide monitoring program. Epstein characterized the settlement as significant. "This will give us the long-term, high-quality monitoring system we've been looking to establish since the accident and it frees us from relying on data supplied by the utility and the NRC to ensure the safety of local residents."

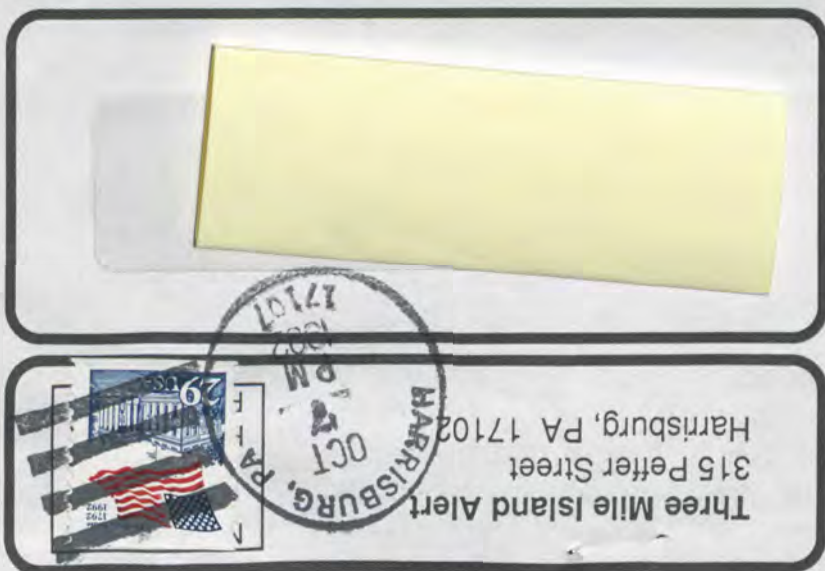
TMIA Challenges Met-Ed Rate Hike Plan

Saying Met-Ed's customers have paid more than their share of TMI clean-up costs, TMIA spokesperson Eric Epstein called on GPU stockholders to share more of the clean-up burden. Epstein's comments came at a September open meeting hosted by the Pa. Public Utility Commission in York on Met-Ed's pending rate hike request to raise consumer electric bills about \$5 per month.

Epstein noted GPU customers have "contributed \$246 million toward the defueling effort, or exactly three times the GPU corporate contribution of \$82 million. Now," Epstein said, "Met-Ed is asking the ratepayers to make additional financial sacrifices...." Epstein went on to characterize the \$68 million proposed increase as "unreasonable and illegal." The state consumer advocate, Irwin A. Popowski, opposed the rate hike saying, "The company has not justified the need for any increase."

Anti-BRC May be an Issue as Congress Winds Down

As Congress speeds towards adjournment, a conference committee of House and Senate leaders will try to iron out differences between House-passed and Senate-passed energy legislation. Included in the deliberations will be a House provision which affirms the authority of states to set stricter than federal standards if the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) exempts or substantially reduces protection of the public health and safety from radioactivity. The NRC, of course, has done just that in promulgating its "Below Regulatory Concern" (BRC) action which deregulates federal oversight of the disposal of certain radioactive wastes.



IMMEDIATELY
OPEN
Planning Council
Meeting, October 1

A RED X INDICATES
YOUR DUES PAYMENT
IS REQUESTED

In the waning days of this Congressional session lawmakers should be encouraged to adopt language similar to that found in S.1111, revoking the NRC's two BRC policies and affirming unconditional state authority to set stricter than NRC standards for the disposal of "low-level" radioactive wastes.

Clinton, Bush Differ on Energy, Environmental Policy

	Clinton	Bush
Supports raising auto fuel efficiency standards	YES	NO
Opposes oil drilling in Arctic National Wildlife Refuge	YES	NO
Supports reorienting US labs from military R&D to renewable energy	YES	NO
Opposes one step nuclear plant licensing	YES	NO
Opposes new nuclear plant construction	YES	NO
Opposes Below Reuglatory Concern policy for nuclear waste	YES	NO
Supports federal pollicy for new mass transit	YES	YES
Supports laws that tax polluters and reward conservation	YES	NO

Safety Problems Plague U.S. "Low-Level" Radwaste Storage

On the heels of a U.S. Supreme Court decision relieving states of ownership of and liability for "low-level" radioactive wastes, a study released by the Safe Energy Communications Council (SECC) this summer showed that the same companies that have managed America's six existing commercial "low-level" radioactive storage facilities (three of which have been closed due to leakage) are now overseeing development of new waste storage methods. The report says these new methods use flawed analyses and suspect design criteria and may not prevent leakage and radiation exposure.

"The U.S. 'low-level' radioactive waste program is a house of cards," said Marvin Resnikoff, Ph.D, author of *MYTHBusters #8: 'Low-Level' Radioactive Waste*. "From hemorrhaging landfills to flawed designs for new storage plans, a slow-motion Chernobyl is already in progress," says Dr. Resnikoff, a physicist with the New York-based Radioactive Waste Management Associates. "Congress must respond to the Court's decision by rewriting the federal Low Level Radioactive Policy Act," he said.

SECC's report notes there is no proven method of safe, permanent storage or transportation of "low-level" radioactive wastes. Three of the six existing "low-level" waste sites—Sheffield, Maxie Flats and West Valley—are permanently closed because radioactive materials leaked into nearby soil and groundwater systems.

"We continue to create radioactive wastes as if a safe, scientific storage technology existed," said SECC research director Martin Gelfand. "But there is no scientific 'dream team,' no magic solution on the horizon. It's time to step back from nuclear power and make a serious commitment to other energy sources."

Book Examines Operation of the Hanford Site

The Hanford Site in south-eastern Washington state was built by the Army Corps of Engineers and the DuPont Corporation during World War II to produce plutonium for America's first atomic weap-

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ons. The gigantic facility was immediately successful, producing and delivering in less than two years the plutonium for the world's initial atomic explosion and for the bomb dropped on Nagasaki that effectively ended World War II.

The first complete history of Hanford was made possible by the recent declassification of tens of thousands of formerly secret government documents relating to the construction, operation, and maintenance of the site. It describes the releases (planned and accidental) of radioactive and chemical contaminants; their pathways through the environment; attempts to correct problems under conditions of rapid, nearly chaotic change; and the secrecy of government operations that made scientific review of Hanford processes virtually impossible.

The book, *On the Home Front*, was written by Michele Stenehjem Gerber, who holds a Ph.D in history from SUNY Albany and is now a staff historian for Westinghouse Hanford Company. The book costs \$35.00 and is available from the University of Nebraska Press (800/755-1105).

Gofman Book on Health Effects Available

Scientist John Gofman continues to present his argument that there is no safe level of radiation exposure in his latest book, *Radiation-Induced Cancer from Low-Dose Exposures*. Gofman, who has extensively researched bomb-survivor data and "dose rate effectiveness factors" concludes that low doses of radiation are relatively more dangerous than higher doses. Gregg Wilkinson, chief of the Division of Epidemiology at the University of Texas Medical Branch, in reviewing the book says: "Although Gofman has simplified the many complexities of a topic at the crossroads of radiation physics, medicine, epidemiology, and statistics, some readers will find the technical details difficult to follow. The thoughtful organization and an expansive index and glossary will, however, make the more complex sections of this important resource understandable to the well-informed lay reader." The book is available from the Committee for Nuclear Responsibility for \$29.95 (PO Box 421993, San Francisco, California 94142).

Nissan Publishes Environmental Newsletter

Nissan North America, Inc. has recently started publishing a newsletter. The Summer, 1992 issue reports on a \$70,000 corporate grant to the Sierra Club in support of its Inner City Outings program, how they're eliminating CFC's from their manufacturing (they were used in plastic bumpers), company efforts with solar and electric cars, and the company's support of environmental education. Of course, the masthead is in green ink and it is on recycled paper. For a copy contact Katherine Faith, Public Affairs Specialist, Nissan North America, Inc., PO Box 2814, Torrance, CA 90509-2814.

Carry It On - 1993 Peace Calendar Available

The tradition continues. The 22nd edition of the Peace Calendar continues the marvelous blend of art and politics that have made the Peace Calendar one of the best selling progressive publications in the USA. The cover art (and the December art) is a bold, brightly colored silkscreen by Silk Oak titled "Earth Song" which reminds us of our connections to and reverence for all beings. More than 20 artists, poets and writers combine their diverse talents. Available at the TMIA office for only \$10.00.

News Notes

- GPU determined in June that the "actual ventilation flow" from the Unit 2 evaporator was higher than the value used in their "effluent calculations" (there was a 10 percent increase in tritium for the fourth quarter of 1990). The NRC concluded the effluent increase "did not affect the safe operation of the evaporator." TMIA continues to have concerns about the evaporation. We hope other utilities and industries don't adopt this as a method of disposing of hazardous wastes.
- The Ukrainians supported in part by TMIA members on their trip to the U.S. sent a thank you note reporting that during their trip they presented the UN with a proposal on dealing with radiation refugees, they lobbied Congress for assistance in relocating people from radiation contaminated localities in the Ukraine, and gathered signatures petitioning President Bush to meet with Ukraine President Kravchuk during the Earth Summit in Rio. The closing line in their letter was: Thank you once more for your support and your fight for safe human life in the nuclear-free world.
- TMIA's Planning Council will meet Thursday, October 1 at 7:15 p.m. at the TMIA office, 315 Peffer Street. A prime topic on the agenda will be finances. During calendar year 1991, expenses exceeded income by more than \$1,600.



VIEWPOINT

A Forum on Energy and Environmental Issues

The Great Divide: Bush and Clinton Clash Over National Energy Strategy

By SCOTT DENMAN

Sifting through political differences between candidates can be challenging. But through responses to a candidate survey by Energy America, George Bush and Bill Clinton have espoused definitive and divergent plans for our nation's energy future, giving voters a clear choice in November. Quotes presented below are those of the candidates.

In general, President Bush advocates conventional production strategies, including oil and gas development in the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge (ANWR), jump-starting the moribund nuclear industry, and taxpayer support for "clean coal technologies." At the same time, Bush opposes higher auto fuel efficiency standards as "expensive and dangerous." He calls for improved combustion engines and "expansion of electric vehicle technology, an acceleration in scrapping older cars, promotion of mass transit and programs to encourage ride sharing."

In contrast, Clinton's campaign emphasis on change is reflected in his pursuit of "a new energy policy ... rely[ing] less on imported oil, and more on cheap and abundant natural gas, and on research and development into renewable energy sources."

Clinton opposes drilling for oil in the ecologically-sensitive ANWR. He favors a goal of 45 mpg for auto fuel efficiency standards and "revenue-neutral market incentives to reward consumers who conserve and make polluters and energy wasters pay." Clinton also seeks to achieve European standards of energy efficiency for U.S. factories and office buildings.

Clinton favors federal tax incentives for renewable energy sources that would help to "level the playing field" and enable renewables like solar and wind "to compete fairly"

against "traditional energy resources [that] ... reap many benefits from a tax structure slanted in their favor."

Bush argues that his Administration's proposed FY 1993 budget of \$247 million "for solar and renewables is up by 67 percent over the level four years earlier." This is true; however, Bush's "high" FY93 request for renewables amounts to only one-third of Pres. Jimmy Carter's \$718 million in FY80. And Bush's FY 1993 budget request for all nuclear fission and fusion programs (\$1.377 billion) is nearly double the amount requested for all renewable energy and conservation programs combined (\$768 million).

Bush vigorously endorses the revival of nuclear power in the U.S. and has "ordered the Department of Energy to initiate work on new types of reactors" Clinton has stated that he "generally opposes the proliferation of nuclear power plants because of my deep reservations about the safety risks and long-term problems posed by such plants."

Governor Clinton calls for an international climate change treaty and wants the U.S. to commit to stabilizing carbon dioxide at 1990 levels by the year 2000. President Bush, however, postulates that "the relationship between greenhouse gas emissions and global climate change is not yet well understood." In fact, Bush travelled to Rio de Janeiro and signed the United Nations Convention on Climate Change only after he had been assured that binding limitations on carbon dioxide production had been removed from the treaty.

Enough from the candidates. What do the people want? A March, 1992 poll conducted by the independent firm of Frederick/Schneiders, Inc. for the Safe Energy Communication Council found a striking similar-

ity between many of Bill Clinton's energy positions and those of a majority of the public.

For example, 63 percent say that the U.S. can meet future increased demand for electricity through energy efficiency. A combined total of 76 percent want renewable energy sources, conservation or natural gas to be the federal government's top funding priority. Nearly two-thirds (65 percent) oppose the construction of more nuclear power plants. The poll also indicates that four out of five Americans, or 81 percent, would not allow the government to override a state's environmental laws to site a nuclear waste dump, as Bush and the Congress have proposed for Nevada.

The candidates positions on energy policy speak loud and clear. Come November, the voters will make their choice known.

Scott Denman is the Executive Director of the Safe Energy Communication Council.

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Letters should be addressed to **VIEWPOINT**, c/o SECC, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite LL215, Washington, D.C. 20036

VIEWPOINT provides the nation's press with expert opinion on timely energy and environmental issues. **VIEWPOINT** is a public service of the Safe Energy Communication Council, a non-profit organization working to provide factual and educational information on our country's energy choices.

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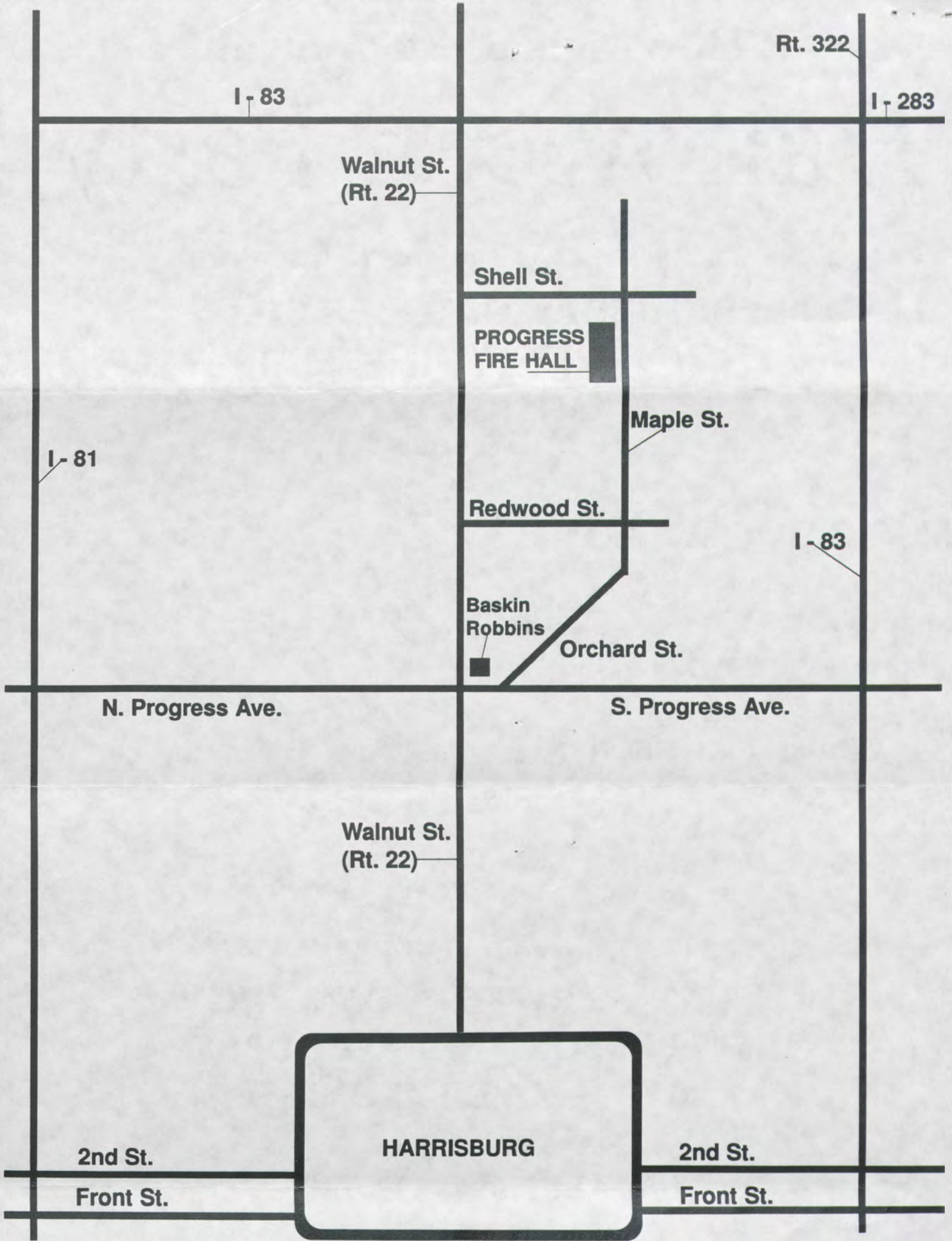
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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

December
1992

315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-3072

Public Health Fund Provides Monitoring Network for Area

After three years of careful planning the Three Mile Island Citizens Monitoring Network, Inc. (TMI-CMN) has come up with a state-of-the-art, real-time, on-line, 24-hour-a-day, radiation monitoring network. This goal has been achieved with funds made available by the TMI Public Health Fund, a fund established in partial settlement of a citizen lawsuit against TMI's operators after the accident.

This totally independent network is made up of citizens throughout the TMI area and has as its sole purpose the monitoring, recording, and transmission of data on releases of radiation that occur from the TMI nuclear power plant. Once on-line, the network will have the capacity to monitor and record releases of Gamma, Alpha and Beta radiation.

This \$1.1 million network consists of 49 remote monitoring stations (22 of which will be equipped with meteorological sensors), a central monitoring station with customized data collection and display capabilities; stand-alone weather monitoring station; and 25 Rad Alert monitors. Funding provided by the Health Fund will cover the training of all participating citizens on all the monitoring equipment being utilized.

The network will also feature remote stations located in public places showing real-time radiation levels at each location, in addition to a telephone line citizens can access for readings from each of several stations located around TMI. The funds also allow for network maintenance on a 24-hour basis, as well as a director to be available around the clock. The central station will be located in the City of Harrisburg's Emergency Management Center and will be operating and monitored 24 hours per day. A built-in alarm system at this location will trigger an alarm should radiation levels exceed a predetermined level.

Installation of the network will begin in early January and is expected to be completed in by June, 1994 at the latest, according the Debbie Baker, chairperson of TMIA's Planning Council. Baker played a key role in lobbying for and planning the network. Anyone with questions about the network may contact Debbie at 717/761-8955.

Settlement with GPU Establishes Additional Monitoring by Citizens

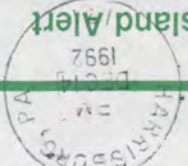
As part of a settlement agreement between GPUNuclear and Eric Epstein, a cooperative, citizens radiation monitoring group has been formed. The organization is known as the EFMR Monitoring Group at Three Mile Island. Included in the group's monitoring network are 60 Rad Alert monitors, five low-air (particulate) samplers, access to GPU's Reuter-Stokes monitoring system, and a paid

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Three Mile Island Alert
315 Pepper Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102



subscription to the National Weather Service's Computer line. The group is trying to coordinate monitoring with the Citizens Monitoring Network.

Approximately 50 Radiation Alert have been sited. The EFMR Group is seeking at least five more sites on the West Shore. Interested parties should contact Eric Epstein at 541-1101. Training for those who have agreed to operate Radiation Alert is set for the mornings of January 16, 18, or 23. Please call Epstein to reserve a place.

50th Anniversary of Nuclear Age Noted

Yes, those familiar towers on the front page of the Wednesday, December 2 *USA Today* were Three Mile Island's cooling towers. The national newspaper did a cover story on the world's first self-sustaining nuclear reaction which took place in an underground lab at the University of Chicago on December 2, 1942.

Besides explaining the basics of how a nuclear reaction takes place, the paper recapped not only the benefits of the nuclear age (X-rays, nuclear medicine, carbon dating, smoke detectors, Carbon-14 dating, space exploration, other research, etc.), but also talks about the downside (accidents releasing deadly radioactivity; pollution o of the air, land, and water; cancer, nuclear weapons, etc.).

The paper also featured a large story headed: *Questions after TMI: 'What if?'* This featured a 4.5 x 6 inch photo of TMIA's Eric Epstein, as well as a smaller photo of Middletown Mayor Robert Reid and Middletown Borough Council President Barbara Layne. Interestingly, the story originated from "THREE MILE ISLAND, Pa."

Pennsylvania "Average" in Energy Use

Pennsylvania is average among the states in amount of energy it uses, according to a study of national energy use conducted by Public Citizen. Unfortunately, Pennsylvania ranks near the top of the list for reliance on what Public Citizen calls D³ consumption: the use of Dirty, Dangerous, Depletable energy such as coal, nuclear and petroleum. The Commonwealth, unfortunately, ranks way down the list, 39th, in the use of renewable energy sources, deriving, for example, less than one percent of our energy from hydropower.

Congress Enacts New Protections for Nuclear Whistleblowers

In a major reversal of several Reagan/Bush-era judicial decisions, Congress has passed new whistleblower legislation greatly enhancing the protections offered private sector employees who blow the whistle on nuclear hazards. These new protections are part of the Comprehensive National Energy Act, enacted into law during the waning days of the last Congress.

For the first time, thousands of workers at U.S. Dept. of Energy nuclear weapons facilities are protected from retaliation or termination for blowing the whistle on nuclear safety problems. The new law also closes a number of loopholes in the old whistleblower law, which only protected employees at NRC-regulated commercial nuclear facilities. Under the Act, whistleblowers will have 180 days from the time of any alleged harassment, termination, or other form of discrimination in which to file a complaint with the U.S. Department of Labor, Wage and Hour Division.

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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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"This is a significant improvement in whistleblower protection law," said Stephen Kohn, an attorney with the National Whistleblower Center. "Congress has fixed several major flaws in the federal nuclear whistleblower act, most notably, by expanding the scope of protection to cover employees at DOE nuclear facilities and by increasing the statute of limitations," he added. For more information, contact the National Whistleblower Center, 517 Florida Avenue, N.W., Washington, DC 20001-1850; telephone, 202/667-7515.

Peace Calendar - Excellent Holiday Gift

The tradition continues. The 22nd edition of the Peace Calendar contains the marvelous blend of art and politics that have made the Peace Calendar one of the best selling progressive publications in the USA. The cover art, *Earth Song*, a bold, brightly colored progressive silk screen by Silk Oak, reminds us of our connections to and reverence for all beings. Other art celebrates African American history, women's power and choices, urban gardening, endangered species, gay pride, and the continuing struggle against militarism. People's history dates provide little-known information on US and world history. Only \$10.00 each from the TMIA office, 315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg. Call 233-7897.

1993 PEACE CALENDAR



Cover/December - *Earth Song* by Silk Oak

Criticality A Possibility at TMI says Kaku

Dr. Michio Kaku, a professor of nuclear physics at the City University of New York, says technical documents submitted to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission by GPU shows that a criticality accident is still a possibility at TMI.

According to Dr. Kaku, "The utility admits that not only is criticality possible, but it calculates the amount of uranium necessary to reach critical mass: about 200 pounds (a fraction of the total amount of uranium left in the core). In other words, if an accident were to somehow rearrange the debris inside the core and bring 200 pounds of loose uranium together within the damaged reactor vessel, the core would go critical, and the accident at TMI would start all over again."

Kaku's remarks are in a nine-page paper he authored, "Danger of Criticality at TMI." In it he notes that there are still several tons of uranium debris in the reactor vessel and that the utility's 200 pound estimate of critical mass may be an optimistic one.

Energy Notes

- A proposed nuclear waste site at Martinsville, Illinois was canceled, simply because of the unacceptable hydrogeology. Local activist say the moral of the story is that it is possible to get an honest, clear-headed decision from an adjudicatory process.

- The Department of Transportation has pressured the Environmental Protection Agency to stop publishing a report which shows that automobile fuel efficiency standards can be "greatly improved without changing the size mix of vehicles." The EPA says that the fuel efficiency of 1992 models could be 25 percent higher with no new technology and without reducing vehicle size, if every car were as efficient as the best model in its weight class. Such improvements would reduce carbon dioxide emissions by 125 million tons.

- Instruments used to gauge the cooling water depth at 37 nuclear reactors are susceptible to error and could fail entirely, industry officials told the NRC. In the event of an emergency, water levels are raised to 10 to 15 feet above the reactor core. An instrument prone to failure or misreading could lead operators to believe water levels are higher than they actually are. An exposed core could lead to a meltdown.

- The Sacramento Municipal Utility District plans to replace 59,000 inefficient electric water heaters in its service area with solar powered models. The utility will provide rebates of \$400 to \$1450 and loans at a three percent interest rate for eight years, to facilitate the conversion.

•Dr. John Gofman of the Committee for Nuclear Responsibility reports that within five years of the Chernobyl accident, the rate of cancer has risen far above normal. According to researchers, children are particularly susceptible to thyroid cancer from radioactive iodine because their thyroid glands are small and concentrate the iodine they ingest. Gofman also finds that those exposed to radiation in-utero are showing a 15 point drop on IQ scores.

News Notes

•The 33rd annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage from Nazareth to Bethlehem will be held Saturday, December 12. Doug Hostetter, of the Fellowship of Reconciliation, will be the featured speaker at the evening program. For more information call 215/691-8730.

•Pa. Is Not a Wasteland bumper stickers are available at the TMIA office for only \$1.00. Send your check to TMIA and your bumper stickers will be mailed to you.

•More tritium is released from nuclear installations than any other radioactive contaminant. The nuclear industry insists that such releases, which are largely unregulated, pose no risks to the public; but the models used to assess its radio toxicity are suspect. An article, *Tritium - The Overlooked Nuclear Hazard*, appeared in the September/October 1992 issue of *The Ecologist*. Copies of the article, which say evidence links tritium emissions with birth defects and cancers, are available on request from TMIA.

Hydrogen Fuel Poised at Starting Line

by Peter Hoffman, Editor, *The Hydrogen Letter*

VPT - This fall, Congress passed the 1993 Energy and Water Appropriations bill. The bill contains a little-noticed clause with a potentially huge environmental impact: the allocation of \$4.5 million for hydrogen energy research and development in the coming fiscal year.

Although tiny by Capitol Hill standards, this money almost doubles the annual amount Congress has provided for hydrogen R&D since the late 1980s. And it indicates that hydrogen energy, regarded by some as science fiction, is finally finding respect as a viable, and perhaps most promising option for clean energy technology.

Hydrogen is not an energy source. It's a chemical energy carrier: think of it as natural gas minus the polluting carbon element. Hydrogen atoms can be split off from any hydrocarbon fuel (coal, oil, alcohol, biomass, natural gas). Zapped with electric current (electrolysis), water also yields atoms of hydrogen and oxygen. Recombining or "burning" with the air's oxygen in an internal combustion engine or fuel cell, hydrogen produces energy plus water or steam (plus traces of easily suppressed NOx). Hydrogen is an elegantly non-polluting, renewable energy source, even more so if the electrolysis is powered by solar or renewable electricity.

Clean burning and abundant, hydrogen would seem the perfect fuel for the nation's vehicles except for one problem: on-board storage.

Stored in metal hydrides - alloys that soak up hydrogen and release it when heated - weight and range become problems. Using this method, German carmaker Mercedes-Benz, which in the 1980s ran 10 hydrogen/hydride cars and vans several hundred thousands of kilometers in Berlin without a hitch, got around 75 miles on a tank of hydrogen in city driving.

But mated with a fuel cell, which has about three times the energy efficiency of an internal combustion engine, hydrogen-fueled vehicles can achieve ranges matching those of current gasoline-burners - or more. (Fuel cells act much like batteries, recombining chemicals, such as hydrogen and oxygen, to produce electricity silently and cleanly. Fuel cells could power a future electric car's motor.)

The costs of hydrogen-powered vehicles could be surprisingly low. A recent presentation before the U.S. Department of Energy's new Hydrogen Technical Advisory Panel estimated that electrolytic hydrogen, produced from water using 5 cents/kWh electricity, could cost the equivalent of \$1.86/gallon of gasoline. But given the fuel cell's much higher efficiency, the impact on the driver's wallet would be closer to 60 cents/gallon.

Fuel cells with sufficient power and ruggedness that will also fit under the hood aren't commercially available yet. But laboratories in the U.S., Canada, Japan and Germany are racing to come up with such a cell.

To spur development, California's South Coast Air Quality Management District, the Los Angeles basin's air pollution control agency, set up a Fuel Cell for Transportation coalition this spring. Another District project is the Locomotive Propulsion Systems Task force, created to examine prospects for hydrogen-powered fuel cell locomotives to replace polluting diesels in the Los Angeles basin.

Motivated by the state's tough anti-pollution laws, foreign carmakers such as Mazda and, reportedly, Mercedes-Benz are already eyeing Southern California as the marketplace to debut their hydrogen cars.

For hydrogen-powered vehicles to make any impact on the nation's foreign oil dependence or air quality, Americans must become more serious about public-private hydrogen funding and research. Together, German industry and government spent roughly \$55 million annually in recent years for hydrogen R&D. Japan's Ministry of International Trade and Industry (MITI) may spend \$2.4 billion on hydrogen technology alone as part of a \$12.4 billion package for innovative energy technologies over the next three decades. Demonstration projects for hydrogen powered bus fleets, trains, cars, boats and even commercial jetliners have been launched in Italy, Canada, Iceland, Ireland, Belgium, Norway and Russia.

The emerging global competitive message? Start your engines!... on hydrogen. The new Administration and Congress seem to be listening.

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