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Three Mile Island Resources

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THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

March
1993

315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-3072

Customers Will Pay for Decommissioning Unit 2

In a complete reversal of position, the Public Utility Commission ruled in early March that Metropolitan Edison Company ratepayers must help pay the cost of dismantling the damaged TMI Unit 2. In a preliminary vote on January 21 widely heralded as a victory for consumers, PUC Commissioner David Rolka voted in the majority in a 2-1 vote against allowing Met-Ed to charge customers for decommissioning the plant. On March 11 Rolka voted the other way, saying upon further consideration he believed the charges were appropriate.

"I am extremely disappointed," said State Consumer Advocate Irwin Popowsky. "I believe the original commission order was exactly correct and the reversal was wrong," he added. Popowsky said the state will appeal the decision on behalf of Met-Ed ratepayers. Popowsky said it is unfair that ratepayers should have to pay to decommission a plant from which they received little benefit.

Rolka, however, said "There is no dispute that the \$8,302,000 (annually) is the amount of decommissioning costs that the company would have incurred, whether or not the accident happened."

Security Breach at TMI, World Trade Bombing Raise Safety Concerns

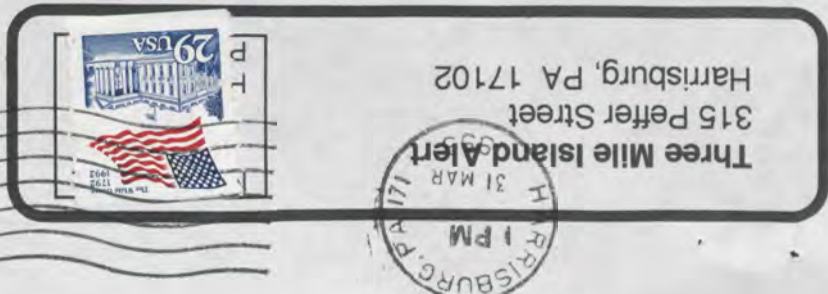
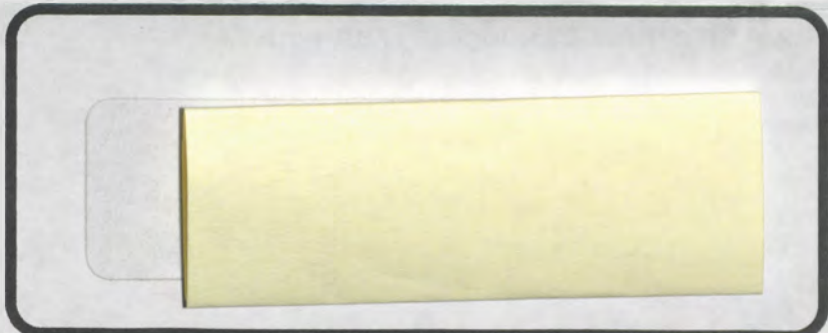
Nuclear Regulatory Commission Chairman Ivan Selin told a U.S. Senate subcommittee the February 7 security breach at TMI and the bombing at the World Trade Center prompted his agency to rethink its security regulations. Selin said though a big bomb would be unlikely to trigger a radiation release, a big enough blast could hurt safety systems and leave the plant "skating on thin ice."

A terrorism expert with the Rand Corporation told the committee, "One similarly shudders to think what professional terrorists, well-armed and trained in combat skills, driving something more formidable than a Plymouth station wagon, could accomplish should they decide that the defenses and security measures at this country's commercial nuclear power plants were permeable."

Three Mile Island Alert, in testimony before the Pa. House Consumer Affairs Committee, said the nuclear industry and NRC have demonstrated an attitude reminiscent of their prediction that a TMI-type accident was non-credible, in their refusal to come to terms with the possibility of a terrorist attack. The NRC has, in fact, taken steps recently to reduce security at nuclear plants and has failed to heed warnings that the public health and safety could be at risk.

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In its testimony, TMIA recommended a security audit by the Pa. State Police, vehicle barricades at both bridges, a truck lift at the North Gate to allow the inspection of the underside of vehicles, better lighting, boat patrols, and other security measures to ensure the integrity of the site.

Local Officials Upset Over Notification Process

Pierce Nye drove his Plymouth onto Three Mile Island without challenge at 7:05 a.m., crashed through a security gate, and remained undetected for more than four hours. Frank Linn, President of the Lower Swatara Township Commissioners heard about the incident after residents called him after hearing about the incident on Cable News Network. Linn, who said he was embarrassed by his lack of information, finally heard from the County at 10:30 a.m. and from GPU at 12:22 p.m., more than an hour after Nye was apprehended.

TMI spokesman Bill Gross, who normally would have had the responsibility for calling Linn, told the Patriot-News he could not as he was in Cancun on vacatiqn. He said the lack of a call was an over-sight.

March 28 Marks 14th Anniversary

The Three Mile Accident began 14 years ago and, as noted in the stories above, its impact is still being felt by residents and ratepayers. TMIA plans no observance of the anniversary, but has announced planning is underway for next year's fifteenth anniversary.

NRC Denies Petition to Close Plants Using Faulty Fire Prevention Material

The NRC denied a petition from the Nuclear Information Resource Service (NIRS) to suspend the licenses of reactors which use Thermo-Lag, a fire barrier material used to protect vital electrical cables at 84 U.S. reactors including TMI, Limerick, Peach Bottom and the Susquehanna Plant in Berwick.

Officials from the company that manufactures Thermo-Lag are charged with misrepresenting the effectiveness of the product, saying it passed tests proving it would work. In fact, the product failed repeated tests and, according to John Dingell, chairman of the House Energy and Commerce Committee, tests showed a \$2.70 piece of gypsum or plasterboard withstood fire for 56 minutes while a \$400 piece of Thermo-Lag under identical conditions lasted only 22 minutes.

A federal grand jury February 1 issued subpoenas to the nation's utilities, reactor construction companies, and Thermal Science, Inc. (manufacturer of Thermo-Lag). The grand jury was formed in the U.S. District Court in Baltimore, apparently at the request of the NRC's Office of Inspector General, which is conducting an investigation of Thermo-Lag's failures and the NRC's laggard response to indications the material does not meet regulations.

NRC Chairman Ivan Selin told Congressman Dingell's Committee, "We screwed up. We had every opportunity to make sure this mess was nipped in the bud ... We didn't do our job."

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TMI Could Serve as Rad Waste Dump

Under the provisions of the federal Low Level Radioactive Policy Act passed by Congress in 1980, the nation's three active disposal sites for low level waste have been allowed to reject waste from outside their service areas as of January 1, 1993. Nevada shut its Beatty facility completely and the site at Hanford, Washington now only accepts waste from six neighboring states. That leaves Barnwell, South Carolina, which has announced it will be closed to outsiders in mid-1994.

TMI is currently shipping wastes to Barnwell, but TMI's operators plan to store wastes on site until Chem Nuclear, operator of the Barnwell site, gets a site approved and builds a permanent storage facility somewhere in Pennsylvania to handle waste from Pennsylvania, Maryland, Delaware, and West Virginia.

Researcher Finds Cancer Risk is Small Doses of Radiation

After reviewing the health records of 35,000 workers at the government's bomb plant in Hanford, Washington, Dr. Alice Stewart concluded that 200 workers have lost or will lose years of their lives because of radiation-induced cancer. The findings of Dr. Stewart, a pioneer in radiation epidemiology, contradict earlier government-sponsored studies that found no additional cancer deaths among employees at the bomb plant.

Until Dr. Stewart won access to the data, the government limited access to scientists of their own choosing who have generally concluded that the radiation exposure had done little harm. Dr. Stewart fought for 14 years to gain access to the data. Her study was financed with \$1.4 million from the Three Mile Island Public Health Fund, a foundation established after the 1979 accident in partial settlement in a suit brought against GPU. The Health Fund approved an additional \$795,000 in supplemental funding for continuing the study in February.

Dr. Stewart's study concludes that the National Academy of Science had understated the cancer risk of low level exposure by four to eight times. Asked why many small doses could be worse than a single large one, Dr. Stewart said: "Why is a mutation dangerous? It is only dangerous if the cell survives." Given a larger dose, she said, the cell dies.

Clinton Budget Favors Safe Energy

Readers are urged to support President Clinton's proposed BTU energy tax without changes. What many people have not realized is that this proposed tax is particularly punitive toward nuclear power. On the surface, it treats nuclear like coal and natural gas. But the front end of nuclear's fuel cycle (uranium mining, milling, processing, enrichment, and fuel fabrication) is highly energy-intensive, and at each step, the BTU tax costs will be passed on to the next step—resulting in higher (though much fairer and more reflective of reality) operating costs for nuclear power plants. We have not seen specific figures yet, but some economists predict the tax would be as much as 50 percent greater on nuclear than on coal or natural gas. Write your congressman to support the cuts in the nuclear power budget and to support the President's energy tax.

BRC Still Alive in Hearts of NRC

Despite the 1992 Congressional revocation of the NRC's Below Regulatory Concern policies, BRC lives on: the Enhanced Rulemaking on Residual Radioactivity (ERORR) is a nationwide effort by the NRC to persuade the public to sanction broad radiation protection exemptions for the nuclear industry to allow incomplete clean-up of radioactive sites. It's the BRC "wolf" in the "sheep's pajamas" of contaminated site clean-up.

The NRC is holding a series of seven meetings around the country, including one in Philadelphia on April 13 & 14. While most of the two-day session is reserved for "expert" testimony and dialog, there are intermittent "open mike" periods and TMIA is considering sending a delegation to the meeting. Anyone interested in attending should call TMIA at 233-7897 or NIRS at 202/328-0002.

Millions Going Down the Hole at Yucca Mountain

Though President Clinton has said the nation's high-level nuclear waste policy should be reviewed, the actual and perhaps irreversible construction of the Yucca Mountain high level waste dump is

kicking into gear. By April, the Department of Energy's Yucca Mountain Project Office, which has already spent \$1.4 billion on inconclusive "studies," plans to start digging the \$850 million, 14 mile underground tunnel designed for use as part of the dump. This year the project is throwing \$49 million at the facility, just to get started underground. Next year they want to spend three times that. The Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) has asked that those opposing this project contact the White House immediately (202/456-1111) to demand that construction be stopped and the project remain unfunded while U.S. radioactive waste policies are reviewed.

Hospitals Don't Need RadWaste Dumps

According to NIRS, despite nuclear industry claims, the treatment of life-threatening diseases like cancer and heart disease will not be jeopardized in new low-level radioactive dumps are not found quickly. Radioactive medical wastes constitute less than one-tenth of one percent of the radioactivity now shipped to waste dumps and most, which are short-lived wastes which are stored for decay at hospitals, never reach the dumps. For a copy of *Radioactive Waste: The Medical Factor*, send \$20.00 to NIRS, 1424 16th Street, N.W., Suite 601, Washington, DC 20036.

News Notes

- **Earth Day '93** will be held at River Front Park, April 24, noon to 5PM. The Earth Day Coalition is under the umbrella of the Pa. Rainforest Action Committee, Inc. TMIA will have literature, buttons and tee-shirts available at a table sponsored by the Center for Peace and Justice. Call Kay Pickering at TMIA (233-7897) if you can volunteer for one or two hours.

- **Sun Day 1993: A Campaign for a Sustainable Energy Future** has been launched by a coalition of 650 citizen groups, businesses, government officials and others committed to improved energy efficiency and renewable energy technologies as solutions to global climate change, acid rain, radioactive waste, and other energy-related environmental problems. TMIA will participate along with the Sierra Club, Friends of the Earth, the Natural Resource Defense Council, and dozens of other safe energy, consumer, business and labor groups.

- **Sustainable Energy Business Directory Published** which includes the names and addresses of more than 750 U.S. businesses involved in wind, solar, and other renewable energy technologies, energy efficient lighting and appliances, and energy-conserving homes and related issues. The *National Directory of Sustainable Energy Businesses* is available from Public Citizen for \$12.50. The directory is also available on floppy disk for \$40.00. Write or call Public Citizen, 215 Pennsylvania Avenue, S.E., Washington, DC 20003 (202/546-4996).

- **Conference Planning is Underway** at Penn State University for an August 9, 10, 11 conference co-sponsored by PSU and the Pa. Public Utility Commission. A statewide conference, *Utilities and Public Policy III: The Challenges of Change*, will bring together utility customers, government officials, representatives of consumer groups and utility companies to learn about and discuss current and emerging topics in the public utility sector. TMIA has a questionnaire available which was designed by conference planners to get the input of interested parties. Visit TMI's office to obtain a copy, or call Mitchell Miller, the PUC's Director of Consumer Services, at 717/783-5391 for more information.

- **An Updated Fact Sheet About Chem Nuke**, Pennsylvania's designated operator for the state's nuclear waste dump, is available from TMIA. Send a self-addressed, stamped envelope to *Chem Nuke Fact Sheet*, TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

- **Trust and Its Relationship to Psychological Distress: the Case of TMI** by R. L. Goldstein, K. Goldstein, and J.K. Schorr and printed in Vol. 13, No. 4 of *Political Psychology* is available for your review at TMIA.

- **Environment Pennsylvania**, a new magazine which bills itself as the "voice of the environment in the Commonwealth" is available at \$18 per year from Environment Pa., RD 3, Box 477C, Lewisburg, PA 17837. The magazine is packed with citizen action oriented materials and its primary goal is to facilitate citizen involvement and participation.

- **Too Hot for TV!** is how producers of a video documentary describe "Three Mile Island Revisited." They didn't supply TMIA with a review copy, but the promotional literature says the documentary "challenges the nuclear industry and government claim that 'no one died' as a result of the core meltdown at Three Mile Island. This documentary tells the shocking truth about what really happened and is still happening since the 1979 accident." Curious? Send \$14.75 plus \$2.25 shipping and handling (\$17 total) to Envirovideo, Box 311, Fort Tilden, NY 11695.

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Earth Day Honors Indigenous Peoples

Earth Day USA President Bruce Anderson and other environmental group leaders met with indigenous leaders from around the world at the U.N. in December and informed them of Earth Day's 1993 theme: "Working with the Earth - Honoring Indigenous Peoples."

"It's been 500 years since people from the rest of the world started coming to this continent," Anderson said. "In all that time there has never been a mass opportunity to sit and listen carefully to what indigenous people have to say and to discuss the Earth with them. Earth Day '93 is that opportunity."

Native leaders, including Chief Oren Lyons of the Onondaga (Iroquois Six Nations) expressed appreciation for Earth Day's efforts and offered advice and support. In remarks to the U.N. General Assembly, indigenous leaders noted that the special knowledge of their ancient traditions could be of enormous value to people who were grappling with the many modern environmental problems.

A Message from President Clinton:

Our victory in November was due in no small part to the hard work of many committed environmentalists all over the country who brought the message to voters everywhere that it was time for a change - a change in the way we approach vital questions such as the protection of our environment.

Al Gore and I know that within the past decade, climate change, ozone depletion and other global environmental problems have emerged as threats to the survival of humankind. We will not shrink from our responsibilities to lead this nation and the world in facing these difficult problems.

At home, we must reject the false choice between jobs and environmental protection. Today you can't have a healthy economy without a healthy environment, and you don't have to sacrifice economic growth.

Al and I are very grateful for your support and we look forward to your continued support as we move forward with a new approach to the environment in this country.

*Reproduced from the Program for the Environmental Inaugural Ball,
January 22, 1993, courtesy of Renew America.*

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Earth Day
Thursday, April 22

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Earth Day is also Sun Day 1993

Formally launched on Earth Day 1992, SUN DAY 1993 is an ongoing, nationwide, grassroots, organizing and educational campaign to promote improved energy efficiency and renewable energy (i.e., solar, wind, biomass, solar-hydrogen, geothermal, and hydroelectric) technologies as solutions to global climate change, energy imports, acid rain, radioactive waste, and other energy-related environmental problems.

The SUN DAY 1993 campaign is advocating an national energy policy that, at a minimum, reduces total energy use by ten percent and triples the current contribution of renewable energy technologies by the year 2010.

Two Named to Public Utility Commission

Attorneys John Hanger and John Quain were appointed by Gov. Robert Casey to the state Public Utility Commission. John Hanger, of Philadelphia, served as Legal Counsel to PUC Commissioner Joseph Rhodes since 1988. He previously served as public advocate for Philadelphia's 500,000 municipal gas and water customers. Quain, who served as a PUC staff attorney from 1982-1986, left government service to serve as managing partner of the Harrisburg office of the Pittsburgh powerhouse law firm of Tucker-Arensberg. The firm specializes in utility law and has a number of major utilities on its client roster. TMIA's Kay Pickering encourages members to get acquainted with them as they'll be deciding future rate cases.

News Notes

•Attention Recyclers: Friends of the Earth offers labels which enable you to reuse the envelopes you get in the mail. We use them at the TMIA office and like them very much. The cost is \$4.25 for 100. Make checks payable to Friends of the Earth, 218 D Street, SE, Washington, DC 20003.

•Eric Epstein and Veronica Rodriguez are the proud parents of Gabriela, born April 14, 1993. She weighed 8 lb. 13 oz. at birth and her father reports she has a full head of hair.

•Congratulations to Joanne Doroshow, longtime TMIA member and former Harrisburg resident, for the Oscar she won at the Academy Awards on March 29. Joanne was a co-producer of the award-winning documentary *Panama Deception*. Joanne now lives in New York City where she is involved with distribution of the film.

•Spruce up your wardrobe for spring and summer with a new TMIA tee-shirt. Available in sizes small, medium, large and extra large, these 100% cotton shirts are available in California blue and ash with black art and lettering. They're still only \$10.00 (+ \$1.00 for mailing) and feature that fabulous Jules Feiffer "They Lie" design.

•The PUC and Penn State University will be hosting a three-day statewide forum on August 9, 10 & 11 for the exchange of ideas on utility consumer problems, policies and programs. Consumers and community groups, utility management, researchers, PUC Commissioners, and other government officials will be taking part in exploring the issues and discussing solutions. Call Mitchell Miller, the PUC's Director of Consumer Services, at 717/783-5391 for more information.

•Susan M. Wilson has been named executive director of the Department of Environmental Resources

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Citizens Advisory Council. Her credentials include two BA degrees from Penn State (Environmental Resource Management and Biology) and a Master's in Public Policy from Carnegie-Mellon. Wilson has 12 years with state government, most recently as deputy director of the Governor's Policy Office. The Citizens Advisory Council has offices on the 5th floor of the new DER building (officially the Market Street State Office Building, MSSOB). The telephone number remains 717/787-4527.

Energy Blueprint Presented to Clinton, Congress

A large coalition of environmental and sustainable energy organizations presented President Clinton and Congress with an energy policy blueprint that links economic initiatives with environmental gains. The organizations' goals were to outline a comprehensive, yet achievable path to a sustainable energy future with the following objectives: creating at least one million new jobs by the year 2000 through investments in sustainable energy technologies and policies; reducing overall energy use at least 10 percent by 2010; reducing U.S. greenhouse gas emissions by 25 percent from 1990 levels by the year 2005; tripling the current contribution of renewable energy technologies by 2010; and reducing the production of radioactive waste.

Central Pennsylvania Congressmen, Senators Have Poor "Green" Voting Records

According to records compiled by the League of Conservation Voters, Sen. Harris Wofford voted with environmental groups on two of three votes, compiling a 67 rating on a scale of 100 (Ohio's Howard Metzenbaum got 100%), voting right on issues involving energy use, protecting the deserts and ancient forests, but voting wrong on several nuclear safety matters. Sen. Specter only voted "green" on half the issues (a 50 rating). In the House matters were worse with Congressmen Gekas and Goodling compiling 19s. The worst Pennsylvania record belongs to Republican Bud Shuster, a "0," and the best was Democrat Peter Kostmayer with an "88." Lancaster's Robert Walker scored a 6, voting correct only once. The votes monitored were on energy security, global warming, energy efficiency, nuclear energy, ancient forests, pollution, nuclear safety, nuclear wastes, and other environmental concerns.

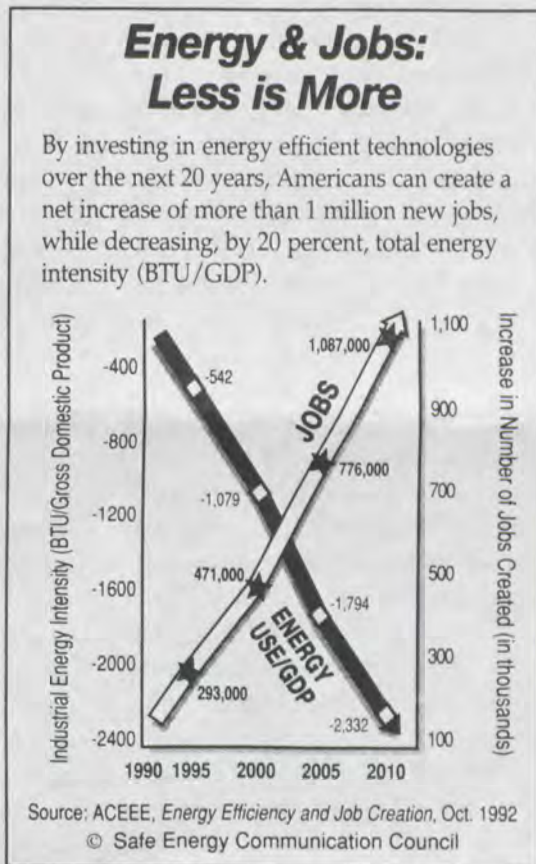
Letters Needed on Federal Budget

Letters are needed to President Clinton, Vice President Gore and members of Congress urging support for the complete elimination of federal funding for commercial nuclear technology. The real battle will be in Congress, where pro-nuclear members are attempting to reinstate all of Clinton's budget cuts. The nuclear industry has lobbyists roaming the halls of Congress daily, so regular contact from safe energy activists is important. In addition to Pennsylvania's delegation, a letter to Sen. Paul Simon (D-Illinois) is key. Sen. Simon, who had wide support from safe energy activists in his presidential bid, has actively lobbied for support for recycling plutonium into slightly less pernicious strontium, a project proposed by the Argonne Labs, located in Iowa but headquartered in Simon's home state. Remind him his porkbarrel efforts to obtain unnecessary and dangerous funding for nuclear projects will be remembered next time he expresses aspirations for higher office.

Greenpeace Study Shows Energy Savings Creates Jobs

Energy for Employment, a 1992 Greenpeace study, finds that energy efficiency programs—home weatherization, insulating roofs and walls, caulking cracks, improving furnace and air conditioner efficiency, and installing water-saving showerheads—generate jobs while saving money and protecting the environment. Greenpeace estimates that "weatherizing all U.S. households would generate over 600,000 jobs for ten years while saving Americans more than \$40 billion each year."

In a comparison of the time required to get power "on-line," the California Energy Commission found that efficiency, solar and wind all come "on-line" from between six months and three years, while gas, coal, and nuclear facilities all take between three years and 12 years to complete.





VIEWPOINT

A Forum on Energy and Environmental Issues

DICKINSON COLLEGE

MAY - 5 1993

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Clinton Charts a New Course for U.S. Energy Policy

By MARTIN GELFAND

VPT - The promise of economic change swept Bill Clinton into office. President Clinton is now moving quickly to realize his mandate. In his first address to Congress, the President boldly declared, "We're eliminating programs that are no longer needed, such as nuclear power research and development." This promise breaks with every administration since World War II.

Clinton's specific reference to nuclear power pinpoints an outrageous history of bias in federal energy research and development (R&D) spending. From 1948 to 1992, the federal government gave 65 percent of all federal energy R&D money to nuclear power, according to the Congressional Research Service. Fossil fuels (oil, coal and gas) received 19 percent; renewable energy, 11 percent; and conservation, 6 percent.

For years, Americans have been calling for a major redirection of U.S. energy funding. A bipartisan national survey conducted by Greenberg/Lake and The Tarrance Group in January 1993 revealed that 63 percent of voters think renewable energy or energy conservation should be the Energy Department's top priorities for R&D funding. Only 11 percent believe DOE's first priority should be nuclear power.

Household and business electric bills also confirm the need for a fundamental shift in energy priorities. The average cost per kiloWatt-hour (kWh) of nuclear electricity is now 9 cents, 3 or 4 cents higher than more environmentally-friendly sources like wind power, hydro, and natural gas. At some nuclear plants, particularly those that opened since 1980, the cost is much higher. For example, electricity from the Seabrook reactor in New Hampshire costs more than 20 cents per kWh.

Today, despite huge federal subsidies, nuclear power provides less than 10 percent of the nation's en-

ergy. Compare this to energy efficiency, which yields dependable, lowest-cost energy savings, but has historically received the least R&D support of any energy resource. Since 1975, conservation and improved energy efficient technologies have allowed the United States to experience steady economic growth without an appreciable increase in energy use. In fact, conservation and efficiency have reduced our nation's energy needs by about 25 percent. These gains stem from energy programs initiated during the 1970s.

However, in the 1980s, while utilities were cancelling nuclear plants faster than they were bringing them on line, the Reagan and Bush Administrations slashed federal support for conservation, efficiency and renewable energy R&D to about half of that for nuclear power.

On the campaign trail and in his book, *Putting People First*, President Clinton definitively established his opposition to increased reliance on nuclear power. Instead, he promised to increase energy efficiency and conservation and to expand the use of safe, renewable energy options.

Now, as witnessed by his February address to the nation, President Clinton intends to deliver on this promise. His first recommendation is to shift \$1.2 billion away from nuclear reactor R&D during fiscal years 1993 through 1998, into these cleaner and more cost-effective energy programs.

Investments in energy efficiency and renewable resources make good economic and environmental sense. Because energy production is less labor-intensive than most other industries, the money saved on energy can be spent on production of other goods and services - more efficient cars and appliances, better lighting and manufacturing improvements. This shift will create more jobs and international

competitiveness while protecting the environment. A study conducted by the American Council for an Energy-Efficient Economy shows that a net of more than one million new jobs spread across all sectors can be created by 2010 through aggressive investments in energy efficiency.

Now it's up to the American people to convince Congress. Between 1985 and 1992 the nuclear industry PACs poured more than \$21 million into Congressional campaign coffers. Our voices must pierce this wall of money if we are to create a sustainable energy future. It's time to stop handing nuclear welfare checks to Westinghouse, General Electric and other Fortune-500 companies.

Martin Gelfand is Research Director for the Safe Energy Communication Council.

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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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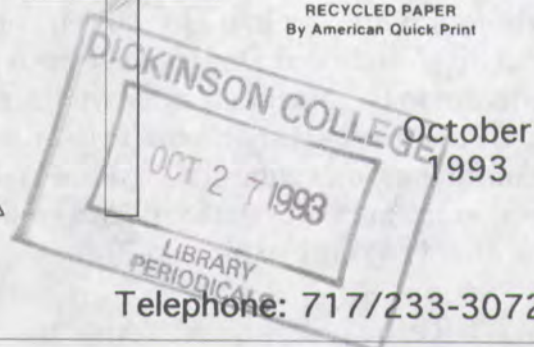
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Questions Raised Regarding How Much Fuel Remains at TMI-2

GPU Nuclear estimated there could be as much as 850 kilograms of nuclear fuel remaining in TMI-2. However, based on their own video camera and visual inspection of the facility, they estimate what's actually there is more likely about 608 kilograms. Though that's more than enough for the reactor to reach criticality, they say the material is dispersed through the reactor and rendered harmless by the borated water in which it is submerged.

Interestingly, a GPUN technician named Distenfeld, in completing a fuel storage agreement with the Department of Energy, predicted there was 1,322 kilograms of fuel remaining in the reactor, more than twice their official estimate of 608 kilograms. This was based on the amount of fuel in the reactor at start-up minus what's now in DOE's possession. Though remote, accidental criticality with this amount of fuel is a "real possibility," concluded Dr. Michio Kaku, a nuclear physicist.

GPUN Commissioned Norman Rasmussen to critique the Distenfeld study, but nowhere in the Rasmussen report is Distenfeld's name found. Rasmussen concluded there was 935 kilograms of fuel remaining at the bottom of TMI-2. According to the NRC supervisor at TMI-2, Dr. Mike Masnik, Rasmussen's study is the "best estimate" of what's actually there. Rasmussen concludes that super-criticality could result with the removal of the borated water, a scenario thought to be unlikely, but possible during an explosion, fire or crash.

Advisory Panel Holds Last Meeting

September 23, 1993 marked the last meeting of the Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of Three Mile Island Unit 2. Held at the Harrisburg Hotel, the meeting, hosted by Lancaster Mayor Arthur Morris, had a long agenda which featured two presentations from TMIA's Eric Epstein; presentations by GPU Nuclear staff on Post-Defueling Monitored Storage (PDMS), Decommissioning Funding, Long-Term Plans for TMI-2, on the evaporation (2,233,134 gallons since January 1991); and reports from NRC staff. During public comment, Epstein, TMIA security specialist Scott Portzline, and Planning Council Members Deb Davenport and Kay Pickering spoke on behalf of area residents.

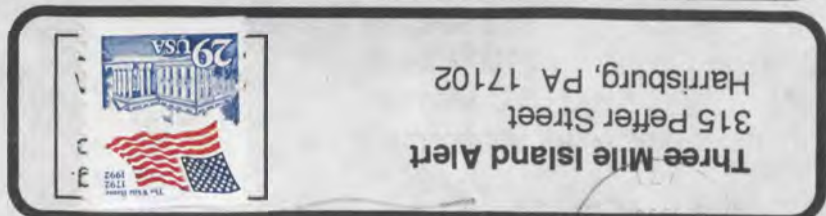
Pickering Lauded by County Commissioners

Though public reports would lead one to believe Dauphin County Commissioners rarely agree on anything, they are unanimous in their appreciation of the job Kay Pickering has done for TMIA and the people of South Central Pennsylvania. All three—Russ Sheaffer, Sally Klein, and Tony Petrucci—signed a letter expressing their appreciation for Kay's involvement with the Advisory Panel over the years.



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Steps Continue Toward PDMS

Forty-four of the original 71 requirements and commitments established for placing TMI-2 in Post-Defueling Monitored Storage have been completed. The remaining 27 requirements and commitments are to be concluded by November 17, 1993. Before the NRC allows TMI-2 to enter PDMS status, GPUN must satisfy all the TMI-2 license conditions, meet the remaining 27 requirements and commitments, and submit a "readiness to enter PDMS" letter to the NRC 30 days prior to their proposed entry to PDMS status. PDMS would continue until Unit 1 is ready for decommissioning, sometime after its license expires in 2014.

TMI-1 Refueled

One worker said, "The brass here figures if one woman can have a baby in nine months, maybe nine women can have a baby in one month. So they're bringing in more than a thousand workers and are aiming to have this shutdown one of their shortest ever."

Though we question the logic, the TMI refueling went right on schedule. The reactor shut down September 10 and was up and running by mid-October. During the six-week shutdown, 80 of the 177 fuel rods were replaced, tests were conducted, parts were replaced, and maintenance was performed.

As there is no repository for spent nuclear fuel, the on-site high-level nuclear waste dump at TMI now has 80 more fuel rods, bringing the total to more than 500 which have accumulated since the plant started operating in 1974. According to GPU Nuclear's Mary Wells, there's enough space in the on-site dump for all the fuel rods the plant will use until its operating license expires in 2014.

Five More Radiation Monitors Deployed

Five more radiation monitors that measure alpha, beta, and gamma radiation have been deployed within two miles of Three Mile Island as part of the settlement between Eric Epstein and GPU in the PDMS case. Samples from the monitors, located on the east and west shores, will be collected weekly and analyzed by personnel from Dickinson College. Under the agreement GPU will spend more than \$1 million on equipment, its maintenance, and data analysis over the next seven years.

Whistle Blower Wins \$1 Million Settlement

Former Westinghouse engineer Terry Dysert won a million-dollar settlement in a trial on his allegation that he was fired and blackballed from the nuclear industry for blowing the whistle on problems with Westinghouse's reactor vessel level instrumentation systems (RVLIS). He uncovered the problems while working at Georgia's Vogtle reactor. The RVLIS systems are a required modification of Westinghouse plants stemming from the TMI Action Plan. The trial was heard before a jury in Philadelphia on September 20.

Jersey Dodged Limerick Fuel, Philly Didn't

A last-minute appeal by the State of New Jersey to stop the transport of nuclear fuel from the closed Shoreham reactor to the Limerick nuclear facility failed when the route was changed to avoid New Jersey territory. With the legal roadblock removed, shipment of the fuel began in strict secrecy, with the first load arriving at Limerick September 28. The fuel went by barge from Long Island to Philadelphia, then by train along the edge of Philadelphia's business district and through a half-mile tunnel next to the Philadelphia Art Museum. The original plan called for the fuel to go by train through New York City, but that plan was abandoned when it met widespread public opposition.

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

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Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
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 _____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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Tomsk: Russia's Latest Chernobyl

Though western media reports of an accident at a reprocessing plant called Tomsk-7 sounded quite benign, an Australian publication reports that the accident was quite severe. Tomsk-7 is a vast, sprawling complex 'the size of Paris' where spent nuclear fuel from military production reactors is reprocessed. So while reports of 'no off site consequences' had a reassuring ring to them, there were hundreds of square kilometers contaminated on-site.

Up to 100,000 people work at the complex, a military "closed city" 15 kilometers from the city of Tomsk in Siberia. Tomsk was to be the reprocessing and disposal site for the plutonium from war-heads destroyed under the START treaty. It also accepted tons of spent fuel from closed Soviet military reactors and, in 1991, accepted commercial reprocessing contracts with France and South Korea.

The explosion happened when two of three extraction cycles had been completed on some highly radioactive materials. Because this material had gone through two of the three extractions, instead of large quantities of very highly radioactive fission products, there was only uranium, plutonium, and possibly zirconium, ruthenium, and niobium involved. It blew the top off the underground stainless steel and concrete tank in which the blast occurred, and led to a fire that burned for one and a half hours before it was extinguished. Officials there said at least three similar explosions had happened during the 1960s.

Greenpeace claims Russian air force pilots detected a radiation plume at an altitude of 3,000 meters northeast of the facility. An area of about 120 square kilometers of forest is said to have been contaminated. Friends of the Earth UK claims the International Atomic Energy Agency was officially notified of the explosion 12 hours after it had heard media reports. The IAEA has no powers to inspect installations such as Tomsk-7 or Hanford and it has never carried out a safety inspection there, nor do they have any knowledge of safety systems at Tomsk.

In the immediate aftermath of the accident, all reprocessing activities were halted at Tomsk, but plant officials said the plant would go back on line "in a few weeks."

Cracks Developing in Nuclear Reactors

A three-inch crack has been found in the reactor vessel shroud at Carolina Power & Light's troubled Brunswick-1 reactor. The reactor has been shut down since April 1992 for safety reasons and will remain closed until the crack can be repaired. But three similar, one-inch cracks were found at Brunswick-2 several months ago, and the plant was allowed to restart. Similar cracks have been found in European reactors in 1991, but this is the first time such cracks were found in the U.S. They are said to be signs of premature plant aging.

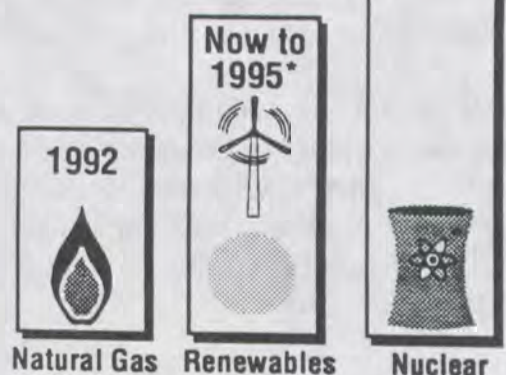
An NRC spokesman described the shroud's function as "a piece of equipment inside the reactor that provides a flow path for cooling water downward and around the reactor's fuel core." A cracked shroud could shift position under accident or natural disaster conditions and jam the plant's control rods, preventing a shutdown.

Conservation More Efficient Than Nuclear as Electricity Generator

In Sacramento, California, residents in 1989 voted to shut down the Rancho Seco nuclear power plant, not out of safety concerns, but economic ones. The plant was simply too expensive for them to operate. SMUD, the Sacramento Municipal Utility District, lost \$575 million in 1989 as the plant was often down, requiring the purchase of expensive replacement power. Since the plant closed, however, customers have used less electricity and have been spending wisely on conservation measures. For example, SMUD pays homeowners to turn in their old refrigerators and replace them with super-efficient models. It provides rebates for air conditioner replacements and pays homeowners to increase insulation. SMUD has planted 28,000 shade trees ("air conditioners with leaves") and taken other measures that have resulted in a 42 megawatt drop in demand. Co-generation plants that burn natural gas and provide steam to local manufacturers are planned, as are wind turbines, geothermal and solar devices to make up the 300 megawatts needed to cover the lost capacity of the Rancho Seco plant.

Renewable Energy: It's Ready Now

To help combat global warming, solar and other renewable energy units can be built twice as fast as nuclear power plants. Let's compare when plants would be ready:



Popular Calendars Again Available from TMIA

The 1994 "Carry It On" Peace Calendars from the Syracuse Cultural Workers are again available for \$10.00 from Three Mile Island Alert. This is the 23rd edition of the calendar which is a celebration of multi-cultural diversity. This year's calendar features a portrait of Rosa Parks (for February, African American History Month), a delightful portrait of two older women dancing together for March (Women's History Month), and other dramatic art. TMIA's supply usually sells out, so those wanting them are urged to call TMIA (233-7897) to place orders.

Tennessee Valley Authority Continues Building Nukes

While commercial utilities have scrapped plans for nuclear plants for a variety of reasons, the reality of the economics and safety concerns don't seem to impact the country's last bastion of nuclear power, the government's own Tennessee Valley Authority. Though no plants are being built elsewhere in the country, the nuclear industry has found an oasis where it hopes to rekindle itself. Today TVA plans to complete four more reactors and refurbish two others. With no shareholders to take the hit for unwise management decisions, unlike investor-owned utilities, TVA's customers will either pay higher prices or U.S. taxpayers will bail the Authority out in the event of a crisis. According to Stephen Smith, director of the Tennessee Valley Energy Reform Coalition, TVA is able to pursue its nuclear program because it remains virtually unregulated. "Every other utility is accountable to some kind of outside regulatory agency," says Smith, noting that TVA is not regulated by any state public service commission. So, while regulators nationwide are steering utilities away from nuclear power and towards conservation measures, no such pressures come to bear on the TVA.

News Notes

Thomas Linzey, Green Party candidate for Governor of Pennsylvania, announced his candidacy in the Capitol Rotunda on October 18. Linzey, a law student at Widener University and environment advisor to Barbara Hafer during her gubernatorial bid, is running on a environmental and grassroots oriented platform. Information about the candidate is available in the TMIA office or directly from the candidate: 510 Lawrence Drive, Harrisburg, 17109. 717/545-0124.

Donald L. Ballmann, Ph. D., is the new Licensing Director for the Pa. Low Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Facility Project. He has 20 years experience in the selection and licensing of sites for nuclear power plants and waste disposal facility projects. You can write him in care of his parent company, ChemNuclear, Suite 200, 750 East Park Drive, Harrisburg, 17111. Telephone 717/561-1522.

Greenpeace has asked that our readers be encouraged to write their representative in Congress to co-sponsor H.R. 2488, the "Pollution Prevention and Incineration Alternatives Act" and the "Chlorine Zero Discharge Act," both authored by Representative Bill Richardson (D-NM). They also ask that you write Bill Clinton and ask that he keep his promises on incineration. The White House, 1600 Pa. Avenue, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20050.

Several members of the Supreme Soviet of the Republic of Belarus will be in the Harrisburg area from October 23 - 25 and be briefed by TMIA activists on the citizens' radiation monitoring network, changes in the way environmental laws are enforced since the accident, and the effects of the accident on livestock and vegetation. Also in the Belarussian delegation will be a member of the Belarus Academy of Science who serves on the Chernobyl Commission. The visit is sponsored by ECOLOGIA of Harford, Pa.

TMIA has information on the New England Safe Energy Conference being held Sunday, October 24 in Bedford, New Hampshire. The conference will observe the 20th anniversary (October 1993) since a new civilian nuclear reactor was ordered and built in the U.S. The agenda includes an address from Dr. Vladimir Chernousenko, who directed the cleanup effort in the 10-kilometer zone around the Chernobyl reactor. TMIA friends Bob Pollard (Union of Concerned Scientists), Dr. Judith Johnsrud (Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power), Scott Denman (Safe Energy Communications Council), and Paul Gunter (Nuclear Information Resource Service, NIRS) will also be presenters.

Despite Clinton campaign promises to promote mass transit to liberate Americans from single passenger motor vehicles, Amtrak has created a stir by announcing the cancellation of two morning trains to Philadelphia, thereby forcing commuters into their cars. To protest, write Amtrak's Customer Relations Office, Washington Union Station, 60th & Massachusetts Avenue, N.E., Washington, D.C. 20002. Copy Bill Clinton. The public comment period is open to October 31. Schedule changes go into effect November 1.

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

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Reactor Shut Down for Leaky Valve

A valve which opened during an October 14 test, but failed to close, resulted in a two-day shutdown of the Unit 1 reactor. Contaminated water leaked from the leaky steam valve at the rate of a half gallon a minute which the *Patriot* says GPU nukespeaker Mary Wells characterized as "insignificant." She added that, "We could have continued to operate for the next two years with this little, tiny leak, but the decision was made to fix it."

"A half gallon a minute is a 720 gallon-a-day leak," pointed out TMIA's Eric Epstein who expressed concern that GPU would operate the plant with a leak of this size. Epstein also questioned GPUN's decision to wait nearly a month before reporting the leak to the NRC, speculating that economics was the reason for the delay. The two-day shut down reportedly cost GPU about \$700,000

Despite Break-In GPU Wins High Marks for Security

The break-in at TMI last February had no effect on the report card the NRC issued GPU. In fact, GPU won the highest marks possible in the security area on its "Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance" (SALP) report for the period which included the security breach. "It's disturbing and incomprehensible how the facility could have achieved the highest grade on their SALP after one of the most serious security breaches in nuclear industry history," said TMIA's Eric Epstein. Epstein, a teacher and lecturer, characterized the rating as "serious grade inflation."

Contaminated Cork Seam Spreading Radiation at TMI

In a November 2 letter to the NRC, GPUN acknowledged: "During the TMI-2 accident, the cork seam located in the Auxiliary Building Seal Injection Valve Room (SIVR) was contaminated with radioactive water. Attempts to contain the contamination within the room have been unsuccessful. During the past 14 years, radioactive material has spread along the joint in one direction into the Annulus, and in the other direction into the Auxiliary Building, Service Building and Control Building West."

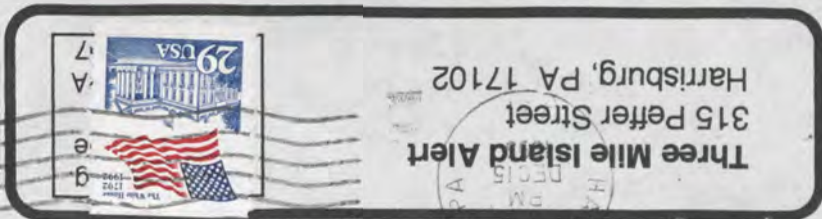
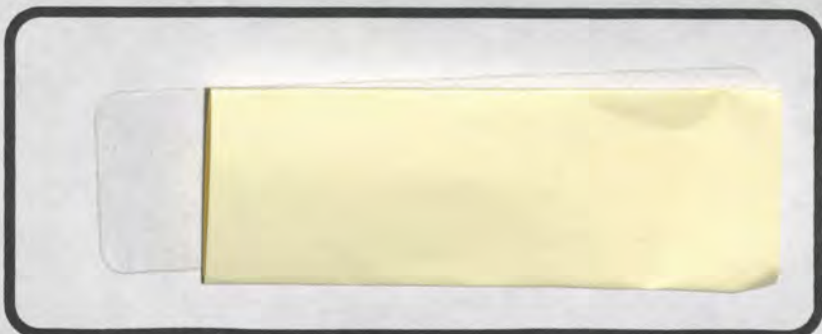
Eric Epstein, who heads the EFMR Monitoring Group, has called the NRC's and DER's attention to GPU's failure to address this issue in a timely and conscientious manner and urged them to postpone putting TMI-2 into Post-Defueling Monitored Storage (PDMS) until this contamination problem is resolved.

In a November 23 letter to GPU, NRC project manager Michael Masnik requested that GPUN provide the NRC with its plans for correcting this problem by December 10, "so as to not adversely impact the schedule for the approval for the PDMS License Agreement."

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Cracks Detected in Peach Bottom Reactor Shroud

(From the 11/8/93 *The Nuclear Monitor*) Reactor core shroud cracking, first found at Carolina Power & Light's Brunswick reactors, has now surfaced at Philadelphia Electric's Peach Bottom-3 reactor. A utility spokesman said the cracks, which include a 10-inch circumferential crack with some axial cracks added, were observed in two areas of the core shroud, but the utility, not surprisingly, doesn't consider them significant. The utility doesn't even plan to examine Unit-2's shroud until it begins refueling in September 1994. Meanwhile, the NRC reports that Peach Bottom-3 is one of only five GE Mark I reactors which have yet to even begin modifications to enhance the safety of their rather weak containments.

20 Years Since Last Nuke Ordered

The Nuclear Information and Resource Service recently reminded us that the last viable nuclear power plant was ordered in October, 1973. That means it has been 20 years since the nuclear industry could muster up a new reactor. Every order since October, 1973 has been canceled.

Nixon was in the White House, VCRs and personal computers didn't exist, our music was on rather large vinyl disks, and the Nixon Administration was confidently predicting 1,000 nuclear reactors by the year 2000.

Congratulations. Your activism, dedication and support have made a difference.

Sustainable Energy Budget Proposed for Dept. of Energy

On November 16, a national campaign was launched to win support for a major redirection of the federal energy budget. The centerpiece of the campaign is the "Sustainable Energy Budget for the U.S. Department of Energy: Fiscal Year 1995." The "budget" is the product of five months' work by more than three dozen national environmental, business, utility, and state government organizations. It provides line-item budget recommendations with detailed justification for each proposal.

The "budget" calls for increases in the Department of Energy's (DOE) budgets for renewable and energy efficiency programs totaling \$650 million. It further details cuts in the nuclear fission, nuclear fusion, and fossil fuel programs totaling \$826 million to pay for the proposed increases as well as provide for some deficit reduction.

TMIA members are urged to take a few moments this holiday season to write members of Congress and President Clinton to endorse a shift in funding priorities in the DOE budget. You might remind the President that the "budget's" recommendations are consistent with the policies he and Al Gore advocated on the campaign trail last year and they're consistent with the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (EPACT) which, like most acts of Congress, is only as good as its implementation. Adopting this budget would make it plenty good. President Clinton's address: The White House, Washington, D.C. 20500.

Computer modem owners can get access the "budget" via the Home Power BBS, a nonprofit renewable energy computer communications system operated by the Redwood Alliance in Arcata, CA. This public BBS can be accessed at no charge. Just set your system for n-8-1, and have it dial 707/822-8640. This report and others will be found in the Files area of the General Conference.

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

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15th Anniversary Looms

1994 will mark the 15th anniversary of the beginning of the accident at Three Mile Island. Naturally, plans are underway for local activities for next March 26, 27, & 28. Please reserve those dates on your calendar and, if you are willing to do some volunteer work, call 233-7897. Activities under consideration include a conference, concert, special publications, a press conference, meals, sales items and more. TMIA has endorsements from several statewide and national organizations and is actively seeking grant support.

Penn State University Member of Pro-Nuke PR Group

Penn State is on a list of four dozen American colleges and universities listed as members of the U.S. Council for Energy Awareness (USCEA), the nuclear industry's public relations arm. The USCEA's mission is to promote nuclear power and a new generation of nuclear reactors. The USCEA spends millions of dollars per year on misleading TV and print ads, which it pays for from the dues and contributions of members.

It would be understandable for a university, like Penn State, with a nuclear engineering program to belong to a professional organization such as the American Nuclear Society. But the USCEA is not a research or scientific organization; its function is strictly promotional.

Tax support for Penn State, as well as alumni donations, may be supporting the USCEA. If you support Penn State, write and demand that they drop their membership in USCEA. Also let state officials know of the inappropriate use of tax money to support the industry's campaign for resurgence.

NIRS Calls for White House Review of Rad Waste Programs

The Nuclear Information and Resource Service has called on the Clinton-Gore Administration to establish a blue ribbon commission to look at all US radioactive waste programs and policies including: high-level, low-level, mixed, transuranic, from both the commercial sector and the weapons complex. All of the laws pertaining to radioactive waste management are in a state of failure to one degree or another. Somehow, the nation's policy has led to Plutonium 329 (half-life of 24,000 years) to be classified as "low-level waste" and to the development of "temporary" high-level waste storage sites in the middle of the Susquehanna River at TMI, as well as at every other operating nuclear power plant. NIRS has asked the White House for an examination of the "basic assumptions of our policies" by experts "who have no financial interest in the generation of this waste."

Yankee Rowe Generators Passed Through Harrisburg

A train carrying highly-radioactive steam generators from the closed Yankee Rowe reactor in Massachusetts passed through Harrisburg on its way to the "low-level" radioactive waste dump in Barnwell, South Carolina. As it was loaded on the train at Rowe on November 22, protesters measured radiation at levels 10 times background fifty feet from the truck carrying it and 200 times background 10 feet from the truck. Not even a tarp shielded the shipment from local citizens. Though the train was routed to the west of major cities on the east coast, its route was to take it through Harrisburg and Washington.

TMI-type Accident Staged in France

Nuclear researchers purposely caused a partial meltdown in a reactor in southern France in an effort to analyze radioactive gasses generated by the meltdown. Live closed-circuit TV provided researchers a view of an increasingly bright bluish glow as fuel rods melted and ruptured under intense heat. The experiment was shut down early when scientists determined leaving the reactor in operation would cause the core to breach the first of three containment structures. Environmentalists called the experiment costly, dangerous and unnecessary.

FEMA to Recommend Changes in TMI Evacuation Plan

In December the Federal Emergency Management Agency is expected to report to the NRC on the status of the TMI evacuation plan. Many in the area have suggested the existing plan is inadequate, including Harrisburg Mayor Steve Reed who says the evacuation zone should be expanded from 10 miles to 15, or possibly 20. Reed also calls for more power in the hands of local officials in the development of emergency plans. He suggests the city be allowed to commandeer military vehicles from the New Cumberland Army Depot and Amtrak trains to move citizens out of the area.

Volunteers Sought for Sun Day Effort

Sun Day 1994 will be held on April 24. Locally, the Rain Forest Action Committee is playing the overall coordinating role, but TMIA needs volunteers to help coordinate TMIA's role in the observation. If you are interested in assisting with the local Sun Day effort, please call 233-7897.

Nevada Grassroots Group Blocks Plutonium Testing

Four months of citizen action was enough to convince Lockheed to cancel proposed plutonium testing in the Las Vegas suburb of Paradise Valley. Lockheed planned heating plutonium-contaminated soil from Rocky Flats, Colorado to 2000°F in a plasma arc furnace. The purpose was to turn the loosely packed soil into a glass-like compound. With the high temperatures, however, some of the plutonium would vaporize, a major concern to area citizens. The tests were to be conducted at a Lockheed facility that performs chemical analysis. The site is in an industrial park bordering McCarran Airport and surrounded on two sides by high density housing. One apartment house was only 641 feet from the site. While Lockheed canceled the tests citing its "good neighbor policy," there are no laws requiring public notification of radioactive experimentation.

Uranium Discovered in Closet

Two vials of uranium yellow cake were found broken in a closet in the auditorium of Niagara Mohawk's corporate office in Syracuse, NY on October 27. Radiation readings indicated 35,000 counts per minute of Beta radiation, and some detectable Alpha radiation. The yellow cake, which had spilled on the auditorium floor, apparently was used by the utility's public affairs department for "show and tell" presentations.

TMI Video Available

We haven't reviewed it, but an ad in the 11/22/93 edition of *The Nuclear Monitor* reads in its entirety: Too Hot for TV! "Three Mile Island Revisited" an Award-Winning Eco-Expose with Karl Grossman and other original videotapes on vital environmental issues by EnviroVideo. \$19.95 each + shipping and handling. 1-800-227-8955. Call for our Free Catalog. MC/VISA/Check.

1994 Peace Calendar Available \$11.95 value - Just \$10.00

Syracuse Cultural Workers 1994 Peace Calendar Available from TMIA - The 1994 Peace Calendar overflows with exciting and diverse artwork. The 23rd edition of this multicultural celebration features the works of many artists who are old friends. Among them are Bonnie Acker's bright, cut paper cover/May piece which portrays people working and playing on the earth; Jan Phillips' black and white photograph "Oh, How We Danced," accompanied by a tender love poem (March); Harry Freeman-Jones' wonderful tribute to the 25th anniversary of the Stonewall Rebellion (June); Jane Evershed's "We Have Nothing If We Have Nothing for Our Children," and Karen Kerney's watercolor "Common Sense," a visual representation of what USA life could look like with a dramatically realigned federal budget. Other subjects include Rosa Parks for African American History Month; Native American culture; stopping nuclear

testing; Sadako Hiroshima cranes; a tribute to Violeta Parra; the Winter Solstice and spirituality. Regularly priced at \$11.95; available from TMIA at \$10.00. Or we'll mail it to you for \$11.00. Send checks or call TMIA at 233-7897 for more information.



*Happy Holidays
to all our friends
from TMIA's
Planning Council*