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THREE MILE ISLAND

Spec Coll.

ALERT



June
1994

315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-3072

200+ Attend 15th Anniversary Conference

More than 200 safe-energy activists from 20 states, several Indian nations, and five countries gathered here in late March to observe the 15th anniversary of the beginning of the accident at TMI. The event was organized by TMIA with assistance from several national safe-energy groups including NIRS, Public Citizen, Safe Energy Communications Council, Friends of the Earth, and Greenpeace.

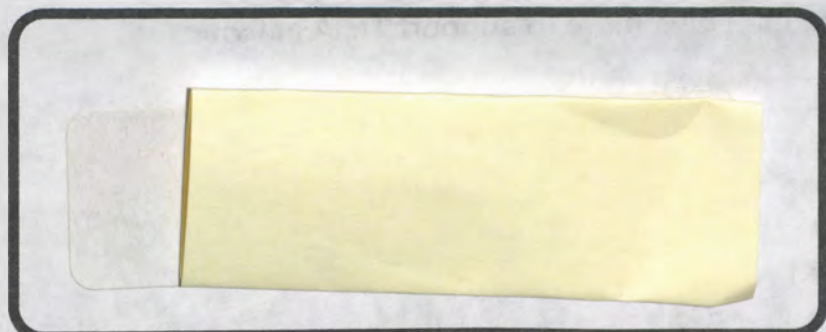
Over March 26 and 27 workshops were held dealing with nuclear waste issues, reactor decommissioning, radiation monitoring, health effects, alternatives to nuclear power, the national nuclear policy, the proposed DOE energy budget (see below), reactor license renewal and safety deregulation, the continuing TMI clean-up, and others designed to provide radioactivists with the skills necessary to carry on the crusade for safe energy.

Keynote speaker Ed Smeloff, the director of the Sacramento Municipal Utility District (SMUD), explained how SMUD closed the problem-plagued Rancho Seco reactor and how they now plan to make up for the power loss through aggressive energy conservation, efficiency, and renewable energy programs.

Harrisburg's own Jane Perkins, now president of the Friends of the Earth, called for more grassroots activity across America with a focus on Washington, including a national safe-energy lobby day in Congress once or twice each year. She suggested that alliances be formed with the labor movement and others "before there is a crisis." She suggested connecting the health crisis issue with the damage coming from toxins, radiation and pollution and called for a tax to be imposed on toxic substances the way other harmful things, like cigarettes, are taxed.

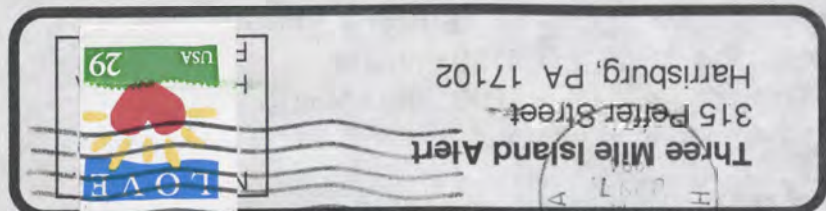
The final speaker was Dr. Helen Caldicott, the Australian pediatrician who founded Physicians for Social Responsibility, well known for her anti-nuclear work. Dr. Caldicott was both articulate and poignant in her examples of the effects of radiation on people and adamant about an end of the nuclear age as the ultimate and non-negotiable goal of safe-energy activists.

The conferees adopted a resolution, "The Harrisburg Call to Action," which called for halting the production of radioactive waste from nuclear reactors and weapons; isolating all radioactive materials and wastes from the biosphere for the duration of their hazardous life; implementing a safe, sustainable energy future based on the efficient use of clean renewable energy sources; and, placing the highest priority in all nations on the protection of health, safety and the quality of the environment now and in the future.



IMMEDIATELY
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Party with Bonnie Raitt
& Crosby, Stills & Nash
Details Inside



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GPU Proposes Dry Cask Storage for Oyster Creek - General Public Utilities, owner of TMI, has proposed building dry cask storage at its Oyster Creek nuclear power plant in New Jersey. Oyster Creek is one of the nation's oldest nuclear plants and is operating at reduced safety margins. NIRS will participate in a June 9 meeting for citizens to review the proposal and issue warnings about the permanence dry cask storage implies. A New Jersey Public Advocate (the equivalent of Pa.'s Office of Consumer Advocate at the PUC) survey a few years ago recommended that the reactor be closed early as a savings to ratepayers. For a while, it appeared GPU would take that advice. Now, GPU appears hell-bent on operating the plant until it collapses.

The Minnesota legislature, after weeks of pitched, see-saw battles, has given permission to Northern States Power (NSP) to build dry cask storage units for radioactive wastes from the Prairie Island nuclear complex on the Mississippi River. A plan to build 17 dry cask units was approved by the Senate, but opposed by the state House, resulting in a conference committee which approved a compromise measure. The compromise will allow NSP to build five units immediately and another four if, by the end of 1996, it has made an effort to site a radioactive waste dump off the island and has contracted for the construction and operation of at least 100 megawatts of wind power generation.

Another eight casks can be built if NSP installs 225 MW more wind power by the end of 1998 and another 200 MW by 2003. The compromise bill also bans the construction of any new nuclear reactors in the state; requires NSP to submit a detailed plan for the phase-out of nuclear power, and requires NSP to provide a "worker transition plan" if the Prairie Island reactors are shut down for more than six months. The compromise also establishes a reduction in rates for low-income households and establishes a legislative task force to completely re-examine all electrical generation-related issues. Though the legislature's action explicitly supports a non-nuclear future for Minnesota, environmentalists were nonetheless disappointed in the outcome of the hard-fought campaign.

NRC Says Local Evacuation Plan Adequate - The NRC rejected the petition of the Pennsylvania Institute for Clean Air, which called for inclusion of the 90% of Harrisburg residents just outside the NRC's ten-mile evacuation zone surrounding TMI. The NRC's response said, "Off-site emergency response plans for TMI-1 continue to meet the standards set forth in NRC regulation." A PICA spokesman characterized the ruling as "moronic." "We know that (the existing plans) meet their regulations . . . We filed our petition to ask them to change their regulations."

Pending Federal Legislation Merits Your Attention - Two matters now pending at the federal level warrant the attention of safe-energy activists. First, Congress is considering the reauthorization of the federal Clean Water Act. There is a move to make some 26,000 NRC licensees nationwide exempt from the Act's provisions. All members of Congress should be notified to support including **all** radio-nuclide emitters in the Act, including NRC licensees and federal facilities.

On the other matter, back in February, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary, in a setback for the nuclear power industry, cut the breeder reactor program and plutonium recycling study from the budget of the Department of Energy. The move, which meant up to \$112 million more might be available for safe-energy research, won O'Leary praise from the Safe Energy Communication Council and others. Now, members of Congress from states that benefited from the breeder program are working to have this massive waste of taxpayer dollars restored. So, it is time for you to act. Here's how you can help:

- Call Secretary O'Leary's office at 202/586-6210 and thank them for terminating the funding for the breeder reactor.
- Call Budget Director Leon Panetta's office (202/395-3000) and the White House comment line (202/456-1111) and express thanks and support for the decision to fund safe energy rather than the further proliferation of plutonium.
- Call Senators Specter and Wofford and ask them to uphold this prudent budget cut. Use the Capitol switchboard (202/224-3121).
- And circulate the petition enclosed with this edition of the **Alert** and return it to SECC.

State Health Department Probing Emissions from Defunct N-Plants - The state Department of Health will investigate radiation emissions from two defunct nuclear plants in Armstrong County that are believed to have caused health problems, including cancer, for local residents. The plants in Apollo and Parks Township have operated since the mid-1950s. The Apollo plant has been razed. The plant in Parks Twp., while no longer producing nuclear fuel, still handles radioactive material and is home to a uranium waste burial ground that sits atop a honeycomb of long-abandoned coal mines. The investigation was launched in response to calls for disclosure of emissions information from Citizens Action for a Safe Environment, Physicians for Social Responsibility, and a local newspaper.

Another Study Finds High Cancer Rates in Nuclear Workers - Workers at an atomic weapons plant 18 miles north of Cincinnati died at significantly younger ages and suffered a higher incidence of lung, intestinal and blood cancers than the U.S. population, according to a study released in April. The mortality study of more than 1,000 workers at the Fernald, Ohio weapons plant was conducted by Dr. Peter Gartside, a professor of bio-statistics at the University of Cincinnati. Dr. Gartside has been frustrated in efforts to gain access to records the Department of Energy has compiled, despite Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary's promise to "come clean" with DoE records. DoE staff have expressed concerns about protecting the privacy of workers still living in stonewalling the request.

Nuclear Emissions Linked to Breast Cancers - In a recent report, two leading scientists attribute the epidemic of breast cancers in Long Island to nuclear radiation. The scientists, Dr. Jay M. Gould, a former member of the Environmental Protection Agency's Science Advisory Board, and Dr. Earnest J. Sternglass, Emeritus Radiology Professor at the University of Pittsburgh Medical School, conclude that the increase in breast cancers in the Long Island area may arise from toxic chemicals leaking into the environment, particularly from the stacks of nearby chemical plants. However, they conclude that chemical wastes alone could not account for the high cancer rates and that the epidemic is a result of chemical releases combining with radiation. In the article the scientists point out that the cancers are most concentrated in areas near the three nuclear reactors on Long Island Sound.

Sternglass and Gould point out, "... smoke, dust, and chemicals released into the atmosphere trap radioactivity and enhance the biological damage, explaining why those living in the immediate vicinity of chemical plants are at greater than average risk of developing breast cancer." They note that Texas and Louisiana have the nation's greatest exposure to petro-chemicals, but because they have almost no exposure to civilian reactor emissions, the states have breast cancer rates 40% lower than those on Long Island. They have called on the National Institute of Health to conduct a detailed study of radioactive contamination of food and water as part of their Long Island study.

NIRSNET Now Open - NIRSNET, a computer bulletin board for safe energy and environmental activists, is now open and available free to grassroots activists. You can download and upload files, and use it as an e-mail message center to reach other activists using the board. NIRSNET can be accessed by any personal computer with a modem over 1200 baud. It supports modem speeds of up to 14,400 bps. If you have a color monitor, you may want to set your terminal emulation to ANSI. The phone number is 202/328-1050 and it operates around the clock. There is no charge for using NIRSNET, except for the cost of the phone call. Thanks to the Albert A. List Foundation, a toll-free number is in the works which will eliminate even the cost of the phone call.

ITL Labs Pleads Guilty in Thermo-Lag Case - ITL Laboratories and its president, Allan Siegel, pleaded guilty to five counts of aiding and abetting the issuance of false and fictitious statements related to ITL's testing of the controversial fire barrier material, Thermo-Lag. NIRS Executive Director Michael Mariotte said the plea confirms what NIRS had been saying all along: "Thermo-Lag does not work, never has worked, and must be removed immediately from our nation's nuclear reactors."

NRC Has Official Non-Enforcement Policy - A document exists which gives the Nuclear Regulatory Commission justification for not taking action on controversial issues like the Thermo-Lag installations and other safety-related matters. The document, *SECY 92-043, Exercise of Discretion Not to Enforce Compliance with License Conditions*, was adopted on Feb. 7, 1992, but efforts to obtain it have been fruitless as the NRC says the document is exempt from disclosure under the Freedom of Information Act. Sen. Joseph Lieberman (D-Conn.) wrote a nine page letter to the NRC on April 20 in an attempt to get a copy of the document raising questions about whether the NRC has "exceeded its substantive authority ..." with the policy.

Commemorative Posters, T-Shirts Available - 15th Anniversary commemorative posters are available for only \$2.00 each (6 for \$10) from TMIA. There's also a limited number of 15th Anniversary tee-shirts (in sky blue) available. In addition, TMIA has its usual assortment ("They Lie" tee-shirts, bumper stickers, and more) of attractive gift items available.

Anne Feeney in Benefit Performance July 9 - Folk singer Anne Feeney will be in concert on July 9 at 4 and 8 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meeting House to benefit the local Government Accountability Group. Tickets to hear one of our favorite champions of Peace and Justice are \$7. Tickets will be available at the door, or call Pam Parsons at 238-2396.

PEACE

Congress: STOP GIVING OUR TAX DOLLARS TO THE NUCLEAR POWER INDUSTRY

SUPPORT SAFE, CLEAN ENERGY

Dear Congressman:

Since 1948, the nuclear power industry has received 65% of all federal energy research funding. But nuclear power supplies only about 20% of our electricity, and is creating a permanent legacy of pollution, economic burden and radioactive waste. It's time to put our resources toward the future: to solar, wind, and other forms of sustainable energy. At a time of skyrocketing federal budget deficits, it's unconscionable to give more of our dollars to nuclear power interests.

Specifically, we urge you to:

*End all funding for the Advanced Liquid Metal Reactor (also known as the Integral Fast Reactor). This breeder technology is an outgrowth of the failed and dangerous Clinch River Breeder Reactor program.

*Reduce funding for the fusion reactor program by at least \$200 million. There are four potentially unlimited sources of energy: solar, wind, hydrogen, and fusion. Only fusion is monumentally expensive and produces radioactive waste, yet it receives more tax dollars than any of the other sources.

*End all funding for dangerous "advanced" light water reactors and other nuclear pork-barrel projects.

*Support renewable energy and energy efficiency projects. They create jobs and boost our economy.

Name

Address

**Return to Nuclear Information and Resource Service, 1424 16th Street NW,
Washington DC 20036, 202-328-0002; 202-462-2183 (fax)**

VIEWPOINT

A Forum on Energy and Environmental Issues

U.S. Radwaste Policies Need Tough Independent Review

BY MARTIN GELFAND

VPT—The Department of Energy (DOE) is undergoing a quiet but dramatic transformation, from nuclear promoter to a supporter of clean energy and the democratic process. However, change comes slowly at big institutions. One large skeleton remains in DOE's closet—nuclear waste—which threatens DOE's new openness and positive budget directions.

DOE has always viewed the resolution of permanent disposal of radioactive waste as a way of removing a major barrier to the further development of nuclear power. DOE's 1995 budget retains subsidies for a new generation of light water reactors similar to today's commercial nuclear plants. These subsidies go hand-in-hand with DOE's request for a 40 percent increase in funding—an additional \$152 million this year—in order to rush the dumping of irradiated nuclear fuel rods at Yucca Mountain, Nevada. DOE's proposal would create a nuclear entitlement for additional nuclear waste funds, taking this money off-budget and partially out of Congressional oversight. Senate Energy Appropriations Chair Bennett Johnston (D-La.) has indicated a willingness to strip the requested money from other areas in DOE's budget, possibly shriveling renewable energy research.

Rather than robbing the nation of clean energy research programs and running the risk of future radiation exposures from a hurried dump process, it makes more sense to cut off the tap to DOE waste spending and initiate a comprehensive review of this country's radioactive waste policies. Thirty-nine U.S. Senators and Representatives have written to President Clinton requesting such a comprehensive review. The General Accounting Office, the Nuclear Waste Technical Review Board, the Western Governors' Association, Native American organizations and environmentalists have also called for a waste program review.

This review should be conducted by a White House commission with a ma-

jority of members free of vested interest in its outcome. It should integrate all radioactive waste management programs, and reclassify wastes by their dangers, not by their source, as they are currently classified.

For instance, because of federal law, so called "low-level" waste may be handled differently than "high-level" waste, even though some "low-level" wastes have half-lives of more than 100,000 years. Much of the nation's highly radioactive waste is now classified as "low-level." Currently, plans are underway for new "low-level" dumps in 17 states. However, after more than 50 years of nuclear waste production, the United States still has no proven safe site or method of safe, permanent storage or transportation for any type of radioactive waste.

On January 11, 1994, Daniel A. Dreyfus, director of DOE's Office of Civilian Radioactive Waste Management, admitted the deficiency in the radioactive waste program: "The United States and many other countries are awash in long-lived radioactive materials that have already been produced. At present, we have no comprehensive approach to managing all of these materials over the generations that they will exist."

Not only does DOE have no "comprehensive approach" for wastes on hand, the projected waste from currently operating commercial reactors alone (from 79,000 to 106,000 metric tons) exceeds the legal cap at the proposed dumpsite at Yucca Mountain (70,000 metric tons). Scientists cannot plan for waste storage unless the maximum potential waste production is known, i.e., unless we assume a "no-new-reactors" scenario. But the proposed new generation of DOE-subsidized nuclear reactors is antithetical to any rational plan for managing the radioactive waste stream.

DOE's approach is to literally pour more money down the hole. Some current funding is for irreversible excavation of the first stage of repository

construction at Yucca Mountain—a starter hole for a 5-mile underground Exploratory Studies Facility, at \$850 million. This is a baffling expenditure for a site that has not yet been characterized, in a program with "no comprehensive approach."

The DOE deserves credit for revealing the secret radiation testing that it conducted in the past. However, increasing DOE's budget for the radioactive waste program without making the commitment to an orderly and economic phase-out of waste production is exactly the wrong approach. Instead, the Clinton Administration should completely and comprehensively review all U.S. radioactive waste policies before launching yet another radiation experiment on the American public.

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 805, Washington, D.C. 20036

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THREE MILE ISLAND

AUG 25 1994

ALERT

August
1994

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Commonwealth Court Reverses PUC Ruling on Decommissioning Costs

In a 7-0 vote, Commonwealth Court reversed the Public Utility Commission's April, 1993 decision that Metropolitan Edison ratepayers would have to pay the company's share of decommissioning Unit 2. Commonwealth Court said ratepayers cannot be charged, saving customers \$8.3 million a year. The ruling will mean a one percent reduction in the bills of Met Ed ratepayers.

The PUC had voted 2-1 in favor of having consumers pay these costs. Commissioner Joseph Rhodes who provided the only vote against, said, "I am pleased that my position was vindicated." PUC Chairman David Rolka, who was expected to side with Rhodes in the initial vote, had shocked consumers by siding with the utility.

Consumer Advocate Irwin Popowski, who filed the appeal of the PUC ruling, welcomed the court's ruling. "I think it's a major victory for ratepayers, and I think it's important that Commonwealth Court establish this position . . . that ratepayers will not pay these costs for useless facilities."

Bonnie Raitt Wows Central Pennsylvania

More than 6,000 satisfied fans enjoyed the music, wit and charm of Bonnie Raitt and the virtuoso keyboard performance of Bruce Hornsby during a magnificent evening at Hershey Stadium on Sunday, July 24. Raitt, who attended a benefit reception for Three Mile Island Alert after the concert, was as gracious as could be, chatting and posing for photos with the dozens of fans in attendance. "Though I get a lot of attention for what I do," Raitt told the crowd at the reception, "it is those of you who support groups like TMIA with your time, money and energy that are making a meaningful difference in the lives of real people." TMIA Chairperson Gene Stilp, who played a major role in organizing the event, complimented Raitt on her long alliance with the safe energy movement and thanked her for helping TMIA raise funds as it prepares for battle over the disposal of nuclear wastes.

TMIA Questions Candidates on Nuclear Issues

TMIA has requested a meeting with the state's gubernatorial candidates and the enclosed questionnaire was sent to both Mark Singel and Tom Ridge, as well as to U.S. Senate candidate, Senator Harris Wofford and Congressman Rick Santorum. TMIA will publicize the responses to its members prior to November's general election. The reverse side of the questionnaire included with this edition of *Alert*, lists some of the concerns TMIA holds concerning the siting of the so-called "low level" radioactive waste storage facility in Pennsylvania.

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Rusty Fuel Rods a Problem at TMI Unit 1

Once again rust on the fuel rods are slowing the positioning of the rods into the reactor, having an adverse impact on reactor safety. The rods, which are supposed to move into position in 1.6 seconds, take a full 2.2 seconds to get positioned correctly. That's almost 40 percent too much time, with each fraction of a second critical to keeping the reactor under control. The plant was shut down twice this spring to correct the problem, with the rust being scraped from the rods and the reactor water being treated to make it less corrosive. The problem, according to TMIA's Eric Epstein, is not at all unusual for a 20 year-old reactor. "I think you can anticipate that these problems will be more frequent because of its age," Epstein said.

Specter, Wofford Vote to Kill Breeder Reactor Program

Senator Harris Wofford voted as expected, but Sen. Arlen Specter departed from his previous support for the breeder reactor program to vote against funding the program for another year. Unfortunately, the final vote was 52-46 in favor of continuing funding for the program. Although safe energy activists turned around six votes (including Specter's) from the last time the program was considered, four Senators previously opposed to the program switched their votes. Those bolting were Sens. Robert Byrd (D-WV), John Chafee (R-RI), Ernest Hollings (D-SC) and Daniel Inouye (D-Hawaii).

TMIA Planning Council Chairman Gene Stilp and a dozen TMIA members were on their way to Washington for a meeting with a key Specter aide when mechanical trouble with their rented van kept them from arriving. Stilp apparently did enough lobbying via a roadside pay phone to win Sen. Specter's support on this key vote.

Epstein Speaks at Workshop on Radioactive Scrap Metal

TMIA Planning Council Member Eric Epstein spoke at a July 12-14 workshop on radioactive scrap metal at the University of Tennessee. Epstein reminded the conferees, primarily from industry and government, of the importance of involving citizens, environmentalists, workers, and consumers in the making of policy related to the shipping, handling and recycling of irradiated scrap metal. He urged the conference, the second in a series held to discuss the anticipated mushrooming of such wastes as nuclear power plants are decommissioned, to shift their focus to put health effects and consumer concerns on the same level as the economics of disposal.

New Members Elected to Planning Council

TMIA got some new blood in leadership positions, adding Mike Horgan, Rick Kushner, Jerry Schultz, Eric Epstein and Lauren Taylor to the Planning Council. Re-elected to Council were Betsy Robinson, Deborah Baker, Vera Stuchinski, Kay Pickering, Bill Cologie, Cherie Freidrich, Gene Stilp and Scott Portzline. Gene Stilp was elected Chairperson, Bill Cologie was elected vice chair and Legal Fund representative, Kay Pickering was elected secretary and Betsy Robinson was elected as treasurer.

TMIA Puts Message in Ad Book

Reaching an important audience, TMIA's Planning Council authorized the placement of an ad calling for no nuclear dumps in Pa. in the program booklet for "Politicians on Parade," a fund-raiser for female Democratic Candidates.

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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Security "Lacking" Says Portzline

Planning Council member Scott Portzline, chairman of TMIA's Security Committee, says the NRC's recent decision to require vehicle barriers at all nuclear plants is "a watered-down version of what it should be." He notes that while barriers can prevent a "TMI-style" intrusion, such barriers won't prevent the kind of damage a truck bomb can cause. The Sandia National Laboratories have reported a large truck bomb could cause a meltdown from outside the vital area at most nuclear plants.

The NRC is now looking to reduce other security requirements, such as the requirements now in place that require locked doors in vital areas. They justify this by pointing to their "fitness for duty" programs for screening new workers. The Commissioners apparently have turned a blind eye to the more than 120 acts of insider sabotage—including murder, suicide, arson, assaults and thefts of security plans—that have occurred at US nuclear plants. A Security Manager for Nuclear Support Services (Hershey), for example, gave clearances to a worker (not at TMI) who had four previous drug-related access denials. The manager has since been dismissed.

"Clearly," Portzline says, "the fitness for duty programs are flawed." Unlocked vital area doors would allow any worker to enter all areas without being identified by the personalized computerized key card system that is now in place. "Public pressure is needed to increase security to a level that accounts for the capabilities of terrorists and saboteurs," he concluded.

TMI Opts for Low Tech Approach on Waste Storage

TMIA members Eric Epstein, Bill Cologie, and Vince Dively took a mid-June tour of TMI's waste storage facility and were duly unimpressed. GPU employees casually referred to the interim storage site as the "carport," as it was indeed open at one end. The cinder block structure, which has been used to store "low level" wastes prior to shipping to off-site long-term storage facility in South Carolina, had no monitors, standing water on the floor, and a chain link fence on one end of the building. One of the dumpster-like containers used for storing the wastes was severely crunched like a dented fender. "They invited us," said Epstein, "so you'd think they would have made an effort to put the best face on things. Apparently, no one thought to at least have a temporary monitor set up in the building, to mop up the water on the floor, or to empty the dented dumpster into an undamaged one, just to make the place look presentable." The visitors did give the utility high marks, however, on efforts to reduce the volume of wastes generated. Through source reduction and the use of technology (trash compactors) they have been able to significantly reduce the volume of wastes generated.


Core Shroud Cracks Found at Peach Bottom

Cracks in the core shrouds have been confirmed at seven U.S. boiling water reactors (BWRs), including Peach Bottom in York County. The cracks, which first surfaced last year at Carolina Power & Light's Brunswick facility, pose a danger to the continued operation of older BWRs, and a potential threat to nuclear meltdown. The purpose of the shrouds is to direct the flow of radioactive water around the core to ensure adequate cooling. In themselves, the cracks probably pose little hazard during normal operations. But an earthquake or other severe jolt to the system could jam the control rods necessary to avert a meltdown.

The Nuclear Monitor reports that according to various sources, it would be virtually impossible to economically repair the cracks, given the high radiation levels that would be encountered. Should the cracks be considered a long-term safety hazard—one that must be repaired—all of these reactors would likely have to be shut down before the end of their license period. Since only a fraction of the BWRs have been inspected, it isn't known how widespread this problem is. If it proves to be widespread, or shows up with age, the NRC will be faced with a difficult decision: shut down more than a third of the nation's nuclear capacity for safety reasons, or allow reactors to operate with known serious safety defects.

Mark Your Calendar: August 27 is National Radioactive Waste Day

August 27 is set for a convergence on Prairie Island, Minnesota to protest the installation of dry casks for irradiated nuclear fuel rods within yards of the homes of the Prairie Island Indian Community. Anyone who can make it to Minnesota is urged to go. There will be time set aside for a meeting of those who have come together, as well as showing strength and solidarity with the folks who have waged a most comprehensive opposition to a radioactive waste dump in their community. For more information and directions to Prairie Island, contact Shean at the Prairie Island Coalition Against Nuclear Storage, telephone 612/333-5807. Locally, TMIA's Planning Council is considering a show of solidarity with the Prairie Island community. Details will be announced.



VIEWPOINT

A Forum on Energy and Environmental Issues

Time To Call It Quits On The Breeder

BY SENATORS JOHN KERRY AND JUDD GREGG

VPT – In the next few weeks, the Senate has an opportunity to prove it can do more than talk about cutting pork barrel projects. It can kill, once and for all, the Advanced Liquid Metal Reactor (ALMR), also known as the breeder reactor.

Congress has already spent over \$1.4 billion dollars on this wasteful and potentially dangerous program since 1986. It lacks commercial support, is bad for the environment, and increases the risk of nuclear proliferation.

Last year, the House wisely voted to terminate the ALMR program, only to have it revived in the Senate by a narrow vote as the result of pressure from lobbyists.

Later this month, the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Energy and Water will take up the ALMR once again. This time, courage and common sense must win out in the Senate over short-sighted parochial interests.

The breeder reactor is a technology in search of a mission. In its first incarnation, it was devised to generate scarce plutonium for atomic bombs during the Cold War. As the military need for plutonium declined, breeder reactor advocates tried to sell the Clinch River Breeder Reactor (CRBR) in Tennessee as an ever-ready source of fuel for civilian nuclear reactors. But the private sector utilities that would purportedly have benefitted from the program paid only a fraction of the \$257 million they pledged toward the project.

Meanwhile, estimates for the CRBR escalated to more than \$8 billion. In 1983, Congress prudently voted to terminate the Clinch River project.

But the breeder reactor proponents were not so easily deterred. In 1986, they developed the ALMR research program from the ashes of Clinch River to keep the technology alive. Proponents are now arguing the ALMR could solve our plutonium waste disposal problem by "burning"

the existing waste to produce electricity. The process is called "actinide recycling" and its scientific validity is specious at best.

In a recent report, The National Academy of Science (NAS) stated that the ALMR's ability to consume plutonium is "not sufficient to greatly alter the security risks posed by the material remaining in the spent fuel." NAS added that ALMRs do "not offer sufficient advantages to overcome their liabilities of cost, timing and uncertainties." In a September 1993 report, the Congressional Office of Technology Assessment (OTA) agreed, noting the ALMR's "required reprocessing could multiply the total volume of radioactive waste by ten, thereby driving up costs."

The General Accounting Office (GAO) has estimated that taxpayers will spend \$5 billion on the program by the year 2010, if Congress fails to muster the backbone to kill the ALMR.

Throughout the many lives of the breeder reactor, three things are consistent. First, there is no real commercial interest. Even the trade group of the U.S. electric industry, the Electric Power Research Institute, concluded that using the ALMR to burn plutonium would be costly and cumbersome, and would "amplify political and public opposition to the nuclear program as a whole."

Second, the environmental hazards are generally agreed upon, even by the American Nuclear Energy Council (ANEC). Burning plutonium generates highly radioactive fission products along with toxic heavy metals. ANEC states in Congressional testimony that "we see no benefit in considering...burning as a waste solution for the current fuel."

And finally, the continuation of the breeder reactor program perpetuates plutonium proliferation in the global economy. A move forward in developing commercial breeders is a move backward in arms control.

President Clinton has reviewed

the evidence and decided the ALMR must be terminated. In a recent letter, he stated that the breeder reactor is "not supportive of the non-proliferation objectives articulated in my September 1993 directive on nonproliferation and export controls."

In a March 1994 speech, Energy Secretary Hazel O'Leary stated that "continued support of the [ALMR] would make it difficult, if not impossible, for the United States to help lead the world toward reducing the threat of plutonium proliferation."

The breeder has lived too long and has already cost too much. It's time to cut our losses. The only prudent option for the Senate is the kill the breeder reactor once and for all.

Senator John Kerry (D) represents the state of Massachusetts. Senator Judd Gregg (R) represents the state of New Hampshire.

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Letters should be addressed to **VIEWPOINT**, c/o SECC, 1717 Massachusetts Ave. NW, Suite 805, 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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RECYCLED PAPER
By American Quick Print

Issues & Concerns Regarding Pennsylvania's "Low-level" Radioactive Waste Facility

**(Use this Flyer, as well as the Questionnaire on the other side,
to ask questions of elected officials, candidates,
and those responsible for designing, building,
and monitoring PA's LLRW dump.)**

1. Despite the fact that the planned facility is billed as a "low-level" radioactive waste (LLRW) facility, the majority of the waste volume and almost all the radioactivity will come from nuclear power plants. Some of this "low-level" radioactive waste, such as plutonium-239, has a half-life of 24,400 years and is hazardous up to 500,000 years.
2. The LLRW facility will be designed to last for only 500 years, despite the fact that it will contain waste that will be hazardous for hundreds of thousands of years.
3. Pennsylvania has been given no assurance by the Appalachian States Compact as to the total quantity of waste for which we will be responsible.
4. Chem Nuclear Systems, the LLRW facility operator, is only responsible for the first 30 years of the facility's operation. After that, the liability, burden, and expense of the facility will fall to Pennsylvania's taxpayers.
5. If Chem Nuclear goes out of business or if problems occur after the first 30 years of the operation of the LLRW facility, the taxpayers of Pennsylvania will have to pay for any clean-up costs that occur at the LLRW site. The generators of the radioactive waste are not responsible for the waste once they deliver it to the facility.
6. With the recent closure of Chem Nuclear's Barnwell, S.C. waste facility, there is concern that Pennsylvania's LLRW facility will be forced to proceed at a faster pace, with less oversight and the selection of a politically expedient, but technically inferior, site.
7. Recently, Chem Nuclear has indicated that it will need to return to the Pennsylvania General Assembly for additional funding of the LLRW facility because Chem Nuclear has already spent \$19 million on a project that was expected to cost about \$30 million.

For more information on LLRW or safe energy issues, contact:

Three Mile Island Alert
315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone 717-233-7897, Fax 717-233-3261

Questionnaire for Pennsylvania Candidates on Nuclear Energy & Radioactive Waste: Summer 1994

This year marks the 15th anniversary of the partial core melt at Three Mile Island. Additionally, Pennsylvania, as a member of the Appalachian States Compact, will soon build a waste facility to handle the nuclear waste of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Maryland, and Delaware. We are very interested in your opinions on nuclear energy and radioactive waste. Please return your responses to this questionnaire as soon as possible.

State & National Energy Policy

1. Recently, members of Congress have asked President Clinton to appoint an independent commission to review all US nuclear waste programs and recommend revisions to improve present and future safety. Would you join or support such a request?
2. Would you join or support a request to Congress to adopt a national energy policy that makes health, safety, and environmental quality its highest priority?
3. Would you join or support a request to the Pennsylvania General Assembly to adopt a state energy policy that makes health, safety, and environmental quality its highest priority?

State/National Nuclear Energy Policy

4. Would you favor and support federal legislation that enables States to regulate nuclear energy generators and producers of nuclear waste more (but not less) stringently than does the NRC, EPA, Department of Defense, and Department of Transportation?
5. DER plans to become a full "Agreement State" with NRC; when that happens, DER's Bureau of Radiation Protection would then license and regulate most nuclear facilities except power plants. Do you support the addition of toxicologists and medically-trained staff in DER and its Bureau of Radiation Protection in order to carry out functions now performed by the NRC? Alternatively, do you support the transfer of radiation protection to the Department of Health?
6. Would you favor and support federal or state law requiring public utilities that operate nuclear reactors to install and maintain an array of high-quality continuous radiation monitoring devices within the ten-mile radius of their plants, with the utility funding a system of read-out and recording devices supervised by public-interest personnel independent of the utility?

Pennsylvania's LLRW Facility

7. Would you favor and support a two-year moratorium on the Pennsylvania "low-level" radioactive waste facility siting process to permit study of issues concerning public participation, taxpayer liability, and long-term custodial technologies and costs?
8. Would you favor and support the introduction of state legislation that would prohibit DER from taking land for the LLRW site if a majority of the residents in the prospective host community oppose the facility?

For more information on LLRW or safe energy issues, contact:

Three Mile Island Alert
315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone 717-233-7897, Fax 717-233-3261

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

September
1994

315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-7897 FAX: 717/233-3261

TMIA AWAITS RESPONSES TO NUCLEAR ISSUES QUESTIONNAIRE

Now that TMIA has mailed its eight point nuclear issues questionnaire to the Pennsylvania candidates running for governor and U.S. Senate, we need to make sure that the candidates answer the questionnaire. (See the August 1994 issue of *Alert* for a listing of the questions that were sent to the candidates.) The candidates were requested to return their answers by October 1; TMIA will publish their responses in a special Nuclear Education Issue before the elections.

Using the following letter as a guide, write to one or more of the candidates and let them know that you are interested in learning about their positions on nuclear energy and radioactive waste. (See page 2 for addresses.) Remember, the candidates won't discuss these issues if we don't demand answers.

Dear Candidate:

Recently you received an eight point questionnaire from Three Mile Island Alert that asks for your position on several important nuclear energy and radioactive waste issues. As a member of Three Mile Island Alert, [or As a Pennsylvanian concerned about the quality of the environment,] I am very concerned about the present and future uses of nuclear technology and the disposal of its inevitable radioactive waste.

I am interested in hearing your views on all of the questions presented by TMIA, but especially your position on [chose one of the issues that interests you most].

Thank you for your commitment to Pennsylvania and good luck in the coming election. I look forward to your responses to the TMIA nuclear issues questionnaire.

Sincerely,

J. Q. Public
(your prospective employer)

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IS REQUESTED

Three Mile Island Alert
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102



Here are the addresses of the candidates:

Candidates for Governor

Mr. Patrick Fallon
RR 1, Box 375
Tannersville, PA 18372

Mr. Timothy E. Holloway
Box 58M, Star Route East
Ligonier, PA 15650

Ms. Peg Luksik
53 Wyoming Street
Johnstown, PA 15905

The Honorable Tom Ridge
The Ridge-Schweiker Campaign
P.O. Box 11667
Harrisburg, PA 17108

The Honorable Mark Singel
The Singel-Foley Campaign
P.O. Box 11624
Harrisburg, PA 17108

Candidates for US Senate

Ms. Diane Blough
23-1 Potters Place
Holland, PA 18966

Mr. Donald C. Ernsberger
865 Meadowood Lane
Warminster, PA 18974

The Honorable Rick Santorum
Santorum for Senate Campaign
127 Seminole Drive
Pittsburgh, PA 15228-1528

The Honorable Harris Wofford
United States Senator
1420 Walnut Street, Suite 808
Philadelphia, PA 19102

PENNSYLVANIA ENVIRONMENTAL CONGRESS

Sunday, October 2 and Monday, October 3 will be the dates for the first Pennsylvania Environmental Congress. The Congress will feature skills workshops (including fund raising, communication strategies, and computer workshops) as well as issues workshops (including wise use, toxics, and natural diversity). Sunday's registration begins at 8:30 a.m. in the East Rotunda of the State Capitol (Commonwealth Avenue entrance). Peter Kostmayer, EPA Regional Director, will deliver a keynote address Sunday at 7 p.m. For more information, or to preregister, call (717) 234-5550. The cost of the conference is \$25 and includes lunch and dinner on Sunday and breakfast on Monday.

PUC WON'T APPEAL COURT RULING ON TMI DECOMMISSIONING COSTS

The Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC) recently announced that it would not appeal a Commonwealth Court decision that relieved Metropolitan Edison customers of any further financial responsibility for cleaning up the damaged Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor. On July 11, the court overturned the PUC's approval of Met-Ed's plan to collect \$8.3 million a year from ratepayers to dismantle the reactor destroyed in a 1979 accident. *(continued on page 3)*

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

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____ ZIP _____

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

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

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

"I cannot conceive of a legitimate basis for the PUC to appeal to the Pennsylvania Supreme Court," said PUC Vice Chairman Joseph Rhodes, who was the lone dissenter in the PUC's 1993 vote to approve Met-Ed's plan. "The battle was already waged and lost in Commonwealth Court," said Rhodes. "The Commonwealth Court restored justice to the ratepayers." Met-Ed, which is a 50 percent owner of the damaged reactor, now stands alone in appealing to the state Supreme Court. If the high court decides to hear an appeal, a final decision is not expected before 1996. [from UPI Press Wire]

RUSSIAN OFFICIALS ARGUE OVER EXTENT OF DAMAGE TO NUCLEAR PLANT

The *NY Times* reported in early September that a fire at a Russian nuclear processing plant released radioactive gases into the atmosphere. Plant officials reported that a fuel rod's protective coating caught fire during reprocessing. The plant is located in Ozyorsk, formerly the secret city of Chelyabinsk-65, 930 miles east of Moscow in the Ural Mountains.

Yuri Rogozhin, a spokesman for the Russian regulatory agency Gosatomnadzor said that preliminary reports indicated that the fire "can be qualified as level three" on a seven-level International Nuclear Events Scale established by the International Atomic Energy Agency. A level-three accident means major contamination and overexposure of workers. The explosion and fire at Chernobyl, the world's worst incident, was a level seven.

Officials at the processing plant and at the Nuclear Power Ministry, which runs the plant, insisted that there was no serious contamination or worker exposure. "The incident was a minor one, and it's totally wrong to qualify it as a level three," said Vitaly Nasonov, a ministry spokesman.

WIND ENERGY GAINING RESPECT, CUTTING COSTS

According to *Northwest Energy News*, a quarterly magazine published by the Northwest Power Planning Council in Portland, Oregon, recent advances in wind technology have made wind energy less than half as expensive as it was in the mid-1980's.

In the decade and a half that federal and state tax credits have been available to California electric utilities, more than 7,000 turbines have been installed in the Altamont region of Northern California, about 30 miles east of San Francisco. Altamont has taught wind power developers a lot about what does and does not work. Over the years, three major wind developers have emerged: Kenetech Windpower (formerly U.S. Windpower), the 20-year old "granddaddy" of the American wind industry, based in San Francisco; Advanced Wind Turbines, Inc., of Redmond, Washington; and Zond Systems, Inc., of Tehachapi, California.

Wind Power Cost Trends	
(excluding federal tax incentives and system costs)	
Year	Cents/kilowatt/hour
1983	11.5
1986	11.1
1991	6.0
Current	4.9

Most of the wind turbines used at Altamont and elsewhere spin at a fixed rate so they can generate electricity at a constant 60 cycles per second — the utility standard. The machines have to mechanically adjust to slower and faster wind, which can stress and, ultimately, eventually wears out the equipment. As a result, most fixed-speed turbines are built to withstand a lot of abuse.

Kenetech Windpower, however, has recently built a variable-speed turbine with electronic controls that converts the varying frequencies of generated electricity into a constant frequency. The new turbine can generate wind energy for between 3 cents and 5 cents per kilowatt-hour, depending on wind speeds and constancy. Advanced Wind Turbines, Inc. has also designed a new turbine capable of generating the nickel a kilowatt-hour goal. (continued on page 4)

Want to Know More About New Wind Technologies?

American Wind Energy Association
122 C Street, NW
Fourth Floor
Washington, DC 20001
Phone: 202-383-2500
FAX: 202-383-2505

Advanced Wind Turbines, Inc.
15042 NE 40th Street, Suite 204
Redmond, WA 98052
Phone: 206-867-0683
FAX: 206-881-8468

Kenetech Windpower
500 Sansome Street
San Francisco, CA 94111
Phone: 415-391-7740
FAX: 415-391-7740

Zond Systems, Inc.
13000 Jameson Road
Tehachapi, CA 93561
Phone: 805-822-6835
FAX: 805-822-7880

TMIA ALERT NOW AVAILABLE ON PENCYCLE COMPUTER BBS

You can now read *TMIA Alert*, as well as other Pennsylvania environmental newsletters, by using your computer and a modem to connect to PenCycle, the Commonwealth's only non-profit computerized bulletin board dedicated to environmental issues. PenCycle is operated by the Pennsylvania Resources Council (PRC). In addition to newsletters, PenCycle offers a host of interesting services and resources, including: Weekly Pennsylvania Senate Environmental Updates; Internet e-mail; Internet-environmental usenet newsgroups; PRC's Recycled Products Guide; Pennsylvania DER Fact Sheets on recycling, composting, etc.; and lots of environmental libraries.

Using PenCycle is easy. Set your communications software to 14,400 baud (or slower), N-8-1 (No parity, 8 bits per character, 1 stop); and have your modem dial 610-353-5295. At the user name prompt, follow the instructions. Other than the cost of the phone call, there is no charge for joining PenCycle or for any of the information. If you have other questions about PenCycle, you can call PRC at 610-353-1555.

NEWS NOTES

•TMIA Planning Council will meet Wednesday, October 12, 1994, at 7 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse, 6th & Herr Streets. Members are welcome.

•Syracuse Cultural Workers 1995 Peace Calendar is now available at the TMIA office for \$10.00. The colorful Peace Calendar makes a great gift for birthdays, weddings, or Christmas.

•TMIA recently received a General Accounting Office (GAO) report on federal efforts to determine the health effects of electromagnetic fields (EMF). Although the report makes no recommendations about exposure to EMF, the GAO is critical of the slow pace of federal research programs investigating the effects of EMF. The document, GAO/RCED-94-115, is available free by calling the GAO at 202-512-6000, or you can borrow it from TMIA.

•On Saturday, October 1, 1994, Citizen's Awareness Network, a Massachusetts safe-energy group, will hold a CITIZEN'S ACTION FORUM, an educational seminar on the health effects of radiation, the radioactive waste stream, community participation, aging reactors, decommissioning, and more. The forum runs from 9:30 a.m. till 8 p.m. at Smith College in Northampton, Massachusetts. Registration is \$15. Call TMIA for more information.

**Look For A Special Edition of *ALERT* Just Before the November Elections.
It Will Contain the Responses of the Candidates to TMIA's
Nuclear Issues Questionnaire.**

THREE MILE ISLAND

A L E R T

Election
1994
Issue

315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: (717) 233-7897 FAX: (717) 233-3261

Candidates Ignore TMIA's Nuclear Issues Questionnaire

No Word From Wofford, Ridge, Santorum, or Luksik

While Pennsylvanians may hold differing opinions about the quality of political rhetoric in this year's elections, there is really no debate about the dearth of issues being discussed. One issue notable for its absence has been energy policy. TMIA found this out the hard way; only one of the four major party candidates took the time to answer TMIA's Nuclear Issues Questionnaire. Among the minor party candidates, four out of the five answered.

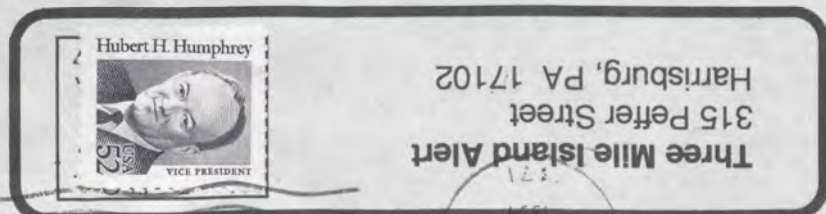
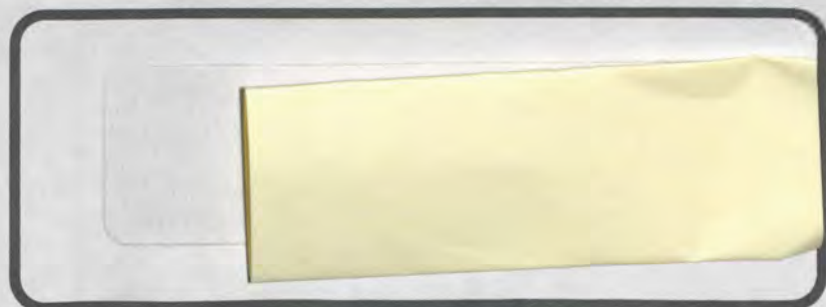
On September 12, 1994, TMIA mailed a Nuclear Issues Questionnaire to all of the registered candidates for Governor and U.S. Senator. On October 4, we mailed a second letter to those candidates who had not responded to the first mailing. On October 13 and again on October 17, we telephoned the campaign headquarters of gubernatorial candidate Tom Ridge (Republican), and senatorial candidates Harris Wofford (Democrat) and Rick Santorum (Republican). Although all three headquarters stated that they wished to answer the questionnaire and were made aware of our deadline for getting this newsletter out, none faxed a response to us in time to make our deadline. We were unable to call gubernatorial candidate Peg Luksik (Constitutional), as we did not have a phone number for her campaign headquarters.

Increasingly, politicians are simply refusing to answer questions that are deemed controversial, or take positions not validated by their polling data. Although clean, sustainable alternatives to nuclear power are technologically and economically feasible, and enjoy widespread and often vocal support, few politicians are willing to step forward, recognize the future, and stand in opposition to the nuclear industry and its political lapdogs.

continued on next page

**ELECTION '94
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continued from page 1

While politicians denounce the state of the "welfare system," few bother to mention the continuing "welfare system" sustaining the otherwise unsustainable nuclear industry. One exception is Patrick Fallon, the Libertarian candidate for governor, who makes several good points about how the federal government has "enabled" the nuclear industry to reap the profits of nuclear power without being liable for the true costs of their destructive technology.

The next few years in Pennsylvania promise to be contentious ones as countless communities around the Commonwealth realize the threat that a nuclear dump poses to their health and safety. Our government officials, blinded by the baseless promise of jobs and fees to be generated by such a dump, will probably stand before us straightfaced, and tell us that we have nothing to fear from Chem Nuclear and its dump. Don't believe them for a minute.

Presently, DER expects that Chem Nuclear will submit a license application for a particular site by 1997, with the dump opening in mid-1999. Over the next few years, TMIA will be working hard to convince ordinary Pennsylvanians that a nuclear dump is not in anyone's interest except the nuclear industry's. Under the current plan, the taxpayers of Pennsylvania will be the owners of the waste and liable for its eventual leakage, while the nuclear industry gets to walk away from its mess. If this plan sounds unfair, it is. Maybe, along the way, we can even convince a few politicians that the plan must be abandoned or drastically changed.

One more thing, here are the phone numbers of the major party candidates who failed to answer the Nuclear Issues Questionnaire. With enough phone calls from the public, they may realize that when you apply for a job, it's bad form not to answer your prospective employer's questions.

Tom Ridge, Republican for Governor, (717) 231-1630
Rick Santorum, Republican for Senator, (215) 627-1994
Harris Wofford, Democrat for Senator, 1-800-915-1994

With that said, TMIA's questions and the candidates' answers begin on page 3. TMIA would like to express our sincere thanks to all the candidates who answered the Nuclear Issues Questionnaire.

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.)

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_____ \$5 Low Income/Student _____ \$200 Club Member
_____ \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

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State & National Energy Policy

Q1. Recently, members of Congress have asked President Clinton to appoint an independent commission to review all US nuclear waste programs and recommend revisions to improve present and future safety. Would you join or support such a request?

Candidates for Governor

Patrick Fallon, Libertarian

"Support."

Timothy Holloway, Patriot

"Yes."

Mark Singel, Democrat

"Yes. Pennsylvania is being required to take responsibility for finding a disposal site for LLRW but has very little authority for the regulation of facilities which generate LLRW. Under these circumstances, the Federal government should review regulations and make appropriate amendments to further improve safety."

Candidates for US Senator

Diane Blough, Patriot

"Yes, I would support a non-salaried commission."

Donald Ernsberger, Libertarian

"ABSOLUTELY."

Q2. Would you join or support a request to Congress to adopt a national energy policy that makes health, safety, and environmental quality its highest priority?

Candidates for Governor

Patrick Fallon, Libertarian

"No. The NRC should be abolished; full liability - not government agencies - should regulate nuclear power. The Price-Anderson Act, through which the government limits liability for nuclear accidents and furnishes partial payment at taxpayer expense, should be repealed. Nuclear energy should be denationalized and the industry's assets transferred to the private sector."

Timothy Holloway, Patriot

"No."

Mark Singel, Democrat

"My recommendation for National energy policy is the same as that for State energy policy as outlined below."

Candidates for US Senator

Diane Blough, Patriot

"YES."

Donald Ernsberger, Libertarian

"I support a legal system based on full liability for one's actions."

Q3. Would you join or support a request to the Pennsylvania General Assembly to adopt a state energy policy that makes health, safety, and environmental quality its highest priority?

Candidates for Governor

Patrick Fallon, Libertarian

"No. For the reasons stated above [in answer to Q2]. ANY nuclear power industry must meet the test of a free market."

Timothy Holloway, Patriot
"No."

Mark Singel, Democrat

"Health, safety and environmental concerns must be incorporated into our decisions about energy supply from the beginning of the process.

Several principles will guide overall energy policy under a Singel Administration.

1) Least-cost energy services should be pursued within the limits of our environmental protection policy. Sometimes this will mean energy conservation and sometimes this will mean new power plants. 2) The environmental costs of energy should be increasingly be incorporated into the market price. This means the most efficient way to tap the ingenuity of the private sector and reach our environmental goals. 3) The needs of low income Pennsylvanians must be protected. This is important since, in our climate, energy is a necessity. 4) New energy technologies may need modest government support in order for them to enter the market. This can and is being done through loan and grant programs, for example, for clean coal technology, energy conservation and renewable energy technology."

Candidates for US Senator

Diane Blough, Patriot

"Yes, I would support a request for a state energy policy."

Donald Ernsberger, Libertarian

"I support a legal system based on full liability for one's actions."

State/National Nuclear Energy Policy

Q4. Would you favor and support federal legislation that enables States to regulate nuclear energy generators and producers of nuclear waste more (but not less) stringently than does the NRC, EPA, Department of Defense, and Department of Transportation?

Candidates for Governor

Patrick Fallon, Libertarian

"No. Liability is the key to protecting the environment. When those who pollute our air, land, and water are held accountable for the damage they do, would-be polluters are likely to be far more cautious. For example, in the late 1950's, private insurance companies refused to insure nuclear power plants, because the enormous risks associated with a possible accident were unacceptably high. Consequently, power companies refused to consider nuclear power. Congress passed a law (Price Anderson Act) to limit the amount victims of a nuclear power plant disaster could claim. Once the power companies were not liable for the damage they might cause, nuclear power plants were funded with loans. The full liability free market protects us better than bureaucrats."

Timothy Holloway, Patriot

"No."

Mark Singel, Democrat

"I will direct DER to review the Federal regulations to determine if Pennsylvania may need more stringent regulations in some areas once 'Agreement State' status is obtained. If it is determined that this is the case, then we may need to seek the right to pass such regulations."

Candidates for US Senator

Diane Blough, Patriot

"YES."

Donald Ernsberger, Libertarian

"No. I am not a 'state's rights conservative.' Full liability is my position."

Q5. DER plans to become a full "Agreement State" with NRC; when that happens, DER's Bureau of Radiation Protection would then license and regulate most nuclear facilities except power plants. Do you support the addition of toxicologists and medically-trained staff in DER and its Bureau of Radiation Protection in order to carry out functions now performed by the NRC? Alternatively, do you support the transfer of radiation protection to the Department of Health?

Candidates for Governor

Patrick Fallon, Libertarian

"No. We should not, as taxpayers, fund toxicologists and medically-trained staff. If we held nuclear power plants liable for their activities, we could expect their insurance companies to be even more robust in demanding proper monitoring. After all, the insurance industry refused to loan money to nuclear power plant builders in the 1950's because of safety concerns."

Timothy Holloway, Patriot

"No."

Mark Singel, Democrat

"If DER obtains Agreement State status, more technical staff will need to be made available to the Bureau of Radiation Protection. This could be done by the addition of staff to the Department or by making staff already in the Department or in another department available to the Bureau of Radiation Protection. It is very important that the DER be able to make the connection between environmental protection and human health effects."

Candidates for US Senator

Diane Blough, Patriot

"I support the addition of toxicologists and medical staff, but at the expense of the users. I do not support the transfer of radiation protection to the Department of Health."

Donald Ernsberger, Libertarian

"I oppose Price-Anderson liability subsidy and all tax subsidies to the nuclear power industry. Reform here is the first step."

Q6. Would you favor and support federal or state law requiring public utilities that operate nuclear reactors to install and maintain an array of high-quality continuous radiation monitoring devices within the ten-mile radius of their plants, with the utility funding a system of read-out and recording devices supervised by public-interest personnel independent of the utility?

Candidates for Governor

Patrick Fallon, Libertarian

"No. See above."

Timothy Holloway, Patriot

"Yes."

Mark Singel, Democrat

"It is my understanding that Pennsylvania's nuclear power plants have continuously operating monitors for radiation surrounding the plant. This information is already public information in that the NRC obtains and reviews it. It seems reasonable to me, however that this information could be made available to the public through a real-time, electronic, data connection.

TMIA's successful efforts in this regard have received broad attention and have furthered the public's access to environmental information."

Candidates for US Senator

Diane Blough, Patriot

"Yes, I would support such a law, as long as it were funded by the stockholders and not the rate payers."

Donald Ernsberger, Libertarian
"YES."

Pennsylvania's Radioactive Dump

Q7. Would you favor and support a two-year moratorium on the siting process for Pennsylvania's "low-level" radioactive dump to permit study of issues concerning public participation, taxpayer liability, and long-term custodial technologies and costs?

Candidates for Governor

Patrick Fallon, Libertarian

"No. But I DO favor ending the taxpayer liability. If disposal fees covered the true costs of that activity, we could all make rational choices about the composition and quantity of our trash. Private landfill owners are liable for damages, so they have a strong incentive to use liners, leachate and methane gas collectors. Their fees reflect the entire cost of their operations, including post-closure. They tend to charge different fees for different trash. Government landfill operations are not liable for their actions. Municipal fees, set by politicians, are typically uniform, and they usually cover only current operating expenses."

Timothy Holloway, Patriot
"No."

Mark Singel, Democrat

"As you know, there is currently no available facility for LLRW being generated in Pennsylvania. This material is being stored on-site at electric power plants, hospitals and research facilities. While these facilities are handling and storing this material in a safe manner, this is not a situation which can be maintained indefinitely."

Candidates for US Senator

Diane Blough, Patriot

"Yes, I would support a two year moratorium."

Donald Ernsberger, Libertarian

"This is a short term bandade solution. More fundamental reform is needed."

Q8. Would you favor and support the introduction of state legislation that would prohibit DER from taking land for the radioactive dump if a majority of the residents in the prospective host community oppose the dump?

Candidates for Governor

Patrick Fallon, Libertarian

"Libertarians oppose the concept of eminent domain, by which government forces reluctant land owners to sell. So first, disposal of all wastes, including nuclear, should be by a private firm in a full liability market. Private landfill owners are liable for damages, so they have a strong incentive to use liners, leachate and methane gas collectors. Their fees reflect the entire costs of their operations, including post-closure. They tend to charge different fees for different trash. They also bring the full costs of landfills into the marketplace by paying not only to install safety measures but to compensate the people most directly affected by the landfill. This helps internalize disposal costs by bringing costs back to the person with the waste."

Timothy Holloway, Patriot
"Yes."

Mark Singel, Democrat

"We must do all that we can to assure that no community is forced to accept the LLRW facility.

Under a Singel Administration we would take several steps with regards to the generation and storage of LLRW. First DER will obtain the authority to directly regulate generators of LLRW. At that time the DER can implement technical assistance support for the source reduction of LLRW. While considerable progress has been made in terms of source reduction of LLRW, further progress should be made. Additionally, DER will more closely monitor facilities which generate LLRW and its transportation. Finally, enforcement programs for LLRW will be expanded and intensified."

Candidates for US Senator

Diane Blough, Patriot

"Undecided. If Pennsylvania should or must site a dump, no community would agree."

Donald Ernsberger, Libertarian

"No, I do not favor 'community' control of private property. Use of eminent domain to build a radioactive dump or power plant is WRONG and so is the use of community control of land use. Full liability and responsibility for externalized costs is the only approach I can accept."

WASTE MANAGEMENT, INC. SPONSORS CONSERVATION AWARD

In an obvious public relations ploy, Waste Management, Inc. (the parent company of Chem Nuclear, the contractor chosen to put a nuclear dump somewhere in Pennsylvania), has joined with the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation to sponsor a series of Conservation Achievement Awards. Although the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation is not known as a left-wing environmental group, we would have thought that they would see the irony and hypocrisy of "getting in bed with" Waste Management, Inc., whose business it is to fill the countryside with garbage and radioactive waste. Additionally, Waste Management, Inc. and its subsidiaries have a poor history of regulatory compliance. In one case, Chemical Waste Management, a Waste Management subsidiary, agreed to pay a \$10.1 million fine for failing to report hazardous waste spills at the Lackawanna, Pennsylvania Superfund site.

In a further twist of irony, although officers and directors of the Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation and the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs are ineligible for nomination, no such restriction seems to apply to the officers, directors or employees of Waste Management, Inc. The Pennsylvania Wildlife Federation and the Pennsylvania Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs can be reached at (717) 232-3480.

THERMO-LAG MANUFACTURER INDICTED FOR FALSIFYING TESTS

A fire retardant widely used in the nation's nuclear plants, including Peach Bottom, in York County; Limerick, outside Philadelphia; Susquehanna, in Berwick; and Three Mile Island, is at the center of a seven-count federal indictment filed recently in federal court. The retardant, Thermo-Lag 30, was developed in the wake of one of the nation's worst nuclear power plant fires that occurred at Browns Ferry, Alabama in 1975.

The federal indictment, filed against the manufacturer of Thermo-Lag, Thermal Science, Inc. (TSI) of St. Louis, Missouri, and its president, Rubin Feldman, alleges a ten-year conspiracy to falsify laboratory results and circumvent federal regulations. In an attempt to persuade utilities to purchase Thermo-Lag as a means of complying with the stricter federal fire requirements that were expected in the aftermath of the Browns Ferry fire, Feldman and TSI hired a Missouri laboratory whose president signed test reports that had been written by TSI. Using these false reports, TSI was able to gain NRC approval for Thermo-Lag and has made approximately \$60 million on the sale of the product. Last

spring, the laboratory that signed off on the falsified tests, Industrial Testing Laboratories, pleaded guilty and agreed to cooperate in the investigation.

The indictments are just the latest in a long line of controversies involving Thermo-Lag. In the early 1980's, evidence began to emerge that Thermo-Lag was not a safe fire retardant. Despite this evidence, however, the NRC refused to undertake any effort to clarify the testing discrepancies or investigate the claims of the manufacturer. In 1992, after 18 months of investigation, the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) filed a petition with the NRC demanding the removal of Thermo-Lag from the nation's reactors. Although the NRC denied the petition, it did order utilities to establish hourly fire watches to compensate for the fact that Thermo-Lag did not work. (This fire watch practice continues at TML.) An NRC Inspector General later issued a report condemning the NRC's handling of the Thermo-Lag issue.

NEWS NOTES

- Syracuse Cultural Workers 1995 Peace Calendar is now available at the TMIA office for \$10.00. The colorful Peace Calendar makes a great gift for the holidays. If you can't stop by the office, we can mail it to you for an extra \$1.00 postage and handling.

- TMIA recently received a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission report entitled "Lessons Learned From the Three Mile Island-Unit 2 Advisory Panel." The TMI Unit 2 Advisory Panel was an independent citizen advisory group that consulted with the NRC over the past 13 years. The report describes the lessons learned from the Advisory panel and places those lessons in the context of what the government knows about citizen advisory groups. The document, NUREG/CR-6252, is available from USNRC, Washington, DC 20555-0001, or you can borrow it from TMIA.

- TMIA Planning Council will meet Wednesday, November 9, 1994, at 7 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse, 6th & Herr Streets. Members are welcome.

- Since its inception, TMIA has rented an office at the Harrisburg Center for Peace & Justice. For the past several years, the Center's staff has devoted most of its energy to providing housing counseling services to low-income tenants and homeowners. The Center has relied on a volunteer staff, supported by the financial contributions of a small group of concerned friends, neighbors, and supporters to assist countless Central Pennsylvanians in getting or keeping safe, decent, and affordable housing.

In order to expand the housing assistance available through the Peace Center, the Center is seeking broader support from the community. On Thursday, November 17, 1994, at 7:15 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse (6th & Herr Streets), the Peace Center will hold a general meeting of all friends, supporters, and members of the Peace Center. The meeting is open to the public and you are invited to attend.

**Remember:
November 8 is
Election Day**

Three Mile Island Alert

Special Election Issue

Editor's Note:

Tom Ridge's answers to the Nuclear Issues Questionnaire were received too late to make the printing of the newsletter, but we were able to include them as an insert.

State & National Energy Policy

1. Recently, members of Congress have asked President Clinton to appoint an independent commission to review all U.S. nuclear waste programs and recommend revisions to improve present and future safety. Would you join or support such a request?

Tom Ridge, Republican: I would favor a review of our national nuclear waste disposal programs which has as its objective to improve the health and safety and environmental standards for disposal methods and waste handling.

2. Would you join or support a request to Congress to adopt a national energy policy that makes health, safety, and environmental quality its highest priority?

3. Would you join or support a request to the Pennsylvania General Assembly to adopt a state energy policy that makes health, safety, and environmental quality its highest priority?

Tom Ridge, Republican: Protecting the environment must certainly be part of a national and state energy policy. But reliability, national security and cost concerns must also be included in any balanced energy policy review.

State/National Nuclear Energy Policy

4. Would you favor and support federal legislation that enables States to regulate nuclear energy generators and producers of nuclear waste more (but not less) stringently than does the NRC, EPA, Department of Defense, and Department of Transportation?

Tom Ridge, Republican: The Appalachian States Compact and the state Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Act authorize Pennsylvania to establish requirements which waste generators must meet before they are allowed access to our disposal facility. Those requirements can include packaging, shipping and other standards designed to make disposal of this waste as safe as possible for the workers that operate the facility and for the community in which it is located.

5. DER plans to become a full "Agreement State" with NRC; when that happens, DER's Bureau of Radiation Protection would then license and regulate most nuclear facilities except power plants. Do you support the addition of toxicologists and medically-trained staff in DER and its Bureau of Radiation Protection in order to carry out functions now performed by the NRC? Alternatively, do you support the transfer of radiation protection to the Department of Health?

Tom Ridge, Republican: I would support the addition of the staff necessary for DER to comply with full "Agreement State" status so that Pennsylvania can become a full partner with the federal government in regulating radiation sources.

6. Would you favor and support federal or state law requiring public utilities that operate nuclear reactors to install and maintain an array of high-quality continuous radiation monitoring devices within the ten-mile radius of their plants, with the

utility funding a system of read-out and recording devices supervised by public-interest personnel independent of the utility?

Tom Ridge, Republican: Pennsylvania already requires and operates an independent radiation monitoring program around each of its nuclear power plant sites. The monitoring network that your organization helped establish around the Three Mile Island nuclear plant funded by the utility operating the plant and operated by community volunteers should be used as a model for other facilities.

Pennsylvania's Radioactive Dump

7. Would you favor and support a two-year moratorium on the siting process for Pennsylvania's "low-level" radioactive dump to permit study of issues concerning public participation, taxpayer liability, and long-term custodial technologies and costs?

Tom Ridge, Republican: As long as Pennsylvania and the Appalachian Compact States are required by federal law to safely dispose of the low level radioactive waste we generate, the job of finding an environmentally safe site for this waste should proceed carefully.

To address some of your other points, as Governor I would not support bringing low-level waste from outside the Compact to our site for disposal. I would also support efforts to change federal law to eliminate Class C radioactive waste, the more hazardous and long-lived waste, from being disposed at our Pennsylvania site.

I would also support efforts to minimize the volume and radioactivity of the low-level waste we produce to the greatest extent possible. I also support the "zero release" goal contained in our state Low-Level Radioactive Waste Disposal Act for the design and operation of the disposal facility. With respect to long-term issues, the state Low-Level Waste Disposal Act governing the siting process includes provisions for assuring for the long-term custodial care of the disposal facility paid for by surcharges on the waste generated by the users of the facility.

8. Would you favor and support the introduction of state legislation that would prohibit DER from taking land for the radioactive dump if a majority of the residents in the prospective host community oppose the dump?

Tom Ridge, Republican: I would favor doing all we can to encourage a community to volunteer to host the low-level waste disposal facility, as long as the site met all environmental siting requirements. Given the federal mandate that requires us to safely dispose of the waste we generate, we may be forced to exercise eminent domain authority as a last resort. You should know that DER's Low-Level Waste Advisory Committee, the Sierra Club and other groups have not supported legislation to remove eminent domain authority from our state law governing facility siting.