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## **Three Mile Island Resources**

**Title:** Three Mile Island Alert Newsletters, 1986

**Date:** 1986

**Location:** TMI-TMIA

### **Contact:**

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**THREE MILE ISLAND**

# ALERT

January  
February  
1986

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

## Shockwaves of Diablo Canyon Rate Decision May Reach Pennsylvania

by Eric Epstein

In 1985 the Nuclear Regulatory Commission allowed the nation's two most controversial nuclear power plants to go on line--Three Mile Island and Diablo Canyon. Diablo Canyon, at \$6 billion, is California's most expensive and most controversial plant due to its close proximity (2 miles) to the Hosgri earthquake fault.

I recently visited California and met with the Abalone Alliance, a broadbased anti-nuclear network located in San Francisco; and the Mothers for Peace, the primary interveners and the longest foe of Diablo. The Mothers for Peace, who live within the shadows of the plant, are continuing to pursue litigation concerning the safety of the plant. The Alliance, with the help of the consumer group TURN and the staff of the California Public Utility Commission are embroiled in a rate case with Pacific Gas & Electric (PGE), owners-operators of Diablo Canyon.

At issue is whether the stockholders or ratepayers are responsible for PGE's mistakes. If the CPUC finds PGE's stockholders responsible, then the utility would have to write off over \$3 billion! The focus of the case is when did PGE know of the earthquake fault and its severity. PGE insists that they didn't know of the fault until 1972, and they didn't understand the seriousness of the fault until 1976 when Unit 1 was near completion. Therefore, PGE maintains they shouldn't be saddled with paying the billions of dollars of seismic modifications that occurred after 1976. However, the Abalone Alliance, TURN, and CPUC staff have transcripts and records that clearly indicate that PGE knew that the plant was situated on an active earthquake fault in 1976, but kept the information secret. PGE attorneys have responded by asking the administrative law judge to strike all this information from the record.

PGE has also asked for rate relief to avert a "financial emergency" despite the fact that their 1984 report boasted their best earnings in 15 years. Last year, PGE spent \$150 million to take over Pacific Gas & Transmission Company, which supplies PGE with some of their natural gas. PGE attorney's have asked that all independent records concerning PGE's financial status also be struck from the record.

This case could have a direct impact on the way rates are established in Pennsylvania and nationwide if the CPUC accepts the concept of value-based pricing. Value-based pricing would, according to the *San Francisco Bay Guardian*, "base consumer payments for Diablo Canyon on the actual value of the plant's electricity rather than its construction cost. In other words, the Diablo electricity would be sold at 'market rates' regardless of whether those rates were high enough to give the company's stockholders a reasonable return on their huge investment."

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**LEGAL UPDATE**

by Joanne Doroshow

**Court Litigation** - Briefs have been filed in the case currently before the U.S. Court of Appeals in Philadelphia seeking revocation of GPUN's license to operate TMI and the company's New Jersey reactor, Oyster Creek. The case was brought last year by TMIA, Sen. John Shumaker, Rep. Pete Wambach, Dauphin County Commissioner Larry Hochendoner, and two New Jersey groups. Oral arguments should be scheduled soon and a decision may come this spring.

Meanwhile, Marjorie and Norman Aamodt have filed petitions asking the U.S. Supreme Court to hear their appeal to the TMI-1 restart decision. On October 3, 1985, the full Supreme Court overturned Justice Brennan's prior ruling granting TMIA's request to stop restart until such petitions could be filed. The full court rejected arguments by TMIA, Governor Thornburgh, USC and the Aamodts. No other party has requested further Supreme Court review.

**NRC Litigation** - TMIA has filed a request for full public hearings on proposed changes to GPUN's license, which would allow certain cracked steam generator tubes to remain in service at TMI-1. TMIA has argued that this change would present a significant safety hazard. An NRC licensing board has been set up to decide whether, and on what basis, a hearing will be allowed.

The hearing process has begun to determine whether former TMI-1 training instructor Charles Husted is fit to hold a safety-related post at TMI-1. Husted was implicated in cheating, and was found by the NRC's Appeal Board to have a poor attitude and to have been generally uncooperative with the NRC. Louise Bradford is representing TMIA in this proceeding.

The NRC has also set up a "legislative-type" hearing process to examine the role of certain operators in pre-accident leak rate falsification. The Commissioners have expressly prohibited any examination of management's role in the falsification scheme, as well as any cross-examination or prehearing discovery in the case. Commissioners Asselstine and Bernthal strongly dissented from the restrictions imposed by the Commission majority in structuring this hearing's process.

TMIA and other parties have also provided comments to the Commission strenuously objecting to the proposed return of former GPUN president Robert C. Arnold, and his assistant, Ed Wallace, to positions at TMI-1. In their restart order, the Commissioners prohibited these two individuals, implicated in a great deal of wrongdoing and misconduct at TMI, from holding positions connected with TMI-1. Arnold and Wallace recently asked the NRC to change its mind and the Commission is apparently considering doing so.

**LET'S LEGISLATE FOR SAFE ENERGY**

by Vera Stuchinski

The Public Citizen's Critical Mass Energy Project, a research and advocacy organization, is working with consumer groups to develop legislation designed to force public utilities to use safe, reliable and affordable energy resources. The need for reform is clear. The PUC is not only unable to prevent unwise utility investments, it is unwilling to cancel plants or deny rate relief once large investments have already been made, as with Limerick II. Pennsylvania's current regulatory structure does not offer any incentive to utilities to prevent massive rate increases, build excess capacity, plant cost overruns, or use environmentally dangerous resources.

The Project's goal is to get every state to pass legislation (as a few have done) requiring utilities to adhere to a least-cost energy policy. This means that utilities would have to submit periodic plans to the PUC documenting how they will meet electrical demand at the lowest possible cost to the public.



These plans would include:

- o a forecast of future demand;
- o an assesment of supply and demand options;
- o use of the least expensive sources of electricity, particularly conservation; and
- o an implementation plan.

Proposed utility plans would then be subject to evaluation at public hearings. The PUC would have the authority to deny construction permits for any plant that does not have an acceptable least-cost plan.

Since utilities have shown themselves unwilling to shift their focus from that of solely selling electricity (regardless of the cost to the consumer and the environment) to the broader role of providing sensible electrical services, it is time to legislate for change. Least-cost regulations could put a stop to the building of outrageously expensive and unnecessary power plants and force utilities to use cost-effective and safer alternatives at existing plants. A few of these alternatives are:

- o conservation;
- o conversion to coal;
- o use of solar, wind and geothermal power; and
- o cogeneration (use of waste heat from industrial processes).

**Let your elected officials know how you feel about the need for reform of the PUC and legislation creating a least-cost energy policy for utilities in Pennsylvania.**

#### **RADIOLOGICAL MONITORING COMMITTEE ACTIVE**

by Cherie Friedrich

The Radiological Monitoring Committee last met on January 11 at the Friends Meeting House in Harrisburg. Reports from several people included: information on personal monitoring equipment, a description of funding proposals to enable the work of this committee to expand, concerns for Unit 2 cleanup and meetings various committee members had with public officials.

Several committee members met with Dr. Kirk of the EPA in Middletown. Their monitoring system was explained to us. They are presently the only agency testing for tritium in water and their contract expires with core removal in 1987 or 1988. Dr. Kirk's assistant, Tom Wooley, offered to be a resource person for us and has been very helpful.

Cherie Friedrich checks the Reuter-Stokes monitoring system printouts that GPU feeds into Dauphin County Emergency Management once per week. She checks the last sample printout, the number of operating instruments, if any alarm levels were reached and that there is a recording for each hour, and follows up on exceptions--and there have been exceptions in all of the above categories.

The focus of committee activity will be the upcoming workshop which may lay the groundwork for our own alternative monitoring system (see below). The next committee meeting will be Saturday, February 22, 2 p.m. at the Friends Meeting House.

#### **DOSE MEASUREMENT WORKSHOP SLATED FOR APRIL 4 & 5**

by Cherie Friedrich

Radiation Doses: How do we measure them and protect ourselves? This is the theme of a workshop to be held April 4 and 5 in the Harrisburg area.



Living together with an operating nuclear power plant with faulty steam tubes and other foibles and the defueling of dangerous radioactive wastes of the Unit 2 accident at Three Mile Island, has prompted the Radiation Monitoring Committee to organize this event. Sharing their findings and information with us will be Bernd Franke, of the IFEU Institute in Heidelberg; Kitty Tucker of the Health and Energy Institute in Washington, D.C.; possibly one or two other persons prominent in this field; and a representative of a citizens monitoring network of another nuclear facility.

Mr. Franke will fully explain his recommendations for an improved monitoring system. When he spoke to TMIA on November 20, he was under an obligation to the TMI Public Health Fund not be explicit in his remarks. Kitty Tucker works with the National Committee for Radiation Victims and is well versed in the effects of all levels of radiation exposure. During the weekend, a reception honoring our speakers and local politicians who have given us valuable assistance will be held.

Please keep April 4 and 5 open for these events. If you can help with either the workshop or reception, please let us know. The cost for these events is dependent on funding through several grant proposals. This information is important to all of us.

**7TH ANNIVERSARY EVENTS SCHEDULED** - TMIA will host an in-depth press conference at the Capitol Rotunda at 10 a.m. on March 28. The press conference will focus on the performance of GPU since the restart and the status of cleanup. Participants will be announced later.

A number of area residents have expressed interest in a vigil and balloon release event to take place around 7 o'clock on the morning of March 28. If you would like to contribute some time and help to plan this event, please call the TMIA office (233-7897). This will be the extent of planned activities as Easter weekend coincides with the TMI accident commemoration.

#### **CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR**

**February 10, Monday**--TMIA Planning Council meets 7:30 p.m. at Harrisburg Friends Meeting House. Members welcome.

**February 12, Wednesday**--Advisory Panel on the Decontamination of Unit 2 meets from 7 to 10 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 23 South 2nd Street, Harrisburg. The public is invited.

**February 22, Saturday**--Radiation Monitoring Committee meets at 2 p.m., Harrisburg Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets.

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**"Problems Experienced During Unit 1 Start-Up,"** a three-page chronology of happenings at the plant during the start-up is available from the TMIA office. This material was lifted from GPU's official logs and may spur renewed interest in Murphy's Law.

**"Three Mile Island, Accident without an end,"** a series of articles which appeared in the Philadelphia Inquirer last year is also available from the TMIA office.

Office hours are 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. weekdays. Feel free to contact the TMIA office for materials, information or if there are questions. 233-3072.

TMIA Planning Council Members are: Vera Stuchinski, Chairperson - 238-0441; Lauren Taylor, Recorder; Betsy Robinson, Treasurer - 233-0828; Kay Pickering, Office Coordinator - 232-1326; Joel Roth - 362-9347; Marcy Winters - 789-3544; and Dan Welliverd - 234-5454. TMI Alert's Media Coordinator is Eric Epstein.



# Marcia Taylor

of Bright Morning Star

"rising songwriter, instrumentalist and singer of real life songs of punk & spark"

in concert

Friday March 21st 1986 8:00 pm.

at:

Lakeside Lutheran Church (Sanctuary)

245 Division St. Hbg. Pa.

Tickets \$5.00 available in advance:

## RAFFLE For A RADIATION MONITOR

(Produced by Solar Electronics - worth \$200.00)

THIS IS THE HAND-HELD MONITOR  
OF CHOICE BY MOST EXPERTS.

Donation: \$2.00 per ticket  
or  
\$10.00 for 6 tickets

To Benefit TMIA Radiation Workshop.  
Drawing Saturday, April 19, 1986  
TMIA - 233-7897  
315 Pepper St., Hbg., PA 17102

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THE WOMEN'S CENTER

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Phone \_\_\_\_\_

TICKETS TOMORROW

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more info: 2360463



7th

# ANNIVERSARY ACTIVITIES

TO

## REMEMBER THE ACCIDENT

AT

### THREE MILE ISLAND

STATE CAPITOL BLDG., HBG. PA.

### FRIDAY MARCH 28<sup>th</sup> 1986

9:AM - 1:00PM  
PUBLIC  
INFO.  
BOOTH



10:30 AM - PRESS CONFERENCE - CAPITOL ROTUNDA

12:00 NOON - PUBLIC GATHERING - CAPITOL STEPS

### • SPEAKERS •

- BOB POLLARD - UNION OF CONCERNED SCIENTISTS
- BERND FRANKE - INST. FOR ENERGY-ENVIRONMENTAL RESEARCH
- JOANNE DOBOSHOW - TMIA

... PUBLIC SPEAKOUT ...

FOR MORE INFO... TMIA - 315 PEPPER ST  
233-7897



THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

March

1986

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

## AREA GROUPS SEEK HEALTH FUND ACTION, ACCOUNTABILITY

by Vera Stuchinski

In January, representatives from area groups met with Jonathan Berger, the administrator of the TMI Public Health Fund, to resolve issues that have not been satisfactorily addressed by the Fund. Specifically, these representatives asked Mr. Berger to immediately improve public communication, to allow public input into expenditure of funds, and to allocate money for public education, health studies of area residents and citizen monitoring of radiation releases from TMI. The Health Fund has been operating under a veil of secrecy, and following an unsatisfactory meeting at which problems were not resolved, TMIA decided to communicate directly with Judge Sylvia Rambo (of the U.S. Middle District Court of Pennsylvania) who approves allocation of funds.

The Health Fund was created in 1981 to administer the \$5 million settlement paid by insurers of GPU for damages caused by the '79 accident at TMI. The Fund is to serve citizens living within 25 miles of TMI by allocating the \$5 million for: monitoring radiation from TMI, studying health related effects of the accident, public education, designing of evacuation plans, and funding of general research on the effects of low-level radiation. Money not committed by November of 1986 will revert back to GPU's insurance company.

To date, the Bergers (a Philadelphia law firm employing family members to help administrate the fund) have allocated less than half of the money, and time is running out for the public to realize full benefit of the fund. The Bergers have not only been secretive about the expenditures of Health Fund money, they have also hired a "conflict management" firm, Accord Associates, to deal with the public, instead of handling communications themselves. Accord set up a token citizens' Advisory Committee, which has been so ineptly handled (members have had no real input) that some members have resigned in protest. Others are trying to get the Bergers to allow the Committee to fulfill its purpose and take part in decision-making and to communicate with the public.

Since time is running out and communication with the Bergers has been fruitless, TMIA sent a letter to Judge Rambo requesting the court's assistance in the administration of the TMI Public Health Fund. Specifically, TMIA has asked the court to intervene to influence the expenditure of funds for:

(1) improving the monitoring of radiation releases at TMI, purchase of radiation monitoring equipment, and training citizens how to use it; (The Bergers had stated previously that they would like to "equip people to take readings themselves so that they can discuss technical issues with plant operators." At the January meeting, Jonathan Berger indicated that his firm had no intention of recommending expenditure of funds for these purposes.)

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- (2) funding the completion of the Katagiri study. It is the only source of taped oral interviews taken of individuals who suffered symptoms of radiation exposure and other physical problems during the TMI accident;
- (3) public education programs about cancer, early detection of cancer and radiation-related health effects;
- (4) funding follow-up studies of radiation releases during the accident;
- (5) assurance that any studies on evacuation will be done in cooperation with local governments, and money set aside for implementation of study recommendations; and,
- (6) developing a repository for the publication and development of educational materials regarding any studies funded by the Health Fund.

TMIA has sent copies of our letter to area officials and has received a great deal of support. Harrisburg City Council just voted unanimously to pass a resolution supporting TMIA's letter to Judge Rambo, and will encourage the court to meet with area citizens, including representatives from City Council.

Communication from individuals is vital. Please write to Judge Rambo and tell her of your concerns. Let her know that you want the TMI Public Health Fund to be made accountable to the public it is supposed to represent.

Correspondence should be addressed: The Honorable Sylvia Rambo, United States District Judge, Federal Building - 9th Floor, Walnut & Third Streets, Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17108, and should be headed: Dear Judge Rambo:.

#### GPU SEEKING LOOSENING OF STEAM TUBE SAFETY REGULATIONS

by Vera Stuchinski

In an all too-familiar move, GPU is once again attempting to circumvent NRC safety requirements at Unit 1, and it appears that the NRC is willing to help by invalidating their own orders. The latest travesty involves the steam generator at Unit 1.

The steam generator produces steam to power turbines at TMI. Inside the generator are 31,000 long, thin steam tubes through which super-heated, highly pressurized, radioactive coolant from the core circulates. Water that surrounds the outside of the steam tubes is rapidly heated and flashed to steam. If a steam tube rupture occurs, radioactive coolant will mix with non-radioactive water and be released into the environment. Loss of coolant means an uncovered core and the likelihood of a core meltdown accident.

These tubes were badly damaged in 1981 by an "accidental" introduction of a highly corrosive chemical into the system. Repairs were made with an experimental process. TMI's license to operate specifies NRC regulations that all tubes with cracks penetrating more than 40% of the tube wall must be plugged and removed from service.

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#### TO RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP IN TMIA, COMPLETE AND RETURN THIS FORM

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 Membership          \$50 Sustaining Member  
         \$25 Non-Profit Organization          \$100 Patron  
         \$5 Low income, student          \$200 Club Member  
         \$5 Non-member newsletter subscription

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Hbg. PA 17102



This month, GPU is required to shut down Unit 1 to determine how many damaged tubes must be plugged. In order to avoid removing a great many tubes from service (thus being forced to operate at a lower capacity), GPU recently asked the NRC to raise the plugging criteria from 40 to 70% through wall penetration.

As required by law, the NRC has agreed to hold hearings on this proposed license change. In the meantime, NRC staff is supporting GPU's latest request to immediately revise the plugging criteria to 50% through wall penetration, without benefit of a public hearing. The NRC Commissioners will make this decision soon.

TMIA is fighting this illegal move. Our attorney, Joanne Doroshow, is preparing contentions to the NRC, arguing against the proposed change in plugging criteria without a due process hearing. It is possible that TMIA may once again find itself in court to block the unsafe operation of Unit 1.

On March 27, the NRC will hold a prehearing conference to determine the scope of future steam tube hearings (on the 70% request). You can show the NRC what area citizens think about the total lack of concern for our health and safety, by attending the prehearing conference. It will begin at 9 AM in the Heritage Room of the Education Building, 333 Market Street, Harrisburg. TMIA also needs your financial support in order to continue the legal battle.

#### "LIVING WITH IONIZING RADIATION" IS WORKSHOP TOPIC

A day-long workshop will be held Saturday, April 19, 1986 at Lakeside Lutheran Church under the sponsorship of TMIA's Radiation Monitoring Committee. The workshop will run from 9:30 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. and will start with a presentation on what radiation is and how it is measured and move onto the health effects and the impact of the citizen monitoring network around the Yankee Reactor in Maine. There is a \$10.00 registration fee that covers lunch all course materials. Scholarships are available and childcare will be provided. A registration form appears at the bottom of this page.

Presentors include Dr. Judith Johnsrud of State College, the original intervenor against the construction of TMI 1; Kitty Tucker, executive director of the Health & Energy Institute in Washington; Dr. Bernd Franke of the TMI Public Health Fund; and Maria Holt and Elizabeth King of the Citizens Monitoring Network of the Yankee Reactor, Bath, Maine.

#### Radiation Monitor First Prize in Raffle

To help cover the costs of the Ionizing Radiation Workshop, TMIA will raffle off a "Radiation Alert" monitor, produced by Solar Electronics with a value of \$200. The monitor has a LND halogen-quenched Geiger-Mueller tube with mica end window (whatever that means) and it detects alpha, beta, gamma and x-rays. It uses one 9-volt alkaline battery and weighs 8.8 ounces. This is the hand-held monitor of choice for most experts. You can also place an order for such a monitor should you not be lucky enough to win. Two raffle tickets are enclosed. Fill them out and return them to TMIA. For more tickets, call TMIA.

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#### REGISTRATION FORM - IONIZING RADIATION WORKSHOP - SATURDAY, APRIL 19

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Address \_\_\_\_\_

Telephone # \_\_\_\_\_

Child Care:      YES      NO      If yes, # of children/ages \_\_\_\_\_ / \_\_\_\_\_

For scholarships call TMIA at 233-7897

Enclose \$10.00 and return to: TMIA Radiation Workshop, 315 Peffer St.  
Harrisburg, PA 17102



### U.S. COURT OF APPEALS WILL HEAR PETITION TO REVOKE GPU'S LICENSE

March 19 will be the day in court for Three Mile Island Alert as it voices its arguments that General Public Utilities lacks the requisite character to safely operate a nuclear reactor. Sufficient character is expressly established by Congress as a fundamental requirement for holding a license to operate a nuclear reactor, and TMIA will argue GPU is deficient in this area.

The case was brought last year by TMIA, Sen. John Shumaker, Rep. Peter Wambach, Dauphin Co. Commissioner Larry Hochendoner, and two New Jersey safe energy groups. TMIA members are urged to show their support for this effort by going to Philadelphia for the hearing. Call TMIA (233-7897) for carpool information or send a contribution to TMIA or the TMI Legal Fund.

### SIX-PART LECTURE SERIES TO FOCUS ON RADIATION AND HEALTH

A series of lectures featuring experts in the fields of radiation and health will be held on Wednesday evenings at Millersville University beginning March 19 with Dr. Karl Morgan, an internationally renowned health physicist, on the effects of radiation on the human body. The lectures, sponsored by the Susquehanna Valley Alliance, will be held from 7 to 9 p.m. in room 105 of Wickersham Hall on the Millersville campus.

Speaking March 26 is Dr. Bernd Franke of the Institute of Energy and Environmental Research, Heidelberg, Germany, on how radiation enters our environment and the results of a study of TMI radiation monitoring. April 2 and 9 the focus is on cancer. Dr. John Kreider, a pathologist and microbiologist at the Hershey Medical Center will discuss the contributing factors, detection and treatment of cancer (4/2) while Dr. Robert L. Comis, Medical Director, Fox Chase Cancer Center, will discuss radiation related cancer and its treatment.

April 16 will feature Dr. Jan Beyea, Senior Staff Scientist with the National Audubon Society and the principal investigator of the Review of Dose Assessments at TMI. He will speak about the TMI accident dose assessment. The final presentation, on 4/23, will feature a panel discussion of various studies undertaken in the TMI area. All the lectures are free. To register, call the university's Center for Continuing Education at 872-3030.

### CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR CALENDAR

- March 12, Wednesday, TMIA Planning Council Meeting, 7:30 p.m. Harrisburg Friends Meeting House. Members welcome.
- March 15, Saturday, Radiation Monitoring Committee meets, 2:00 p.m. Harrisburg Friends Meeting House.
- March 19, Wednesday, Carpool to Phila. for the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court oral argument to revoke the license of GPU. Call 233-7897 for details.
- March 19, Wednesday, First of the SVA Lectures on radiation and health at Millersville, Dr. Karl Morgan. See article for details.
- March 21, Friday, Marcia Taylor in concert to benefit TMIA, 8:00 p.m. at Lakeside Lutheran Church, 245 Division Street, Harrisburg. Donation \$5.00. See enclosed flyer.
- March 24, Monday, 7:30 p.m. Pro-Peace Meeting to organize area participation in Los Angeles to New York & Washington peace march. Larry Evans, state Pro-Peace Director, will make a presentation at the Unitarian Church, 1280 Clover Lane, Harrisburg (off S. Eisenhower Blvd. - behind Cloverleaf Motel).
- March 26, Wednesday, second of the SVA lectures, Dr. Bernd Franke, Millersville State University.
- March 27, Thursday, NRC pre-hearing conference on steam tubes, 9:00 a.m., 333 Market Street, Harrisburg, Be There!
- March 28, Friday, Activities to observe the 7th anniversary of the TMI accident. Capitol Building 12 noon. Public gathering and speakers. See enclosed flyer.
- April 19, Saturday, Living With Ionization Workshop, See article this issue.



## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

MAY  
'86

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

### THE CHERNOBYL ACCIDENT AND TMIA

by Kay Pickering

Since the Chernobyl accident worldwide attention has been refocused on the inherent dangers involved in the production of nuclear power. Those of us in the TMIA office (Eric Epstein, Joanne Doroshow, and Kay Pickering) have been especially busy answering questions from the press and public. Phone calls have come from as far away as Tokyo, Japan, and West German film crews have come to the area for interviews. The demands were heavy during the first ten days of the accident and now average four to five requests a day for information from the TMIA office.

TMIA has written to President Reagan supporting the national call to close the Department of Energy facilities at Hanford and Savannah River (which, like the Chernobyl reactor, lack containment buildings), we are distributing literature on radiation precautions and health effects, and we support the National Day of Nuclear Protest, Saturday, May 24, 1986.

It is essential that we continue to place the issues of nuclear power and waste in the forefront of national politics before the names TMI and Chernobyl are replaced with the name of a new nuclear disaster. **So soon people forget!**

TMIA is not planning a local public gathering but is supporting the National Day of Nuclear Protest by issuing a public statement, supporting other groups across the country, and urging TMIA members to write letters to elected officials regarding licensing reform and the Price Anderson Act. (For details of local actions call the TMIA Office or the Nuclear Information and Resource Service (NIRS) at 202-328-0002.

### COMMISSIONERS PETITION FOR MONITORING EQUIPMENT

TMIA has worked closely with the Dauphin County Commissioners in support of a petition to Judge Sylvia H. Rambo requesting \$600,000 of TMI Health Fund monies be set aside to purchase radiation monitoring equipment. Phone or write your local elected officials and request their support of the petition. All local elected officials within 25 miles of TMI have been asked by the County Commissioners to support this request. The County Commissioners also asked Judge Rambo to hold a hearing on the handling of the TMI Health Fund by the Fund's administrators, the Berger law firm.

### PERSONAL INJURY CLAIMS TOP 2,000

The number of personal injury claims filed in Dauphin County Court stemming from the accident at TMI has now passed the 2,000 mark. A pre-trial conference has been scheduled for June 16.

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FINANCIAL REPORT TO MEMBERS

TMIA Income and Expenses for 1985

Cash Balance in Checking Account as of 12-31-85	\$195.31
Cash Balance in Savings Account as of 12-31-85	\$3106.03

Income

Memberships	\$4972.00
Public Contributions	8676.71
Sales	2076.09
Interest Earned	168.55
Fund Raisers	3438.35

Expenses

Rally	131.63
Bus	213.60
Office Expenses	432.32
Printing	4179.57
Postage	1723.49
Rent	920.00
GAP (Government Accountability Project)	3900.00
Fund Raising Consultant Expenses	1120.00
Purchases	1251.78
Telephone	1833.29
Fund Raising Expense	1173.94
Insurance	178.50
Legal Consultant	2100.00
General Expenses	292.50

TMIA has continued community education, public information and intervention in the courts and NRC administrative process. The expenses for 1986 have been about \$3,000 per month with some reimbursement from the TMI Legal Fund. There have been no fundraisers to date in 1986. **Membership dues are the backbone of the TMIA organization.** The Treasurer, Betsy Robinson, gave the following report at the May 5th Planning Council:

4/15/86 General Fund Checking Account Balance	\$353.00
4/15/86 Legal Fund Savings Account Balance	\$705.92

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP AND GIVE AN ADDITIONAL AMOUNT 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:	<u>      </u> \$15 Regular Membership	<u>      </u> \$50 Sustaining Member
	<u>      </u> \$25 Non-Profit Organization	<u>      </u> \$100 Patron
	<u>      </u> \$5 Low income, Student	<u>      </u> \$200 Club Member
	<u>      </u> \$5 Non-member, newsletter subscription	

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Hbg. PA 17102



## PARKS GIVEN AWARD FOR PROTECTING THE PUBLIC'S INTEREST

Former TMI clean-up engineer Richard Parks, who lost his job following his raising of important safety issues concerning clean-up practices, was honored by the Institute of Electrical and Electronics Engineers at their annual convention in Boston in mid-May. The IEEE says Parks "acted in the highest tradition of professional ethics even though he knew that he placed his job and career in jeopardy." The citation given Parks by the IEEE's Society on Social Implications of Technology reads in part: "In raising these issues, Richard Parks followed his best engineering judgment and acted from his sense of engineering responsibility, knowing that he risked his chosen career. His courageous adherence to the highest standards of professional ethics deserves the respect and admiration of the engineering profession." Parks's allegations were, of course, upheld upon investigation by the NRC.

## PRICE-ANDERSON ACT EXPIRES IN 1987 - CONGRESSIONAL ACTION DUE

Action on the Price-Anderson Act will be a top priority in Congress this year. The act limits the liability of the nuclear industry and the federal government for accidents at nuclear power plants, at government nuclear facilities and along nuclear transportation routes. Although damages from such accidents could soar into the billions of dollars, the act limits the nuclear industry's liability to \$640 million while federal liability for government activity is limited to \$500 million. It was enacted in 1957 to spur investment in commercial nuclear power and will expire in August, 1987 unless Congress renews it.

Under the act's provisions, damages exceeding the \$640 million and \$500 million caps would go uncompensated, even if the accident causing them were the result of recklessness or criminal negligence.

As a population which has firsthand experience with the act's inadequacies, it is critical that we draw on our experiences to influence federal legislators. We need to address the following issues:

- o Victim Compensation - anyone who is injured by any nuclear accident should be compensated for all losses.
- o Corporate Responsibility - Those who create nuclear risks must be held accountable for the consequences of accidents. The likelihood of a nuclear accident would be reduced if the companies involved in the industry had the responsibility of paying for damages.
- o Protecting Taxpayers - federal taxpayers should not bear the ultimate responsibility of paying for an accident caused by private industry.

TMI-Alert is on record supporting the Stafford Bill, Senate Bill 1761, which would remove the limit on nuclear industry liability, mandate full compensation of all damages after a nuclear accident, and which relies on the industry, rather than taxpayers, to pay damages.

TMIA also supports the Metzenbaum Bill which assures full compensation for all Department of Energy contractor accidents, including nuclear waste, weapons and research activities; and which requires the Department to sue the contractors to recover the cost of compensation if the contractor is grossly negligent.

For more information on the Price-Anderson Act and other legislative initiatives please contact TMIA or: The Price-Anderson Campaign, P.O. Box 15391, Washington, D.C. 20003; Phone (202)-346-3972. Write: Congressman George Gekas, Room 1008 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Sen. John Heinz, Room 443, Russell Senate Office Building, D.C. 20510; and Sen. Arlen Specter, Room 253A, Russell Senate Office Building, D.C. 20510.

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From **Fortune** magazine: "Investors looking for a double scoop of capital gains have been finding it in doubly troubled nuclear utilities--companies that not only own nuclear power plants but also have had severe enough problems with them to reduce or eliminate some dividends. Even General Public Utilities, owner of Three Mile Island, the granddaddy of nuclear nightmares, has seen its stock shoot up nearly 150 percent over the past two years."



## AWARDS GIVEN AT RADIATION MONITORING WORKSHOP

Cherie Friedrich

Dr. Judith Johnsrud started off the workshop with an explanation of radiation and the changes in dose rates. Bernd Franke then described the effects of radiation on humans and described the present monitoring system in place around TMI. Franke also described how some European plants differ from TMI in their level of sampling and technology.

Maria Holt and Elizabeth King described the Citizen's Monitoring Network that operates around the Yankee Reactor in Maine. This facility has equipment like TMI did prior to the accident, so the citizen's effort picks up releases which otherwise would go undetected. Holt and King reported that public sentiment against nuclear power is rising in their area due to the controversy surrounding the location of proposed high-level radioactive waste disposal.

The New Englanders demonstrated some home-made, inexpensive monitors which they have asked the Tandy Corporation to produce. They encouraged TMIA members to write to Tandy Corp. (Radio Shack) to convince them that there is a market and need for this equipment.

Various local elected officials and neighbors of the Limerick and Berwick plants were also in attendance. Plaques of appreciation were presented to Rep. Peter Wambach, Rep. Bruce Smith, Sen. John Shumaker, Dauphin County Commissioner Larry Hochendoner and Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed in recognition of their invaluable contribution to the ongoing efforts to protect Central Pennsylvania from the hazards associated with the TMI nuclear plant.

Also recognized with plaques were TMIA's intervenors, Joanne Doroshow and Louise Bradford. Though Louise was unable to attend, Joanne was honored with a standing ovation. Louise will be representing TMIA in the upcoming NRC hearings while Joanne is going to work full time for Ralph Nader. Thanks and best wishes to both.

## MATERIALS SOUGHT FOR TMI COLLECTION AT DICKINSON

TMIA and TMI-PIRC have contributed correspondence, publications, and other collateral records to the TMI Collection at the Spahr Library, Dickinson College. The collection was started immediately after the accident with papers and artifacts relating to the College's experience during the accident. Original materials included tee-shirts, buttons, tapes and transcripts of interviews with Carlisle residents.

The collection was recently expanded with the contribution of 230 cassette tapes of hearings, symposia, and TV and radio broadcasts relating to the accident and collected by former TMIA Planning Council member John Murdoch of Camp Hill. Individuals wishing to contribute material to the Dickinson Archives should contact archivist Martha Sloten at 1-245-1399.

**COMING EVENTS:** NRC Administrative interventions include the Charles Husted hearing to be held within the next two months and the TMI-1 steam tube hearing. TMIA has requested a six month delay that is currently being considered by the NRC Licensing Board....**SUMMER SOLSTICE FUND RAISER** - Saturday, June 21, 1:00 p.m. at Eric Epstein's land in Perry County. \$10 includes Roasted pig and vegetarian provisions, beer, non-alcoholic beverages and entertainment from Jay Smar (bluegrass), Stan Hoke (folk) and The Roommates (rock n roll). Call TMIA 233-7897 for directions. **PLANNING COUNCIL MEETS** Monday, June 2nd at 7:30 p.m., Friends Meeting House. **RADIATION MONITORING COMMITTEE MEETS June 10th.**





## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

JULY  
1986

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

### LEGAL/NRC UPDATE

TMIA intervenor Louise Bradford has just completed the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board hearing before a Special Master regarding GPU employee Charles Husted. The hearing focused on whether Husted possesses the requisite integrity to serve "as an NRC licensed operator or as a licensed operator/instructor or training supervisor."

The NRC Atomic Safety & Licensing Board has set August 15 to start discovery on the Steam Generator Plugging Criteria. TMIA, represented by Louise Bradford, is the sole citizen intervenor in this proceeding. GPU has requested a license amendment which would allow TMI Unit 1 to operate with defective tubes having cracks through up to 70 percent of a tube wall. Hearings would follow discovery, probably in late November or early December.

### LETTERS NEEDED AS CONGRESSIONAL ACTION DUE ON PRICE-ANDERSON

The Price-Anderson Act is a top priority in Congress. The act limits the liability of the nuclear industry and the federal government for accidents at nuclear power plants to \$640 million and \$500 million respectively, although damages from accidents could soar into the billions of dollars. It was enacted in 1957 to spur investment in commercial nuclear power and will expire in August, 1987 unless Congress renews it.

Under the act's provisions, damages exceeding the legislated caps goes uncompensated, even if accidents were the result of recklessness or criminal negligence. TMI-Alert is on record supporting the Stafford Bill, Senate Bill 1761, which would remove the limit on nuclear industry liability, mandate full compensation of all damages after a nuclear accident, and which relies on the industry, rather than taxpayers, to pay damages.

Please Write: Congressman George Gekas, Room 1008 Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20515; Sen. John Heinz, Room 443, Russell Senate Office Building, D.C. 20510; and Sen. Arlen Specter, Room 253A, Russell Senate Office Building, D.C. 20510.

**"NO NUKES" TO AIR ON WITF-TV** - WITF-TV, Channel 33, will show the film "No Nukes" on Saturday, July 19, at 11:30 p.m. The 1980 release of the anti-nuclear concert is co-hosted by Jane Fonda and Ralph Nader. This concert raised funds for the safe-energy movement, including a \$2,000 grant for TMIA which funded the initial publication of **Island Updates**.

### -CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-

July 14 - TMIA Planning Council Meets, 7:30 p.m. Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets, Harrisburg

July 19 - WITF-TV, Channel 33, 11:30 p.m. "NO NUKES"

July 21 - SVA Meeting. Marvin Resnikoff of Sierra Club's New York office has been invited to speak. For more info: Frances Skolnick 1-872-0803.

August 2 - TMIA Family Picnic - All Day - Camp Reily - See Reverse

August 18 - TMIA Membership Meeting. 6:30 pot luck dinner, 7:30 meeting. Friends Meetinghouse. Aileen Smith and Misuru Katagiri discuss health issues. YEA, SVA, PANE, Concern Mothers invited to attend.

### PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THEN GIVE MORE TO SUPPORT TMIA ACTIVITIES

NAME	PHONE	ZIP
ADDRESS		
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 Membership		\$50 Sustaining Member
\$25 Non-Profit Organization		\$100 Patron
\$5 Low income, Student		\$200 Club Member
\$5 Non-member, newsletter subscription		

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Hbg. PA 17102





# PICNIC

Everyone Is Invited to Join  
the Fun!

**Saturday, August 2nd**  
(rain or shine)

Noon till dark  
at

**Camp Reily**

## Activities Include:

- Volleyball tournament
- Swimming all afternoon
- Greased watermelon contest
- Tennis, Hiking, Softball

## LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Rock, Blues and Country Rock

- Pot-luck picnic supper at the lodge - 5 p.m.
- Bring food to share - Fruit drink & beer provided
- Pitfire available for grilling - outdoor and indoor tables
- Requested donation \$6.00 per person or \$12.00 per family

**Directions:** Camp Reily is the Hbg. YWCA day camp located just north of Harrisburg. Take Rt. 322/22(W) (which is accessible from Rt. 81 or Cameron St. or Front St., north out of Harrisburg.) Turn right on to Rt. 443 (Fort Hunter will be to the left) and go about  $\frac{1}{2}$  to  $\frac{3}{4}$  of a mile. Look for the Camp Reily sign on the right and make a **LEFT TURN** into the entrance driveway.

*Sponsored by: THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT, INC.*

315 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102 Phone 233-7897

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## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

September  
1986

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

**TMIA Hosts Chinese Legislators** - TMIA coordinated meetings between three legislators from Hong Kong and local representatives including Dauphin County Commissioner Larry Hochendoner, Joyce Corradi, and TMIA's Eric Epstein. The legislators were on a fact-finding mission prompted by a decision of the Chinese government to build a nuclear power plant 30 miles from Hong Kong, a 20 square million island that supports a population of 6,000,000 people. They were especially interested in health effects, public attitudes and evacuation planning.

**TMIA, Local Officials Object to Health Fund Proposal** - TMIA and nine local elected officials petitioned Judge Sylvia Rambo on August 11 to deny the TMI Public Health Fund's request to fund an emergency planning study by Clark University. The petition maintained that the study "would be a futile endeavor and its approval would amount to a waste of valuable Fund money." The petitioners reminded the court that their first priority "is for appropriating funds for improvements to monitoring equipment, funding existing monitoring programs, or funding new governmental monitoring programs." Rambo recently denied a request for Fund funds for state of the art monitoring equipment. TMIA's Cherie Friedrich, who chairs the Radiation Monitoring Committee, is regularly checking the printouts on the current County monitoring equipment and reports that her committee is working on the formation of a Citizen's Monitoring Network.

**TMIA Objects to NRC Move to Limit Intervenor** - Asking "Isn't it time we gave the public, and not the industry, the benefit of the doubt?" TMIA objected to NRC proposed rule changes which would make it more difficult for parties to intervene in licensing hearings. The proposals would raise the admissions criteria for contentions, restrict the use of discovery against the NRC staff, restrict the use of cross-examination during hearings, allow for summary disposition of contentions anytime during licensing proceedings, and limit the scope of issues that could be appealed. In comments filed August 20, TMIA argued:

To implement these rule proposals, and allow the nuclear industry a greater role in policing itself, defies the reality of the industry's record of poor plant management, operation and construction. Why not continue to utilize the best and most efficient safety mechanisms the industry possesses - public scrutiny?

TMIA Treasurer Betsy Robinson reports balances of \$262.99 in TMIA's savings account and \$374.58 in its checking account. Of our 510 members, more than 200 are not up-to-date with their membership dues. September is targeted as the month to contact all members for dues payments. Volunteers will be phoning all those members who are not current on September 15 and 17. Send a contribution or renew your membership today and save us the phone call.

### PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THEN GIVE MORE TO SUPPORT TMIA ACTIVITIES

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_  
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Membership: \_\_\_\_\_ \$15 Regular Membership \_\_\_\_\_ \$50 Sustaining Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$25 Non-Profit Organization \_\_\_\_\_ \$100 Patron  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Low income, Student \_\_\_\_\_ \$200 Club Member  
\_\_\_\_\_ \$5 Non-member, newsletter subscription

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**TMAI Joins Suit Against NRC on Waste Issues** - TMIA has joined with the Critical Mass Energy Project and other safe energy groups in a lawsuit against the Nuclear Regulatory Commission arguing that the NRC failed to comply with provisions of the 1982 Waste Policy Act. The Act directs the NRC to develop and implement guidelines for training programs for nuclear power plant workers. Instead, the NRC has turned the program over to the Institute for Nuclear Power Operations (INPO), an organ of the nuclear industry. As co-plaintiff, TMIA will not have to do any of the legwork or bear any of the expenses.

**Steam Tube Hearings Slated for Spring** - TMIA Intervenor Louise Bradford is now preparing for the steam tube hearings before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board which are scheduled for next spring. Louise also has follow-up briefs and motions on the Charles Husted intervention prepared.

**"SHUT TMI" T-Shirts Available** - TMIA has new T-shirts for sale featuring the red slash across the cooling towers with the words "Shut TMI" in bold print across the top. The shirts come in yellow and blue and are only \$6.00. They are available in small, medium, large, and extra-large.

**"NO NUKES" Available at Discount Rate** - Anna Gyorgy's "No Nukes: Everyone's Guide to Nuclear Power" has been called "the Bible of the anti-nuclear movement." TMIA can bulk order the book at a 60% discount -- that's \$4.00 each, plus shipping. Call the TMIA office for more information or to order.

**Letters Needed on Federal Issues** - As you've read in previous Alerts, it is important that you write letters to members of the U.S. House and Senate on Price-Anderson. Taxpayer protection, victim compensation and corporate responsibility are our key concerns. TMIA leaders have also urged members to voice support for S.2454 to repeal the Warner Amendment to the 1984 Dept. of Energy authorization bill. The amendment prevents nuclear workers, atomic veterans, and their widows from suing nuclear contractors or the government.

**Osborn, Smith, Katagiri Review Dose Data** - Mary Osborne, Eileen Smith and Mitshu Katagiri reviewed information they have gathered relating to where the 1979 TMI accident's radioactive plumes went and their health effects at the August 18 general meeting of TMIA. Smith and Katagiri conducted extensive interviews with local residents in 1983 and are now conducting follow-ups.

**CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR**

- Sep. 8 - 7PM** - TMIA, SVA & TMI Legal Fund meet, 7PM, Friends Meeting House, Lancaster, Light supper available - Bring Food.
- Sep. 23 - 7:30 PM** NRC staff reviews the SALP Report at NRC Office, Brown St. Middletown. For more info Eric Epstein, TMIA, 233-7897.
- Sep. 30 - 7:30 PM** TMIA Radiation Monitoring Committee, Hbg. Friends Mtg. House.
- Oct. 8 - 7-10 PM** - TMI Advisory Panel to the NRC meets. Phone TMIA 233-7897.
- Oct. 9-10-11-12** - The Great Peace March for Global Disarmament will be in Central Pa. Volunteers needed - Call 233-3072.
- Oct. 11** - SVA's Harvest Happening. Call TMIA or SVA 394-2782 for details.
- Oct. 24 & 25** - Volunteers needed for TMIA's info table at the Hbg. East Mall's Community Fair. Can you spare an hour or two on Sat. or Sun.?

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## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

OCTOBER  
1986

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

**Rep. Gekas Introduces "Character" to Atomic Energy Act** - Congressman George Gekas (R-Hbg.) introduced the "Good Character" amendment to the Atomic Energy Act on the floor of the U.S. House of Representatives on October 2. The amendment would require the NRC to "revoke the license of any licensee with demonstrated poor character." Poor character is defined as having a criminal conviction; being guilty of "willful misrepresentation, falsification, or omission" of material facts relating to safety practices; and as "persistent failure of an applicant or licensee to give priority to safety concerns." TMIA helped Cong. Gekas prepare the amendment and encourages folks to express their appreciation to Mr. Gekas for his cooperation on this measure. Write to his district office (2101 N. Front, Hbg. 17110) or to Room 1008 Longworth House Office Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20515

**TMIA On Record Opposing So-called Tort Reform** - Urging opposition to House Bill 2426, the "tort reform" legislation, TMIA Chairperson Vera Stuchinski wrote all members of the state House and Senate explaining how the bill would strip the rights of individuals and businesses to the benefit of insurance companies. In the event of a nuclear accident, for example, businesses forced to shut down during an evacuation would have no right to make a claim for the economic loss under the provisions of the proposed legislation. Additionally, HB 2426 would mean that a person who may suffer cancer or other harm which will not appear until a number of years in the future would be prevented from being compensated for those latent injuries.

The legislation, backed by the insurance industry with a \$6 million advertising war chest, would relieve those businesses handling nuclear materials and other toxic materials, of responsibility for the harm they may cause. If you would like more information, would be interested in working on this issue, or have some views you'd like to express to TMIA, call Vera at the TMIA office.

**TMIA Seeks Public Hearing on Water Disposal** - The disposal of an estimated 2.1 million gallons of radioactive water which will have accumulated from the Unit 2 clean-up program through the end of 1988 is a matter of concern for TMIA. GPU, in advertisements and public statements, said evaporation is the best of three disposal methods available (dumping in the river or mixing with concrete and shipping off-site for burial are the others). TMIA and the Susquehanna Valley Alliance have requested the NRC prepare an environmental impact statement and convene a public hearing on the water disposal issue, voicing particular concerns about the cumulative effects of additional radioactive releases.

**HELP WANTED - Booth Tenders Needed for Community Days** - TMIA will have a booth at the East Mall's annual Fall Community Fair, Friday and Saturday, October 24 and 25. TMIA's table will be located in front of the Hess Store facing Kay Bee Toys. Please volunteer an hour or two of your time. Phone Kay Pickering at the TMIA office (233-7897) or Roxanne Harpster or Dan Welliver at 234-5454.

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## HALLOWEEN COSTUME BALL

Friday, October 31, 1986  
9:00 p.m.

\$50 First Prize for  
Best Costume

Dance or Die Rock 'n Roll by  
DEWEY & THE DECIBLES

at the Civic Club Ball Room  
Front & North Streets, Hbg.

All the beer you wish to  
drink, \$5.00 Donation,  
tickets available at TMIA



**Bev Davis Speaking at Radiation Conference** - TMIA's Bev Davis will present "Citizens' Concerns and Experience" during a two-day conference, "Radiation - Understanding the Risks," scheduled for November 14 and 15 in Philadelphia. Sponsored by the Philadelphia Clean Air Council, the conference will also feature Nuclear Regulatory Commissioner James Asselstine, who will deliver the keynote address, health physicist Karl Morgan, U. of Pittsburgh radiology professor Dr. Ernest Sternglass, and Dr. Judith Johnsrud, Co-director of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power. The conference will be held at the Philadelphia Friends Meeting House, 4th and Arch Streets. For more information: Clean Air Council, 311 S. Juniper Street, Room 603, Philadelphia, PA 19107, or call 215-545-1832. Registration is \$35. Scholarships are available.

**TMIA Has Holiday Gifts for Sale** - What could be a better gift to family and friends across the country, or even for local folks, than TMIA gifts? TMIA is stocking the Syracuse Cultural Workers "1987 Peace Calendar, Carry It On," a beautiful calendar available for \$7.50. Marked down for the holidays are the "Shut TMI" tee-shirts. Available in yellow and blue, the shirts are available in medium, large and extra-large at \$5.00 each. As usual, there's a variety of buttons available at a variety of prices. Call the office or stop by.

### CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR

- Oct. 16 - 7:30PM** - TMIA Radiation Monitoring Committee meets, Hbg. Friends Meetinghouse, 6th & Herr Sts. Hbg. (upstairs meeting room)
- Oct. 24-25** - TMIA table at Hbg. East Mall Community Days. **Volunteers needed** 10AM to 9PM - phone TMIA office: 233-7897.
- Oct. 31 - 9PM** - Holloween Costume Ball, Civic Club Ballroom, Front & North Sts. Hbg. \$5.00 donation.
- NOVEMBER 4 - ELECTION DAY - VOTE**
- Nov. 5 - 7:30PM** - TMIA Planning Council at the Hbg. Friends Meetinghouse.
- Nov. 14-15** - A conference, "Radiation, Understanding the Risks," sponsored by the Philadelphia Clean Air Council. Phone 215-545-1832.
- Dec. 13 - Christmas Peace Pilgrimage** - A ten-mile walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem, PA. Info available from TMIA office.

**THANK YOU TMI MEMBERS!** Thanks to all who have recently renewed their membership. Our computer will show the renewal at the time of the December mailing. Volunteers are needed to serve on the Planning Council and work on current projects. Please call Kay or Vera at the TMIA office.

### PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THEN GIVE MORE TO SUPPORT TMIA ACTIVITIES

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\$5 Non-member, newsletter subscription

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## THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

November  
1986

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

**Low-Level Waste Plans Draw Questions** - More than 75 area residents turned out to hear the Department of Environmental Resources's plans for the siting and operation of a low-level radioactive waste dump to be located in Pennsylvania. The Nov. 17 meeting in Harrisburg was the first of a half-dozen such meetings planned to be held around the state to dispell public fears and misconceptions, but it raised more questions than it answered. The panel, made up of DER officials, for the most part was defensive, long-winded, confused and, at times, hostile.

Will residents of the host community be able to purchase property or health insurance? Who will monitor the site after the initial 30-year period expires? What type of monitoring systems will be on-site, where will they be placed, who will operate them and what will they monitor for? What if the NRC reclassifies low-level waste to include some of what is now considered high-level waste; will the site be obligated to take it? Is there any coordination between states, counties, and municipalities during the transportation of the wastes? What criteria will be used to establish poor character? Who will operate the site if the site operator becomes insolvent?

TMIA members need to continue to pressure the DER, the Governor, and other elected officials for answers to these and other questions relating to the "proposed" low-level waste site. Call the Bureau of Radiation Protection at (717)787-2163 with your questions.

TMIA has more information available about low-level radioactive wastes. These include a series of fact sheets:

- o A "Low-Level" Nuclear Waste Primer
- o "Low Level" Nuclear Wastes: Options for Storage
- o Radioactive Waste: Buried Forever?
  - a profile of commercial radioactive landfills
- o Shipping Casks: Are They Safe?

Please telephone Eric Epstein or Kay Pickering at the TMIA office (233-7897) if you are interested in this issue and would be willing to serve on a TMIA committee addressing this subject.

by Eric Epstein

**TMIA Has Holiday Gifts for Sale** - What could be a better gift to family and friends across the country, or even for local folks, than TMIA gifts? TMIA is stocking the Syracuse Cultural Workers "1987 Peace Calendar, Carry It On," a beautiful calendar available for \$7.50. Marked down for the holidays are the "Shut TMI" tee-shirts. Available in yellow and blue, the shirts are available in medium, large and extra-large at \$5.00 each. As usual, there's a variety of buttons available at a variety of prices. Call the office or stop by.



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**No Environmental Impact Statement Filed on Shipments of TMI's Melted Fuel** - Surprisingly, in an era when government agencies require the filing of Environmental Impact Statements (EIS) on all types of projects, none has been required to justify the 2,300 mile route TMI's melted fuel follows through ten states and major metropolitan areas.

A total of 40 shipments are planned from TMI through Pittsburgh; Canton, Ohio; Indianapolis and Terra Haute, Indiana; St. Louis; Kansas City; Topeka; and towns in Colorado and Nebraska on its way to Idaho Falls. While we're delighted to see the stuff moved out of central Pennsylvania, no one has ever written an EIS to justify the populated route chosen, possibly in violation of the National Environmental Policy Act.

Dr. Fred Millar of the Environmental Policy Institute said of the Department of Energy's policy on the moving of the entire TMI core (made up of highly dangerous material) more than 2,000 miles: it is like wanting to study the moon and, instead of bringing back moon rocks, bringing back the entire moon.

**EPA Will Cease Monitoring Once Damaged Fuel is Off Island** - The Environmental Protection Agency is currently the lead federal agency for monitoring radiation in the environment around Three Mile Island. According to an EPA plan titled "Long-Term Environmental Radiation Surveillance Plan," the agency will be leaving and phasing out some monitoring programs while turning others over to the state Department of Environmental Resources, once the damaged Unit 2 fuel is removed from the Island.

Being transferred to DER are the 13-station Reuter-Stokes "Sentri" system (which when coupled with the 16-station GPU monitoring system which prints-out at the Dauphin County Emergency Management center provides a total of 29 gamma radiation detectors which were not in place at the time of the accident), water monitoring gamma radiation monitors at the TMI Industrial Water Outflow, and water monitoring at the TMI Water Treatment Plant intake.

Monitoring programs being terminated include 33 long-term dosimeters (TLD's or Thermoluminescent Dosimeters); the constant volume air samplers which measure radioactive particulates; the high-volume air samplers (though it is possible these may be transferred to DER); the tritium air samplers; sampling of Lancaster's water supply; and the sampling of well water along the river.

Depending on whether the tritium contaminated water being used in the cleanup process is on-site after all fuel has been removed, the DER may, at its option, continue the tritium air sampling and will determine, with the City of Lancaster, whether to continue sampling of the City's water supply.

Mary Osborn and Cherie Friedrich reviewed the EPA's report at the request of EPA TMI Field Station Director Dr. William Kirk and made recommendations on behalf of TMIA. Their basic recommendations were that **all** current monitoring programs be transferred to DER. Osborn and Friedrich also identified some potential problem areas with the plan.

by Cherie Friedrich

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**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 Membership       \$50 Sustaining Member  
      \$25 Non-Profit Organization       \$100 Patron  
      \$5 Low income, Student       \$200 Club Member  
      \$5 Non-member, newsletter subscription

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Hbg. PA 17102



**Conference on the Risks of Radiation Held in Philadelphia** - The Clean Air Council of the Delaware Valley sponsored a two-day conference on the health risks of radiation on November 14-15. TMIA President Vera Stuchinski and Sandra Choma of the Radiation Monitoring Committee attended, below is their report.

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#### ASSELSTEIN SAYS PUBLIC CAN IMPACT NRC

On Friday evening, November 14, we arrived at the Friends Meeting House in Philadelphia in time to hear the conference's keynote address delivered by NRC Commissioner James K. Asselstine. Although the Clean Air Council Radiation Program Director, Richard Myers' introduction of Comm. Asselstine brought bad news, his appointment expires summer 1987, Asselstine's speech aroused the whole audience.

Asselstine started his address by comparing the Chernobyl and TMI accidents. During Chernobyl 100 million curies of radiation were released while during TMI an estimated 2.5 million curies were released. He also stated that although American reactors have containment structures (unlike Chernobyl) the containment strength varies and cannot necessarily assure containment. One style of containment structure lacking sufficient strength is the Mark I (a type of containment which is used in PA) and there are studies in process on the Mark I. A reactor safety study performed by the NRC stated that 25% of the 100 operating plants would be unable to contain a core meltdown.

Commissioner Asselstine said he feels there is an NRC reluctance for stricter guidelines for nuclear power plants. He also stated that human attitude and performance do contribute to the operation of a nuclear power plant.

The "backfit rule" prevents the NRC from imposing new safety regulations for existing plants. There also exists a defensive attitude of the power plant owners after a plant design has been approved and during construction the NRC decides there are safety changes needed. When this situation arises, the power plant owners then insist on the NRC to justify to them what the safety change is required. The burden is then on the NRC to justify, rather than on the power plant owners to comply.

There is also a problem when the NRC staff attempts to take on additional duties, such as trying to guess what the NRC wants to hear instead of just providing the facts. He also said the "consideration of off-site safety" law is not being followed by the NRC, and that Congress could mandate the NRC to follow the law.

He had a three-part plan which he explained to us which consisted of: a thorough review of all individual plants to look for design deficiencies that could cause or aggravate an accident; improvement program in areas of weakness, human, management, and equipment; and new design features for existing plants.

Those are only a few topics he covered and then he had a question and answer period for two hours. He seems to do a lot of job-related travel and we truly doubt that he'll be able to accomplish his plan prior to his term expiration. He was asked if he intends to continue with the NRC or in the nuclear field and he wouldn't provide a definite answer (the first time all evening) but he said he hopes to remain in the nuclear field.

**He did suggest the way to change the direction of the NRC is through citizen and local elected officials writing to the NRC and through our voting selections for federal administrations.**

On Saturday morning, toxicologist Bruce Molholt, Ph.D., instructed the audience on different kinds of ionizing radiation and how they affect the cells and DNA, causing cancer, birth defects and mutations.

Dr. Ernest Sternglass, University of Pittsburgh School of Medicine, did studies which showed in spite of medical and technical advances which should



have caused a steady decline in infant mortality rates, infant mortality rates sharply increased over the period of above-ground nuclear bomb testing from 1940 to 1960. The mortality rate declined after 1960 and then increased after TMI started, had a sharp drop after TMI shut down and then high peaks when Berwick came on-line and after the restart of TMI Unit 1. The study on up-state New York showed high increases in infant mortality during operation of TMI and during venting. He also found that after the 1979 TMI accident, hundreds of infant deaths occurred which were not listed in Pennsylvania and Maryland statistics until recently.

His studies revealed that infants and fetus immune systems are weakened and are more affected by radiation exposure compared to adults.

Dr. Robert L. Brent, Director of the Stein Research Center at Jefferson Medical College in Philadelphia, spoke of his study which showed that 35% of all pregnancies are at risk for miscarriage, genetic mutation or birth defects. However, the risk of the above three conditions as a result of radiation exposure is very small compared to non-radiation exposed pregnancy complications. He felt the TMI exposure during the accident were on the average of one to two millirads - negligible amounts.

Bev Davis of TMIA gave a speech on the perspectives of Harrisburg-area residents during and after the TMI Unit 2 accident. She described how she felt when fleeing the area and information she tried to obtain during the following week from "officials." She described the learning process she's been through in order to prepare herself for numerous hearings and to question the officials. She recalled how radiation monitors were not in place at the time of the accident and how the monitors which were in place reached their maximum readings. However, officials have attempted to assure area residents that any exposure was very low or even minute. She also spoke of the Aamodt's Health Study and how the state and federal governments try to explain away and justify all health effects that do show up.

Diane D'Arrigo of the Nuclear Information Research Services spoke of what lobbying is still required and Dr. Judith Johnsrud, Co-Director of the Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power, discussed the process now underway to locate a low-level nuclear waste site in Pennsylvania. She urged everyone to attend the public meetings scheduled throughout the state, noting that the site selection will be made by bidders, not by elected officials.

The conference was a valuable learning experience even to the point of being sobering. We highly recommend for anyone who has the opportunity to hear any of the speakers to do yourself a favor and see them. They were all exceptional.

by Sandra Choma & Vera Stuchinski

**Seabrook and Perry Still Cliff-Hangers** - Although the Seabrook plant and the Perry plant both have licenses from the NRC, there will be no early start-up because evacuation issues have not been resolved and there will be court proceedings before the reactors costs are transferred to ratepayers. Perry, the plant on the shore of Lake Erie about 35 miles east of Cleveland which is partly owned by PP&L, was found to be unneeded and too expensive by a consultant hired by the Pennsylvania Consumer Advocate's office. It was found the plant would operate at a loss of \$6 billion during its lifetime.

#### CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR-CALENDAR

- Dec. 8 - 7:30PM** - TMIA Planning Council at the TMIA Office, 315 Pepper Street
- Dec. 10 - 7:00PM** - Advisory Panel to the NRC meets at the Holiday Inn Town, 2nd & Chestnut, Harrisburg. Topic - Post Defueling Plant Status - TMI Unit 2
- Dec. 13 - 1:00PM** - The 27th annual Christmas Peace Pilgrimage, a ten-mile walk from Nazareth to Bethlehem, PA open to all who seek peace. For more information contact Kay Pickering at the TMIA office or call Joseph Osborn (215)866-3127
- Jan. 21 - 7:30PM** - TMIA Membership Meeting - Program - NRC staff will present their Environmental Impact Statement on the GPU water disposal alternatives. 6:30 PM pot-luck supper, Harrisburg Friends Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets, 7:30 PM program begins.