



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

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The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, August 21, 1981

NRC sets stage to reopen TMI Unit 1 despite appeals

WASHINGTON (AP) — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today set up complicated bureaucratic machinery that could allow reopening of the undamaged reactor at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant while appeals against its reopening continue.

The action, issued in an order today after a 3-2 vote in a closed meeting Thursday, could lead to a speedier reopening of the undamaged reactor at the Pennsylvania power plant where the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident occurred in 1979.

The order creates a separate board to hear any appeals of an NRC licensing board's decision on reopening the reactor. At the same time, it says the commission will decide within 35 days of the licens-

ing board's final decision whether that decision should become effective while the appeals continue.

The action reverses a 1979 NRC order in which the commission said it would hear all appeals, a process that could delay commission action on the actual restart of the reactor.

Unit One at the plant near Harrisburg, although not damaged during the near-meltdown of the reactor core in Unit 2, was ordered not to operate since it is essentially the same as the damaged reactor. Modifications on it also were ordered.

GPU Nuclear Corp., which operates TMI, has pushed for the reopening of Unit 1 because it must now buy power from other utilities to make up for that which the reactor is not producing.

Two of the NRC commissioners, Peter Bradford and Victor Gil-

insky, issued a separate view saying they did not agree with the NRC action and that the commission should have stood by its 1979 decision to hear all appeals itself.

Gilinsky and Bradford have consistently urged caution in nuclear matters since the 1979 accident.

Voting on the other side were NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino and Commissioners John Ahearne and Thomas Roberts. Palladino and Roberts were appointed by President Reagan, who favors greater use of nuclear power. Ahearne has frequently argued for action to speed up licensing.

The order noted the licensing board is deciding two separate questions. One is on management competence and the second wraps up all other pending questions.

Friday, Aug. 28, 1981 Philadelphia Inquirer

The NRC must honor its TMI Unit 1 pledge

Shortly after the March 1979 accident at Three Mile Island, members of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission struck a bargain with angry and alarmed neighbors of the central Pennsylvania nuclear plant. When it came time to decide whether to restart Unit 1, the undamaged reactor that sits alongside the crippled Unit 2, the NRC pledged, the entire matter would be resolved by the five-member commission.

That policy represented a change in normal administrative procedure of the NRC, which does not hear appeals of its own decisions. This change, the commission members believed, was warranted due to the public uproar that followed the TMI accident. It also represented a commendable step on the part of the commission to accept full responsibility for its actions and to handle the entire TMI Unit 1 problem in a highly visible, public forum.

Last week, the NRC partially renegeed on that promise. By a vote of 3-2 the commission decided that it would not hear any appeals of its decision on the fate of Unit 1. Those appeals would be treated like any other and adjudi-

cated by three members of the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Panel, which comprises nuclear experts appointed by the NRC. The NRC would decide if Unit 1 could be restored to operation and if it approved start-up, appeals of that decision would be resolved at a later date, after the plant was restored to service.

That action removes the NRC from the second half of the decision-making process involving Unit 1, which has been out of service since before the accident. The commission will base its decision on recommendations issued by an NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board, which has been conducting a public inquiry.

The commission will consider two issues in its review of the start-up. The first involves whether training of the operators of the TMI plant has been sufficiently upgraded to ensure that the mistakes that led to the accident will not be repeated. A recommendation from the Safety and Licensing Board to the NRC on that is due any day. The second phase of the decision is far more complex. It deals with matters of design changes and improved

emergency planning. The board's recommendation is not due until October. After that, the NRC has 35 days to decide whether to authorize the start-up of Unit 1.

In its decision last week, the commission majority voted to remove the NRC from the appeals process because, according to an order filed Aug. 20, it did not realize two years ago that the start-up question would "involve so many complex issues or result in the development of a record that exceeds 35,000 pages."

The NRC's action is troubling in a number of respects. First, it represents a broken promise to the people who live near the TMI plant, people who have every reason to be especially skeptical of the promises of the nuclear industry and the agency charged with guaranteeing that that industry operates in a safe, responsible manner.

Second, the mere fact that the start-up question does involve "so many complex issues" makes it mandatory that responsibility for that decision be assumed by the agency charged with

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Financial commitment to TMI task eyed by utilities

By MICK ROOD

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The first financial commitment for the cleanup at Three Mile Island could come from the nation's largest electric utility group when it meets Sept. 10 in Kansas City.

The directors and TMI-related task force of the Edison Electric Institute will discuss the method and amount of a "significant" industry cleanup contribution, according to EEI staff member Jack Kearney. If the task force recommends a financing method, the board of directors probably will vote on it the same day.

A large industry commitment would mark the first tangible outside aid to the mammoth \$1 billion decontamination project. Proposals for direct government aid have proven unpopular, but Congress has allowed in the fiscal 1982 budget resolution for a small \$30 million research and development grant.

Kearney wouldn't characterize it this way, but the industry's hastened willingness to consider cleanup aid was apparently spurred by Pennsylvania Gov. Dick Thornburgh's July 9 proposal for a cost-sharing plan. At the time, EEI said the group "applauded" his action and "welcomed his leadership."

While questioning some of the numbers in the governor's plan, the

utilities' spokesmen said Thornburgh had provided a framework for an equitable sharing program.

Thornburgh urged that the federal government split half of the remaining \$760 million in cleanup costs, which is \$380 million, or \$190 million apiece. General Public Utilities, which has been unable to finance the project on its own, would supply one-third, or \$245 million.

Remaining private property insurance, plus state government contributions from Pennsylvania and New Jersey, would make up the rest.

In Washington, GPU consultant Thomas Ashley was cautiously optimistic over prospects of an EEI commitment.

"EEI action is a shot of adrenaline that will give it (cleanup financing) considerable momentum," said Ashley, who has spent most of the year seeking a consensus package to aid GPU.

"The company will clearly be very pleased with a successful Thornburgh option," Ashley said. "Whether it will be sufficient remains to be seen. It gets the most result with the least federal intervention."

Ashley, a former Ohio congressman, was to have completed his troubleshooting duties, but now looks forward to spending the rest of the year on the GPU cleanup fi-

ancing effort.

Rep. Allen Ertel, D-Montoursville, who is sponsoring a bill creating a new reactor-site insurance program that would retroactively assist the TMI cleanup, remained skeptical of both EEI assessments and the Thornburgh plan.

"If they can do it, fine. I just don't think they can," Ertel said of the potential EEI announcement.

Any utility assessment system, Ertel said, would be under attack from two sides. If a utility decided to pass a TMI cleanup assessment along to customers, he said consumer lawsuits would inevitably result. And that assumes the surcharge would be approved by the various state utility commissions.

On the other hand, if a utility decided to pay for the assessment out of profits, it would face the wrath of stockholders, Ertel said.

The Thornburgh plan, Ertel said, still includes \$190 million in federal assistance over six years to "offset" cleanup costs. However, the Reagan administration is seeking only \$75 million over three years.

Congress has approved about \$30 million in research and development grants at TMI. The money must still be appropriated and even Ashley estimates only one-fourth of it would truly offset cleanup spending.

Approval of TMI-1 license shift to GPU hailed by Arnold

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

The president-designate of the new GPU Nuclear Corp. has expressed satisfaction with the federal regulatory decision approving the transfer of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 operating license from Metropolitan Edison Co. to the corporation.

Robert C. Arnold also said he is confident that federal officials will "conclude that GPU Nuclear has the management capability necessary to provide for the safe restart and operation" of Unit 1.

In authorizing the license transfer for Unit 1, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission also directed the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board to consider GPU Nuclear's competence, instead of Met-Ed's, during its deliberations to determine if Unit 1 will be permitted to restart.

GPU Nuclear Group, forerunner of the corporation, has been directing operations at TMI, includ-

ing the massive cleanup operation at Unit 2, since early in 1980.

It has been approved by the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, the state Public Utility Commission and the federal Energy Regulatory Commission. The New Jersey Board of Public Utilities must act on the corporation before it can fully function.

Arnold said applications for amendments to transfer the licenses of TMI Unit 2 and the Oyster Creek station in New Jersey to

GPU Nuclear Corp. will be filed this week. GPU officials hope all the licenses will be transferred simultaneously this fall.

Approximately 2,200 persons are employed by GPU Nuclear. The corporation concentrates the GPU system's nuclear experience in a single organization, in keeping with recommendations made by the President's Commission on the Accident at TMI and an independent management study authorized by the PUC, Arnold said.

TMI phone service disrupted

Telephone service to and from Three Mile Island was interrupted for an undetermined period this morning.

Jim Smith, a spokesman for Bell of Pennsylvania, said a contractor accidentally dug up a phone cable.

Service was restored around 11:15 a.m., he said.

Officials at both the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the Dauphin County Emergency Management Agency said they were unaware of the problem.

Two at TMI admit they cheated

KING OF PRUSSIA (AP) — Two shift supervisors at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant have acknowledged they cheated during operator licensing tests last April, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said Thursday.

One of the operators has been fired and action on the second operator's employment is still being considered, the NRC said.

The NRC and General Public Utilities Corp., which owns TMI, have declined to identify the two supervisors except to say they were "long-term" employees. Both were on duty at various times during the several days in March 1979 when TMI's Unit 2 was involved in the nation's worst commercial accident, NRC official Dudley Thompson said from his Washing-

ton office.

The NRC found no evidence of any other cheating during the April testing, officials said.

Thompson described the two operators as "first-line supervisors" in charge of the staff operating the reactor during an eight-hour shift.

The investigation included interviews of 11 of those who took the exam, including all who failed, and reviews of all test papers, the NRC said.

The agency said it found indications that some sessions of the examinations "were essentially unproctored for extended periods of time," an NRC spokesman said.

However, the interviews indicated that during the sessions in which the detected cheating took place, there was "virtually 100 percent

coverage by NRC proctors," the agency said.

The NRC investigation found "no evidence the utility either knew of the cheating prior to the NRC becoming aware of it, or attempted in any way to facilitate cheating by any of its employees," Stello said.

The investigation was launched after marked similarities were found on answer sheets submitted by two of the 36 operators who would run the undamaged Unit 1 reactor. The operators, who took the reactor operator and senior reactor operator license tests, were reassigned after GPU confirmed reports of the cheating July 28.

The NRC said the operators have given sworn statements acknowledging the cheating took place.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, August 18, 1981.

Ex-TMI operator feared tough test

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

One of two former Three Mile Island Unit 1 control room operators who cheated on federal examinations said he anticipated the tests would be difficult and "I wanted to pass them to hold my license."

He told U.S. investigators he expressed his concerns about passing the tests to his colleague prior to "mock" exams given about three weeks before the actual tests and was told, "Don't worry, we'll get by."

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission Monday ordered retesting of the remaining 34 TMI operators who took the exams. Although an NRC probe detected no other "substantiated evidence" of cheating, the staff wants the retesting because "others who know or may become aware of the rumors of other cheating, may feel the cheating was being condoned, unless a re-examination is required for the entire group," said Harold Denton, director of the NRC's Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation.

"It is imperative that the NRC, as well as the public, have complete

confidence in the senior reactor operators and reactor operators at TMI," he added.

A spokesman for the GPU Nuclear Group, TMI's operator, said the retest order "has cast a cloud over the integrity of all of the operators." Noting that no other evidence of cheating was found beyond the two operators who have resigned, GPU said it is "unfair to subject the operators and their families to this ordeal of suspicion."

Denton said the retest is tentatively scheduled for September.

The names of the two dismissed operators have not been revealed by the NRC, and all identifying references, including job description, ages and length of employment have been deleted in the official NRC report on the cheating incident.

For the purposes of this article, the operators will be identified as Smith and Doe, with Smith being the elder of the two and the one who admitted copying Doe's answers.

During separate NRC inter-

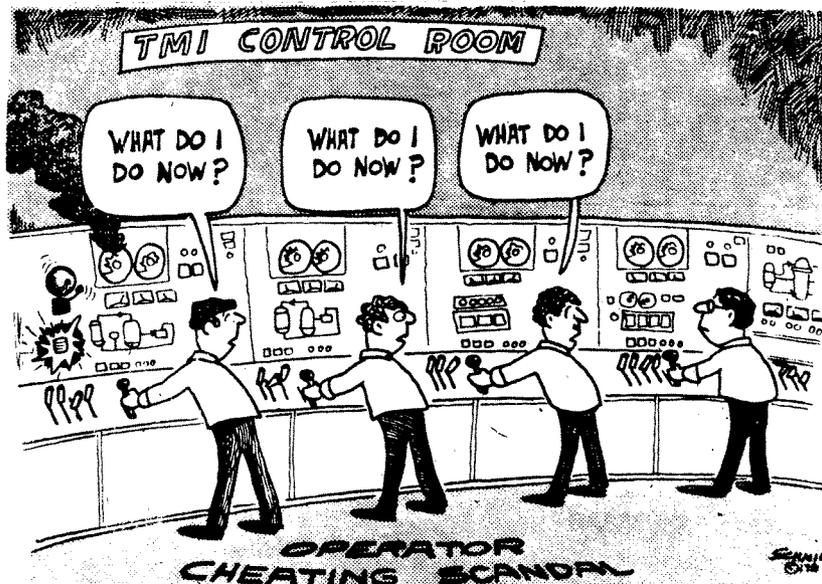
views on July 27 Smith and Doe insisted there was no cheating. Neither could offer any explanation for the nearly word-for-word answers, or the similarity of phrasing and sentence structure and misspellings on their answer sheets for the reactor operator and senior reactor operator tests they took on April 23 and 24, respectively.

On July 30 they were offered the opportunity to answer sample questions to discover if the similarity occurred again. They also were asked if they would submit to a polygraph test. Both offers were declined until the operators could confer with their lawyers.

On July 31 Smith admitted copying answers from Doe and slipping Doe a "piece of scrap paper" containing an answer. Smith also said he and Doe "gave each other answers orally."

Doe said he was aware that Smith was copying from him but contended he (Doe) never took answers from Smith. "I didn't say or do anything at the time (during the test)," Doe said in his sworn state-

Sunday Patriot-News, Harrisburg, Pa., August 23, 1981.



NRC balks at critical nuke report

WASHINGTON (AP) — The nation's nuclear reactors reported 3,804 incidents in 1980 when mechanical equipment or human operators failed to work as required, an anti-nuclear group affiliated with Ralph Nader reported Sunday.

The number of incidents — a 20 percent increase over 1979 — shows nuclear power plants "rely on a system fraught with frequent cases of human error and chronic defects in essential safety equipment," the report by Critical Mass charged.

However, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission called the study "seriously flawed by an inconsistent use of data." It attributed more than half the increase to the fact that four new plants, required to meet even tougher reporting requirements, were in operation.

The plant with the highest number of incidents was Sequoyah in Tennessee — 238, even though it was in operation only 11 percent of the year. Sequoyah was followed by Hatch II in Georgia with 157 incidents and Ohio's Davis Besse with 121 incidents.

According to the report, Peach Bottom II had 36 incidents; Peach Bottom III, 26; Three Mile Island I, 22; and Three Mile Island II, 51. All are in York County.

The report said 57 percent of all incidents were caused by equipment failure, 16 percent by design problems, 20 percent by human error and 7 percent by other factors.

The report was compiled from a review of licensee event reports, LERs, the NRC requires a utility to file any time equipment or personnel do not meet operating specifications.

NRC and industry officials said the number of LERs tells little about the safety of a particular plant because the reports cover both minor infractions and major incidents. The NRC said it will soon release its own report card for each reactor that will give a truer picture of performance because it will take into account not only the number of incidents reported but many other factors.

HARRISBURG (AP) — The Public Utility Commission voted down motions Friday that would have allowed two part-owners of the crippled Three Mile Island nuclear plant to collect \$30.2 million of a proposed rate increase.

The proposal, offered by the PUC staff, failed on a 2-2 vote.

However, the commission ordered an investigation into the full \$318.5 million rate request still pending from Metropolitan Edison Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co.

The commission suspended the request for the full increase until the investigation is completed.

Met Ed on June 30 requested a two-stage rate increase worth a total of \$205.5 million and Penelec made a parallel bid for \$113.1 million more.

Both utilities say some of the money would be used for cleaning

She tried TMI, and liked it

HARRISBURG (AP) — The first woman inside the damaged Three Mile Island nuclear containment building since the 1979 accident said Thursday it was all in a long day's work and she would be willing to try it again.

Beverly Della Loggia joined eight male co-workers on the 14th entry into the radiation-coated building to perform a variety of cleanup-related chores.

"It was a fairly routine operation," said Mrs. Della Loggia, after emerging from her 40-minute assignment.

The only thing out of the ordinary was that one of the two radiation monitors she was to install failed to operate, but the problem was later cleared up, the radiological engi-

neer said.

Thursday marked the first anniversary of the first venture into the containment building, which is flooded with 700,000 gallons of highly radiated water and is covered with radioactive particles.

Like the more than 100 engineers and technicians who have gone inside the plant since last July, Mrs. Della Loggia, 26, donned bulky protective clothing for the trip.

Her attire included two pairs of cotton coveralls, rubber boots, plastic booties, rubber gloves, surgical gloves, a respirator and an air sampler.

Despite all the clothing, she said she felt cool inside the building and the whole experience seemed to fly right by.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, August 24, 1981

15th TMI entry planned

United Press International

Five teams of engineers and technicians will enter the Three Mile Island nuclear power plant's Unit 2 containment building late Wednesday, the 15th entry since the March 1979 accident at the plant, TMI officials said today.

The entry is expected to last seven hours, the officials said.

They said the 11-member team will perform maintenance on the closed circuit television monitoring system, take radiological sur-

veys and photographs, inspect the air collars, and remove some equipment.

About five curies of krypton 85 gas will be vented before and during the entry. That amount "has been certified as having no health effects for the public," a TMI spokesman said.

The gas has built up since the last entry, he said.

The Unit 2 reactor that was damaged in the March 1979 accident is inside the Unit 2 containment building.

YORK DAILY RECORD • SATURDAY, AUGUST 22, 1981

PUC orders investigation of huge Met Ed rate increase

up TMI, damaged March 28, 1979, in the nation's worst commercial nuclear power accident. The Unit 2 reactor core overheated and its containment building was flooded with 700,000 gallons of highly radioactive water.

"It is important to note ... today's action was not a denial of any portion of this rate request," read a statement issued by General Public Utilities Corp., parent company of Met Ed and Penelec, at its Parsippany, N.J., headquarters.

GPU spokesman Ken McKee said the statement was issued because GPU feared the financial community had misinterpreted the PUC action to mean the entire rate increase was denied.

GPU common stock opened trading at \$5 a share Friday and dropped to \$4.75 by midday.

The PUC staff had recommended the utilities, which share ownership of TMI with Jersey Central Power and Light Co., be offered the option of the \$30.2 million annual rate boost, effective Aug. 28.

Met Ed would have been given the option of a \$17.4 million dollar boost and Penelec, a \$12.8 million boost.

In return for the much smaller increase, the PUC would have begun investigating when the costs of the undamaged TMI Unit 1 reactor could be put back in the "rate base" and how much customers could be charged when and if it was.

Because of a vacancy on the PUC, there is was no tie-breaking vote on the panel. Motions die on tie votes.

Nobel laureate eyed for TMI health post

By JANIS L. WILSON
Staff Writer

Nobel Prize-winning medical researcher Dr. Baruch S. Blumberg will head a public health fund to be created if U.S. Middle District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo approves the proposed \$25 million settlement of the Three Mile Island class action, an attorney for the plaintiffs said.

David Berger of Philadelphia, who has overseen the damage suit against owners and operators of the nuclear plant, said Rambo will have to approve how the \$5 million designated for medical detection or related services will be spent.

Blumberg, of the Institute for Cancer Research in Philadelphia, won the Nobel in 1976 for his discoveries research in hepatitis.

Under the proposed settlement, the public health fund can be used for a number of purposes, including buying equipment to monitor radiation releases or for funding programs and studies relating to the effects of the accident.

Petitions to fund studies would be funneled through Blumberg, who would serve as the scientific adviser. He would determine whether the proposed expenditures had "promise of producing scientifically reliable and valuable results," but if the studies later proved worthless or obsolete, the

plaintiffs could ask the judge to halt that funding.

Berger said a hearing on uses of the public health fund could be held in two or three months after the judge decides whether to approve the settlement.

In a public hearing on the settlement Monday, little opposition was expressed. Kay Pickering of Three Mile Island Alert said that rather than spending \$20 million on economic damages and \$5 million on the public health fund, \$25 million should go to reimburse economic losses.

An additional \$10 million should be provided to establish cancer research programs, a cancer detection center and to improve emergency planning, she said.

Joan Petrosky of 147 S. Front St., Steelton, objected to financing radiation monitoring and preparing an evacuation plan "because these services are the responsibility of the state and county health protection services." She also opposed financing research into the effects of radiation, saying such work is the obligation of the federal government.

Her husband, Dr. A.M. Petrosky, said the \$25 million is inadequate to "reimburse evacuation expenses of 100,000 people, plus

reimburse businesses." He also objected to paying attorneys' fees out of the settlement. Lawyers for the plaintiffs have requested \$4 million in legal fees.

The objectors followed a number of witnesses for the defendants and the plaintiffs who testified they favored the settlement. Among them was Dr. Karl Z. Morgan, a professor at the Georgia Institute of Technology, who spoke in favor of creating the health fund.

Although Morgan believes the "levels of release and the related doses are were greater than government estimates," of the emissions, the doses were "not so massive as to warrant mass medical tests of people in the area."

He said the accident "will result in some adverse health effects" but not enough to require individual testing.

In fact, he said such testing would require X-rays, which could result in greater doses than people received from the accident. The damage would not be known for 15 years, however.

Morgan called individual testing "imprudent, unreasonable and even counter-productive" and compared it to "looking for a needle in a haystack 10 years before you put the needle in the haystack."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, August 7, 1981

TMI testing the reactor of Unit 1

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

Technicians at Three Mile Island have begun "hot functional testing" of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor using non-nuclear heat, a spokesman for GPU Nuclear Group said today.

Douglas H. Bedell said the test sequence will result in tall plumes of water vapor rising from the two Unit 1 cooling towers on the north end of the island beginning Monday.

Permission to conduct the test was granted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in March, he said. The test will continue through mid-September.

The purpose of the tests is to check the major components of Unit 1, except for the nuclear reactor and electrical generator. Unit 1 has been shutdown since February 1979 and was in the final stages of refueling when the Unit 2 accident occurred.

The test sequence was started

July 27, but the actual heat-up will not begin until Monday. The unit will be tested at close to operational temperatures and pressure using non-nuclear heat — generated by the operation of its four reactor coolant pumps.

The temperatures of the Unit 1 reactor coolant system will be brought to about 532 degrees Fahrenheit, slightly below its normal operating temperature of 580 degrees F.

The heat will be produced by energy consumed in passing large volumes of water through the four reactor pumps, each of which pumps 88,000 gallons a minute in full operation, Bedell said.

The plant's nuclear core will not be activated, Bedell said.

Officials plan to test the modifications made to Unit 1 from the "lessons learned" after the Unit 2 accident.

"The exercises will provide an opportunity for operator training and for verification of new and revised operating procedures,"

Bedell said.

The Unit 1 and Unit 2 systems have been separated from each other since the accident.

When the current testing is completed, Unit 1 will be returned to cold shutdown.

Whether Unit 1 will be permitted to begin generating commercial power will be in the hands of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which is awaiting a recommendation from its Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. The board conducted eight months of hearings and is expected to make a recommendation in September. The NRC decision should follow within 35 days.

If restart is approved, another period of testing will be required before start-up, Bedell said. TMI officials have said Unit 1 could be back on-line commercially by December.

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regulating nuclear power, not members of the NRC staff or an appointed board.

The decision typifies a growing tendency on the part of the NRC to resume its pre-TMI posture of removing itself from controversy and public accessibility. The commission is expected in the next few weeks to consider whether to remove itself entirely from the nuclear plant licensing process, and to turn over that critical decision-making function to the Safety and Licensing Board and members of the NRC staff whose actions take place out of sight of the public.

All these changes are being put forward under the rationale of speeding up the licensing process, but the result would be to again remove the whole process from public scrutiny.

The NRC decision not to hear appeals on the TMI Unit 1 start-up question appears to be irreversible. That makes it imperative that the commission's review of the findings of the

Atomic Safety and Licensing Board be conducted with intense caution, without undue haste and with additional study if there are any ambiguities.

The NRC made a promise to the neighbors of the Three Mile Island plant, and to all Americans, that Unit 1 would not be restored to operation until every effort had been expended to assure that it would be safe. The import of that decision was that the commission admitted it had been too lax in the past. The commission majority has backed away from that commitment on the matter of resolving appeals. It cannot escape responsibility.

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TOUGH TEST Fr 3

ment, "since I was afraid the proctor would have scooped up my tests and torn them up."

Smith told investigators that "a day or two prior" to the "mock examinations, I told (NRC deletion) that I did not think I would be able to pass these tests. He (Doe) replied to me in words to the effect, 'Don't worry, we'll get by, just sit next to me.'" Smith said.

"When I expressed my concerns to (NRC deletion) regarding (the) exams, I was not soliciting his assistance to help me pass the exams by cheating. However, I did not refuse his offer. I anticipated that the exams would be very difficult and I wanted to pass them to hold my license," Smith said.

Smith and Doe sat next to each other at eight-foot-long tables on both days. They were in the second

table from the front of the room. Smith said Doe "placed his answer sheets in close proximity to me face up and I was then able to copy from them from where they lay and also slide them over directly in front of me."

The tests were monitored by NRC proctors. Smith contended the exam was not well-monitored "since the proctor was not observing us closely. He was reading a paper and often turned his back to look out the windows." Other operators who took the tests told the NRC the exam was monitored adequately.

During this investigation, GPU Nuclear told the NRC of an incident which occurred in July 1979 involving the operator identified here as Doe. In that incident an unidentified employee, then assigned to TMI Unit 2, submitted as his own

work, answers to questions prepared by Doe. The questions were described as part of take-home examinations which the Unit 2 employee was required to complete as make-up assignments, the NRC said.

The Unit 2 employee turned in Doe's hand-written answers. Doe told investigators he "had no idea what the questions were for."

He added he was "not aware of the fact that he intended to submit my answers in place of work" he "was required to complete on his own."

The Unit 2 employee in question was transferred to non-licensed duties at TMI after the incident.

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