

# THREE MILE ISLAND



vol.3, no.3

october, 1981

## BILL VASTINE 1914 - 1981

On Tuesday, July 21, Bill Vastine died in Harrisburg Hospital of leukemia.

For many of us, his death was both a personal and political loss. TMIA owes much to the efforts of this kind and committed man.

Bill served this organization as its chairperson during the days before the accident; he continued this post during the transitional weeks following March 28, 1979. His untiring work in those critical days won the respect of us all.

Bill was not, however, involved in one single issue. As the former director of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches, he had a heartfelt concern for the cause of peace and social justice. He was active with Clergy and Laity Concerned, the March 28th Coalition and other area organizations.

For those of us who knew and worked with him, there are no words that can adequately express our sorrow.

He will be missed.

STARTING OCT. 5 LOOK FOR PIRC TV  
SPOTS "STOP THE RESTART CAMPAIGN"

## TMIA TO ARGUE AGAINST RESTART

by Beverly Davis

TMIA will be able to tell the NRC Commissioners in person why it thinks GPU management can't run Unit 1 safely when it appears before them on Oct. 14 to present oral arguments. (See box on page 2.)

TMIA will argue that the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's Aug. 27 ruling that management is competent to run Unit 1 is so full of errors that it will eventually be reversed on appeal. If convinced, and if it decides it is in the public interest to do so, the NRC will stay the restart pending the next round of appeals. These appeals could take months or years. But if convinced, the NRC could order restart on the basis of

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RESTART (con't.)

the preliminary ASLB decision, before the intervenors have exhausted their rights of appeal.

The ASLB heard arguments for nine months on why Unit 1 should or should not restart. Only part one of its two-part decision has been rendered. Part two, dealing with the crucial emergency planning/evacuation and plant design issues, is expected in November.

Part one concluded that GPU's management is adequate even though the same individuals who played a key role in the accident are still running the plant. The Board also rejected TMIA's arguments that poor past maintenance practices and policies, excessive overtime producing dangerously fatigued workers and a proposed 1979 maintenance budget cut reflect severe management problems.

On Wednesday, Oct. 14 TMIA will present oral arguments on management issues before the NRC. Support is urgently needed at these sessions, to be held at the NRC headquarters in Washington.

A rented coach bus will leave for these arguments at 7:15 a.m. from the Camp Hill Shopping Center on Route 15. Those interested should assemble at 7 a.m. and parking will be available just south of the Howard Johnsons'.

While exact times are still unclear, it is hoped there will be sufficient time for trips to the capitol for meetings with area legislators.

Tickets for the bus are \$10. If you're interested, send or bring your check immediately to the TMIA office.

It is critical that many of you make this trip to join our attorneys and legal representatives to give support.

Call the TMIA office at 233-7898 for more information.

"The public should be absolutely outraged at the Board's recommendations and by its effort to discredit the citizen intervenors throughout this decision," says Joanne Doroshow, TMIA vice-chairperson. "The Board blames the volunteer citizen intervenors for not developing sophisticated legal cases on all management issues. Yet the ASLB was specifically instructed by the NRC to examine closely on its own 13 management issues impacting on restart. If not a single citizen intervenor had been present, the ASLB still would have had the responsibility to develop all sides of those issues," she says.

Hearings to determine whether restart was feasible were ordered by the NRC in August, 1979. At that time it said the issue was so important the full Commission should receive the evidence from the ASLB and make the final decision personally. But on Aug. 20, 1981, the NRC changed its mind and ordered all parties to appeal first before the ASLB. The NRC agreed only to consider whether restart will be stopped pending this appeal. TMIA already has presented the NRC with its written arguments on this limited issue. Within 10 days of the Oct. 14 oral argument, TMIA must prepare its broad appeal before the Appeal Board.

The significance, says Doroshow, of going before the Appeals Board is the delay in going to court until the board rules. In the meantime, she says, the NRC could restart TMI 1 on the basis of an erroneous preliminary decision.

The operator cheating scandal remains an undecided management issue, and TMIA and citizen intervenors Marjorie and Norman Aamodt petitioned the ASLB to reopen hearings on this issue. TMIA believes there is strong evidence management encouraged and facilitated cheating, which it will attempt to prove when hearings resume in Harrisburg. A preliminary conference has been set for Oct. 2 when specific issues will be determined and a timetable set for discovery.

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RESTART (con't.)

On March 23, 1981, the NRC removed from the ASLB hearings TMIA's challenge of GPU/Met-Ed's financial capabilities. TMIA appealed the ruling, but the Court dismissed the suit as premature. TMIA may bring the issue before the Court again, but must wait until the entire restart case is ready for appeal.

In light of the NRC's refusal to consider the utility's financial qualifications, TMIA had urged Gov. Thornburgh to order an immediate public in-

vestigation into whether the financially strapped company can possibly operate Unit 1 safely while funding the cleanup of Unit 2. TMIA urges letters to the governor demanding this investigation.

Additionally, the NRC has just proposed permanently eliminating all financial issues from all licensing hearings. The public can submit comments on this outrageous proposal to the Secretary of the Commission, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555, Attention: Docketing and Service Branch.

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## RATEPAYERS FACE RENEWED CLEANUP THREAT

by John Murdoch

The Public Utility Commission is under mounting pressure to reverse its prior stands that Met Ed's ratepayers should not be forced to pay for the cleanup of TMI 2.

Utility customers are being urged to write, now, to the PUC to let the commissioners know that they have the support of the public on this issue, and that in no way will rate-payers be burdened into underwriting costs of the near-catastrophe that was none of their doing.

There is increasing concern that as the weeks pass and Congress continues to fail to provide financial help toward cleanup costs, the PUC will be squeezed into allowing rates to increase to pay for at least a part of the \$1 billion cleanup.

Fear too has been expressed that if Clifford Jones, now Secretary of Environmental Resources, is confirmed as the fifth member of the PUC, a "new majority" openly favorable to the utilities may result.

There is grave concern that if Pennsylvania's PUC were to relent on this principle and if Congress continues to ignore the issue, a dangerous precedent would be established for a "free ride" for the whole U.S. nuclear power industry.

Congressmen too, apparently need to be reminded that it was they (or

their predecessors) who got us into our present nuclear morass and that they cannot simply turn their backs on the problem when their shiny toy (as happened on March 28, 1979) blows a gasket.

Met Ed customers face the prospect of a double whammy because of new hearings set to begin in early October before the PUC on requests of GPU and Met Ed for rate increases exceeding \$300 million.

Met Ed appealed in mid-September to Commonwealth Court for a reversal of the PUC ruling barring utility customers from paying for the damaged nuclear plant cleanup.

And William Kuhns, GPU chairman, apparently convinced that a good offense is the best defense, told a meeting of the Pennsylvania Electric Association in Hershey on Sept. 17, that even if the full cleanup burden is put on the companies' customers, the rates would not be out of line with those charged by other companies.

Persons are urged to write letters to all four PUC commissioners, to Gov. Thornburgh, President Reagan, to the U.S. House and Senate energy committees, and Pennsylvania's senators and representatives in Washington, saying that customers will not consent to being saddled with costs of the cleanup, and that Congress and the Federal Government must shoulder their share of those costs.

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# TMIA OPPOSES JONES NOMINATION

by Chris Sayers

Last summer, Gov. Dick Thornburgh nominated Clifford Jones, presently Secretary of Environmental Resources, to the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission. The choice caused little stir, both in and out of the Legislature.

More recently however, consumers, fearing Jones will side with utility apologists, have attempted to block his nomination to the regulatory body. If okayed by the Senate, Jones would serve a ten-year term.

Late last month, energy activists interviewed Jones on a number of subjects. The secretary told them that he favored the Governor's Energy Commission report on energy in Pennsylvania (a report which called for the expanded use of nu-

clear power). He also said he might favor a form of "certificate of need" (under which new plant construction would have to be justified) legislation for large generating facilities -- but not small ones.

Many of the people attending felt he side-stepped many questions, refusing to give solid answers.

On Sept. 21, Kay Pickering, TMIA staffperson, testified before the Senate Consumer Protection and Professional Licensure Committee against Jones' nomination citing his close ties with many of the businesses he would be required to regulate.

In those same hearings, Sen. Leonard Bodack (D-Pgh.) described the nomination as "a fox guarding the chicken coop."

"Consumers deserve better than that," he said. Bodack voted against Jones.

Jones, a former Secretary of Commerce, served as director of

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# PIRC CAMPAIGN IN FULL SWING

by Beverly Davis

"Stop the Restart" is the message that will be hammered into the consciousness of Central Pennsylvania in the next few months as the TMI-Public Interest Research Center intensifies its campaign to keep Unit 1 shut down.

The campaign, a project of the eight local anti-TMI groups, including TMIA, kicked off its drive Sept. 17 at a wine and cheese party at the Harrisburg Civic Club.

Canvassing in the members' own neighborhoods will be a cornerstone of the campaign, which will bring local citizens up to date on the problems and hazards of TMI 1.

Director Linda Lotz has urged interested persons to attend the regular Monday night volunteer meetings at 7 p.m. at the Public Interest Resource Center in the PSSU building, 1037 Maclay Street. Volunteers can contact Lou Chandler, coordinator of volunteers, at 232-4241 if they have a few hours to give for phoning, filing, typing and envelope stuffing. Special committees work on lobbying and media. More committees are formed of farmers and mothers and are looking for interested persons.

In addition to TMIA the members of the coalition include PANE of Middletown, SVA of Lancaster, ANGRY of York, Newberry Township Steering Committee, the March 28th Coalition, the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Jobs, and ECNP.

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# "NO NUKES" AUTHOR AT NOV. MEETING

Anna Gyorgy, author of No Nukes, will speak to the membership meeting of TMIA set for Tuesday, Nov. 10 at 7:30 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse at 6th and Herr Streets in Harrisburg. A lighted parking lot is adjacent to the building.

Gyorgy, formerly the U.S. representative for W.I.S.E., is executive director of the Critical Mass Energy Project. She has worked with both local (the successful effort to block a nuclear plant at Montague, Massachusetts) and national efforts.

Gyorgy will speak on the importance of TMI and its relationship to national and worldwide efforts to stop the growth of nuclear power.

An update on TMIA activities and the election of four new steering committee members will also take place at the meeting.

This meeting comes at a critical time in the effort to block restart. Plan to attend; bring friends. If we move together, we can win. If we move alone, we will not move at all.

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JONES (con't.)

Pennsylvanians for Effective Government, a business lobby in the capital, before coming to D.E.R. It is these ties that have made him suspect to consumer and energy groups.

Stanley-Morgan investment newsletter has said that Jones' appointment would mean better times for utilities. The trend (disappointing rate increases) will be reversed, the advisory states, with Jones on the PUC.

Shortly after the TMI accident, Jones told the Pennsylvania Chamber of Commerce that they had better get moving to save nuclear power. There is no indication from past statements or interviews that he has changed his view.

What makes this nomination so critical is that the commission has split 2-2 on many important issues (such as putting TMI 1 back into the ratebase) with Susan Shanaman and Mike Johnson supporting the consumer side. Jones' nomination is projected to change the balance in favor of the utilities. When he heard of the nomination, Commissioner James Cawley (of golf fame), who normally backs or exceeds any utility request, was quoted by UPI as saying, "I'm delighted."

Three Mile Island Alert has decided to oppose the nomination. Letters are going to area state senators ask-

ing that they reject the nomination. Individuals are urged to write and/or call their senators to express opposition.

Floor vote on the nomination has been set for Oct. 5 and needs two-thirds approval by the Senate to take effect.

Editorial Board: Christine Arnold, Beverly Davis, Paul Makurath, John Murdoch and Chris Sayers.

## NEW OFFICERS

Three Mile Island Alert Steering Committee members elected during June's general membership meeting are Joanne Doroshow, Sandra Choma and Mitch Turnauer. They join committee members Louis Bradford, Mary Osborn and Paul Makurath. Louise Bradford became TMIA chairperson, Joanne Doroshow was elected vice-chairperson and Mary Osborn and Paul Makurath will put in another year as secretary and treasurer, respectively.

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# THESE ARE THE ONES...

## U.S. NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION

Hon. Nunzio J. Palladino, Chairman  
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
Washington, D.C. 20555  
(202) 634-1481

Hon. Victor Gilinsky, Member  
Hon. Thomas Roberts, Member

Hon. Peter Bradford, Member  
Hon. James Ahearne, Member

## UNITED STATES SENATE

H. John Heinz, III  
United States Senate  
443 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-6324

Arlen Specter  
United States Senate  
253 Russell Senate Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
(202) 224-5254

Local office:  
Federal Building  
3rd and Walnut Streets  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101  
(717) 233-5849

Federal Building  
3rd and Walnut Streets  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101

## UNITED STATES HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

17th Congressional District  
Allen E. Ertel (D)  
1211 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-4315

19th Congressional District  
William F. Goodling (R)  
109 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-225-5836

Local office:  
Harrisburg East Mall  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17111  
(717) 564-8963

2145 Market Street  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011  
(717) 763-1988

16th Congressional District  
Robert S. Walker (R)  
1028 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2411

9th Congressional District  
Bud Shuster (R)  
2455 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515  
(202) 225-2431

## COMMONWEALTH OF PENNSYLVANIA

Dick Thornburgh, Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
225 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 787-2500

William W. Scranton, III, Lt. Governor  
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania  
200 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 787-3300

PUBLIC UTILITY COMMISSION

Susan Shanaman, Chairman  
Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission  
North Office Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120

Michael Johnson, Member  
James Cawley, Member

Linda Talliaferro, Member  
Vacant

STATE SENATE

15th Senatorial District  
George W. Gekas (R)  
172 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 787-6801

31st Senatorial District  
John D. Hopper (R)  
182 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 787-8524

Local office:  
405 North Second Street  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17101  
(717) 561-2603

355 North 21st Street  
Camp Hill, Pennsylvania 17011  
(717) 761-0923

48th Senatorial District  
Clarence F. Manbeck (R)  
281 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 787-5708

33rd Senatorial District  
William J. Moore (R)  
188 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 787-4651

13th Senatorial District  
Richard A. Snyder (R)  
284 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 787-6535

28th Senatorial District  
Ralph W. Hess (R)  
351 Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17120  
(717) 787-3817

MEMBERSHIP FORM

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| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription |  |

Return To: TPIA  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

# OCTOBER

				<b>1</b> Met-Ed Rate Hike Public Comments ALL DAY North Office Bldg. Harrisburg	<b>2</b> 9 a.m. Unit 1 hearings reconvene -- NW Capitol Bldg Capitol & Forster Harrisburg
	<b>5</b> Jones Nomination Vote in Senate	<b>6</b> 7:30 p.m. Planning Council Friends Mtg's			
	<b>12</b> Rep. Goodling Open Meeting, York Tech. Sch 7 p.m.		<b>14</b> Oral Arguments 10 a.m. Washington		
	<b>19</b> Rep. Goodling Open Meeting, Hanover High 7 p.m.		<b>21</b> 7 p.m. Unit 2 Advisory Panel Mtg. (Call TMLA for location)		

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT  
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