

# THREE MILE ISLAND



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## KEHOE TO SPEAK IN MARCH

Keiki Kehoe, a lobbyist on nuclear issues and author of Unavailable at Any Price who has spent the last year focusing on the Price-Anderson Act and the funding for cleanup of TMI, will speak on insurance and TMI at the next full membership meeting Tuesday, March 2 at 7:30 p.m.

The meeting will be held at the Calvary United Methodist Church at 700 Market Street in Lemoyne. There is plenty of parking at the side and rear of the church as well as on Market Street in front of the church.

Ed Charles and Mac Albright will chair the meeting.

Kehoe has said that Met-Ed is planning to have \$1 billion of insurance for property damage at Unit 1, when and if restart takes place, and the company will attempt to assume the \$1 billion for its own property, leaving nothing for the residents of the area. They'll allege, said Kehoe, that area residents are protected by the Price-Anderson Act. But studies show, she said, that people in the Harrisburg area would have gotten about 3¢ for every dollar of property losses if the TMI accident had been more serious.

Kehoe also has said the same companies selling insurance to Met-Ed for nuclear damages put a "nuclear exclusion" clause in residents' policies, denying any insurance coverage in the event of

a nuclear accident. These companies, she said, should not be permitted to discriminate against home and business owners who want nuclear insurance.

Kehoe has urged residents to call and write to Insurance Commissioner Michael Browne at the Department of Insurance, Strawberry Square in Harrisburg, 17120, 787-5173 and to Gov. Thornburgh for improvements in this matter.

TMIA's Economic Committee is looking at a number of projects concerning nuclear economics, insurance, etc. If you would like to be involved in this effort, call Kay at the TMIA office at 233-7897.

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# GPU FACES FINANCIAL TROUBLES

GPU's other nuclear plant, Oyster Creek (N.J.) has been ordered shut for 18 months so repairs and modifications can be made. The cost of the work will exceed the original price of the 12-year old unit. The latest Oyster Creek difficulties follow a two-year period in which the plant was out-of-service more than it was on-line.

Louise Bradford, chairperson of TMIA, has questioned whether GPU would be able to pay for the repairs. "The company," she said, "is already faced with huge costs for cleanup of TMI-2, modification of TMI-1 and repairs to the steam generators in TMI-1."

While figures are available for the cleanup and for modifications to TMI-1, there are no such estimates on how much the steam generator work will cost. Late last month, GPU spokesperson Doug Bedell announced it would take at least six months to fix the problem. Many people believe it will take far longer than that.

According to GPU Nuclear, the Oyster Creek plant will be shut down from July, 1983, to March 1984, for modifications to the containment vessel and for "lessons learned" modifications. The plant will be closed again for nine months beginning in mid-1985. At that time, cracked pipes in the Emergency Core Cooling System will be replaced.

The utility and the NRC have known about the problems in the cooling system since 1978 but the NRC has allowed the plant to operate despite the danger.

While the plant is out of service, customers of New Jersey Central Power & Light will be forced to pay for replacement power. The cost of this purchased power will be \$216 million in additional bills.

At least one New Jersey official has questioned whether the repairs should be done. Citing the plant's age and past performance, he said Oyster Creek may give us a clear indication of the useful life of a nuclear plant.

Bradford said that she had twice asked the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to get involved in the financial question. TMIA had raised the issue before the NRC but the commission has ruled it would not consider the question during the restart hearings.

TMIA's appeal of the financial decision was withdrawn after the courts indicated it would have to be raised as part of an appeal of the entire NRC decision on restart.

Bradford indicated TMIA would again ask the state to question GPU finances.

"What concerns us," she said, "is that GPU will cut corners and compromise the health and safety of Pennsylvania residents simply because of a lack of money...We believe more strongly than ever that GPU does not have the financial resources to operate nuclear plants safely."

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# PUC OKAYS RATES INCREASE

The Public Utility Commission okayed a \$128 million rate increase for users of electricity from Three Mile Island on Jan. 8. The commission adopted the rate boost, which will add \$74 million to the bills of Met-Ed consumers and \$54 million to the bills of Pennsylvania Electric's, as well as including in the settlement a commitment for a total of \$37.5 million from both Met-Ed and Penelec customers for cleanup of TMI-2.

The increases would remain in effect until, as part of the PUC agreement, the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at TMI is returned to service, when rates would decline. The tying of the settlement to restart received opposition from TMIA and TMI PIRC. While TMIA supported the compromise settlement's financial terms in a Dec. 29 statement, it later renewed its opposition to the possibility of restart of Unit 1 in statements to the PUC and the press. TMI PIRC had rejected the entire case settlement on the basis of its cleanup clause dependency on the Unit 1 reactor restart.

William G. Kuhns, president of GPU, Met-Ed and Penelec's parent company, said the increases weren't adequate enough to restore the utilities to complete financial health, but said they were sufficient to deal with the companies' needs at current reduced levels of operation.

Part of the settlement prohibits Met-Ed from entering into further rate proceedings until January, 1983. The monthly bill of an average Met-Ed customer paying \$37.67 in January would

increase to \$43.09 under the first step of the plan, followed by a reduction to \$39.85 should the undamaged reactor go back on line, leveling off at \$38.74 when the energy charge expires in May.

TMIA's support of the financial terms of the agreement hinged on the belief that consumers will have taken on their part in a compromise to fund cleanup of the damaged reactor, placing the continued responsibility on other parties involved in proposed cost-sharing arrangements -- GPU, the federal government, the state government and those of Maryland and New Jersey, the electric-utility industry and nuclear manufacturers -- to match the sacrifices of ratepayers to further efforts for cleanup of TMI.

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## SHORT NOTES

The March 28 Coalition is sponsoring "The Last Resort," a series of non-violent direct actions against certain regulatory agencies, corporations and individuals. Interested persons must take a non-violent training session to participate. Call 944-7211 or drop by at 146 Union Street in Middletown for more information.

Project David has organized a number of non-violent civil disobedience activities in February and March in York, Reading, Lebanon, Easton and Harrisburg. Participants will assemble

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The steering committee has requested the membership be informed that the PUC settlement agreement was not brought before the committee for discussion.

M'liss Halsey (732-9205) and Georgianna Nyce (564-0966) will study the by-laws to review the decision making process. Anyone interested in joining in this effort should call either M'liss or Georgianna as soon as possible.

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ble in the public squares of the most populous cities within the Met-Ed rate district for door-to-door canvassing and collection of electric bills. The bills will later be burned on March 28 on the steps of the capitol to mark the third anniversary of the accident at TMI. For more information call (215) 967-4910 or (717) 469-0317.

The cabinet of the Pennsylvania Council of Churches voted this month to notify the governor, the NRC and the legislature of the council's opposition to restart of TMI-1 until absolute assurances can be given as to the safety of doing so. This action was taken in response to the concerns, including that of psychological stress, of area residents. This news will not be brought to the attention of the individual denominations except through the minutes of the cabinet meeting at which this action was taken. Members of TMIA should work with their local churches to urge ministers and pastors to contact the heads of their denominations in the state to spread the word through the commonwealth.

Ed Neilsen of TMIA was elected to PIRC's steering committee when the center reorganized on Jan. 21. Pat Smith of Newberry Township was elected spokesperson of the group at that time and other new members of the cabinet -- Bob Coleman, Paola Kinney and Beverly Hess -- were elected. Helen Hocker was elected secretary and Frank Davis, treasurer.

If you're tired of marching, of being on the outside -- then you may be looking for a little action -- political action. On Feb. 6 the League of Conservation Voters and Environmental Action will present a one-day workshop on political action campaigns for 1982, to be held at the Embers Restaurant, 1700 Harrisburg-Carlisle Pike, from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Topics will include environmental politics, electoral politics, political action committees, electoral fund-raising, phone canvassing and candidate selection. The fee for the session is \$5 and interested persons can call the TMIA office for more information.

1982 No Nukes Calendars for \$5 at the TMIA office at 315 Peffer Street. A Great Buy!

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## CLAIM FORMS

By now everyone who filed a request for a claim form during the summer of 1981 has received an individualized loss claim form for the \$25 million Three Mile Island Class Action litigation.

If you have not received your form write immediately to:

Clerk of the United States  
District Court for the Middle  
District of Pennsylvania  
Post Office Box 6000  
Wayne, PA 19087

Specific documentation is not necessary in order to complete the forms. If you do not have documentation or proof of loss submit a signed statement listing items and approximate costs incurred between March 28 and May 10, 1979.

Please urge your friends and relatives to complete their forms. Don't be intimidated by the formality of the claim forms. There is \$20 million to be shared by a few thousand residents and businesses in this area and if part of that \$20 million is not claimed the remaining money will be placed in the Health Fund, allocated \$5 million.

There won't be a public airing of questions and answers and there isn't a local information phone number, but Kay Pickering is available at the TMIA office to answer questions.

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Island Updates, TMIA's clipping service newsletter needs your support. Send a \$5 contribution to defray printing and mailing costs to receive the monthly editions. And write a support letter to TMIA indicating how you or your organization use the Island Update material.

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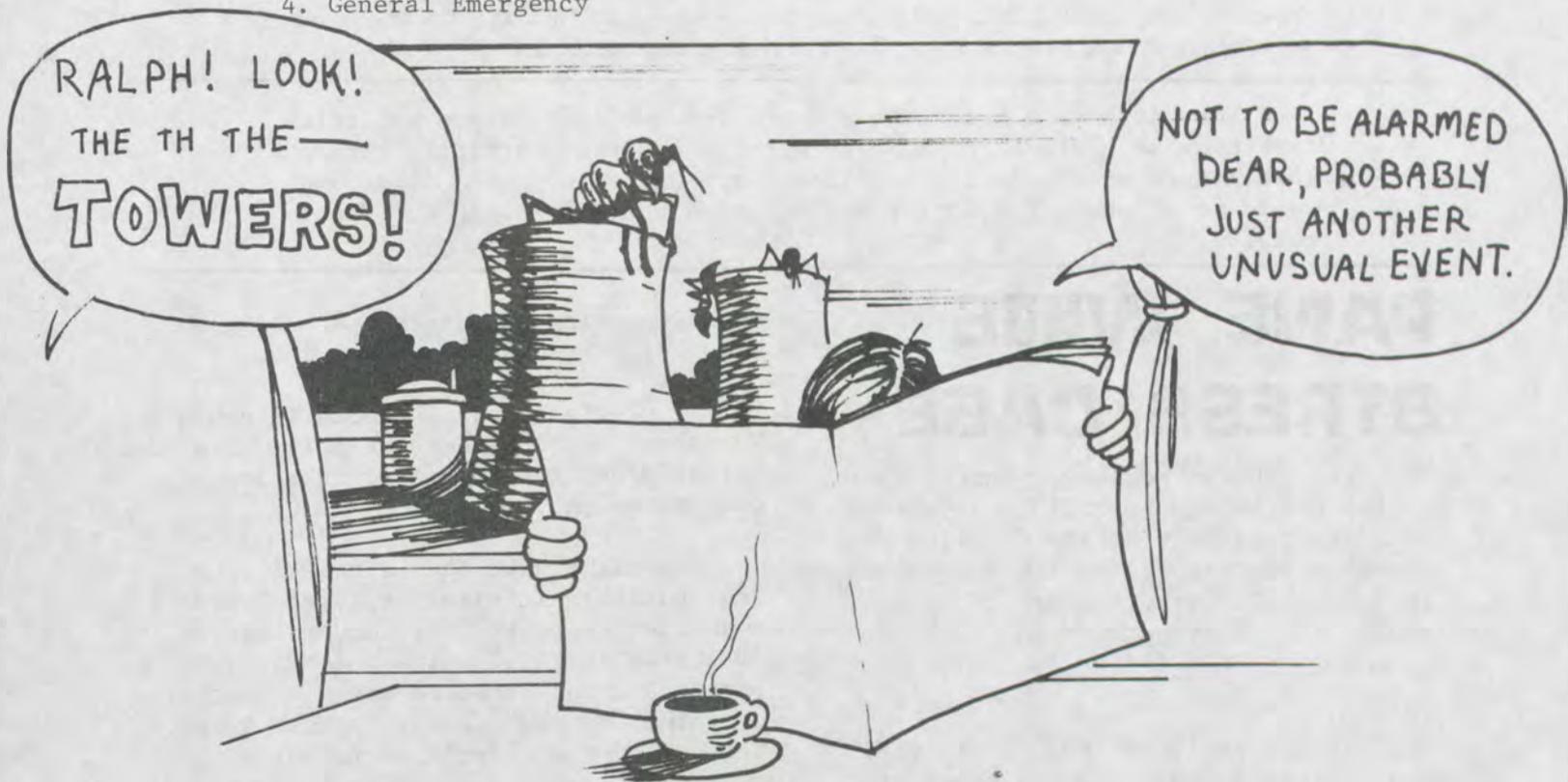
# FOUR KINDS OF EMERGENCY

When Met-Ed declared an "unusual event" on Jan. 8, were you wondering how concerned to get? Were you trying to figure out whether this was an untoward, unnecessary, uncalled for, unlicensed or unapproved nuisance you should ignore?

Because most of us are still confused about the warning phrases used by the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to tell the public what's going on at TMI, the Alert has decided to review them.

In increasing degree, the four warnings are:

1. Unusual Event
2. Alert
3. Site Emergency
4. General Emergency



Unusual Event: As Met-Ed pointed out the last time an "unusual event" took place, even the leak of a gallon of radioactive water can force them to declare this lowest of the emergencies.

In the accident at TMI on Jan. 8, stack monitors sounded and two buildings were evacuated because careless workmen blew radioactive particles out of a drain while trying to clear an air line. An "unusual event" should mean there is no radiation off the plant site.

Alert: Part of the plant system is beginning to or threatening to deteriorate, but only small fractions of curies could be escaping. It's just what it says -- an alert.

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Site Emergency: A need for more concern. Actual or likely major failure of plant functions needed to protect the public are taking place. At the site boundary radioactive releases are occurring, within EPA standards of course. A "site emergency" was what the Dauphin County dispatcher heard when he noted at 7 a.m. on March 28 that he'd been told they had a s-l-i-g-h-t emergency" down at the plant.

General Emergency: By 7:35 a.m. on that now infamous Wednesday, the plant manager had upgraded the accident to a "general emergency" -- announcing "actual or imminent substantial core degradation with potential for loss of containment integrity." Releases exceeding EPA guidelines off-site were possible.

Few people understood then, or understand now, what that "actual or imminent" phrase meant.

Now that we have the warning sirens in place, a three to five minute continuous blast could be set off at any time. It does not mean the need for evacuation, says PEMA, only that residents should tune to their emergency broadcast radio stations for further information.

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You may have noticed the artwork, now we'll tell you a little something about the artist. The Alert's new-found artistic wizard is Tim Hoke of Harrisburg. A local, Tim works for Hood, Light and Geise as a commercial artist and attended the Pittsburgh Art Institute.

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## **PANE WINS STRESS CASE**

The NRC can no longer ignore the mental health and psychological stress of TMI area residents before deciding about possible restart of TMI-1, said the majority of a U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals panel Jan. 7.

In its decision, the climax of long and expensive legal actions conducted by PANE (People Against Nuclear Energy) of Middletown, the panel ordered the NRC "not to make a decision to restart TMI-1" until it "has complied with the requirements of the National Environmental Policy Act..."

Unless and until overturned by later court decisions, or by congressional action, the decision makes mental health of equal importance as physical health when determining the effect of restart of TMI

on neighboring residents and on the well-being of surrounding communities.

The effects of the decision could be profound and, understandably, have sent shivers down the spines of nuke industry executives nationwide.

As might have been expected, the "Philadelphia Inquirer" editorialized that the "court properly orders review of stress at TMI," while the "Wall Street Journal" fretted in an editorial over the "damage" to the nuclear industry because of the court's decision.

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Westinghouse Electric Corp., hit by declining nuclear plant contracts since the TMI accident, recently reported a southern utility has cancelled orders for two nuclear units.

The cancellation was made by Carolina Power and Light and was praised by the North Carolina Utilities Commission executive director as evidence of the success of load management and conservation.

# WATCH THOSE TRUCKS

If you're driving on a highway and see any of the following numbers displayed on that giant truck rushing past you -- beware -- 2910, 2912, 2914, 2918, 9181, 9182 or 2911.

Those numbers mean the truck is loaded with radioactive materials.

The identification numbers, to be displayed in the familiar diamond-shaped placards or on orange panels on the ends or sides of vehicles, will be in addition to the now standard radiation hazard symbols sometimes seen on transport vehicles, says the U.S. D.O.T. Emergency Response Guidebook.

Shippers' former freedom to decide whether to display the numbers will now give way to mandatory placard requirements.

In the event of an accident, emergency crews sent to the scene will know the kind of hazardous material present and (presumably) will know how to deal with it.

Identification numbers for specific kinds of radioactive materials are 2910, 2912, 2914, 2918 and for "special hazards" are 9181 and 9182. The number 2911 has been designated for "radioactive devices."

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 low income and student             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 sustaining member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 regular membership                 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 patron            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 non-profit organization            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 club member       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription |  |

RETURN TO: TMIA  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

# FEBRUARY

		2 TMA Planning Council, 7:30 p.m. Friends Mtghouse.			6 Political Action Training -- 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. Call TMA
7 ↓	8 Senate Appro- priations Hearing, Hbg.				13 "Last Resort" Council Mtg. 12 noon at 146 Union St. Middletown 944-7211
PIRC Leadership Meeting, 1-5 p.m. Friends Meetinghouse Open to all neighboring Groups.			17 PA Environ- mental Plan Public Mtg. 1:30 - 5 p.m. 7 - 10 p.m.	18 League of Women Voters Meeting -- The Reality of Hazardous Waste Lower Paxton Township Building 75 South Houcks Road, Colonial Park 7:30 p.m.	
			Town Mtg. Camp Curtin YMCA North Street, Hbg. Co-sponsored by TMI PIRC and SURE		

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  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

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**CHECK YOUR  
RENEWAL  
NUMBER!**