

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

April, 1982

vol.4, no.4

TMIA RESCINDS PLAN

On November, 10, 1981, a TMIA study committee proposed a cost-sharing plan for the cleanup that suggested ratepayer contributions and approval was given. At a special membership meeting held on March 24, called specifically for the purpose of reviewing the 1981 decision, TMIA voted to rescind the action taken last November.

In addition, a vote at the meeting acted to withdraw TMIA's endorsement of the recent PUC rate settlement with Metropolitan Edison.

After formal presentations and debate on the entire matter, TMIA concluded both the proposed financial plan for the cleanup of Unit 2 at Three Mile Island and the rate settlement were actions contrary to its stated goals and purposes.

As a result of the March 24 decision, TMIA has shown that it will not support ratepayer contributions to the cleanup of Unit 2 at Three Mile Island.

Fun and Fund Raising

Sunday, July 11 -- TMIA Picnic
at Camp Reily

Saturday, July 17 -- Recycling

TMIA will be responsible for the East Shore Recycling Center at the Colonial Park location. Call Sandra Choma evenings at 233-2788 or the office at 233-7898.

START COLLECTING NOW!!!!!!!!!!

IN THIS ISSUE

Vote NO.....	2
TMIA Testifies.....	3
NRC Suit.....	5
State News.....	6
More Tubes.....	7

Vote NO Campaign in Full Swing

Do you favor the restart of TMI Unit 1, which was not involved in the accident on March 28, 1979?

That's the identical wording of the referendum question on ballots in the May 18 primary election in Dauphin, Cumberland and Lebanon Counties.

All registered voters in those counties will have the opportunity to express their opposition to allowing that to happen.

Cathy McCaughin is chairperson of the Bipartisan Committee to Vote "No" (on restart of TMI Unit 1), which is spearheading the drive to register voters and assure their "no" vote on the issue.

In an exclusive interview with TMI ALERT she described the campaign as "conservative and Middle America" aimed at "preserving the quality of life for all who live in Central Pennsylvania."

"Something happened to all of us on March 28, 1979, that we can never forget. Our lives were changed," she said. She emphasized we want to assure our children and our children's children never will have to face the prospect of another TMI accident. She called the vote "the first opportunity for all area voters to be heard officially on whether they want this plant in our midst."

Although the outcome will be "non-binding," a decisive "no" vote is bound to send a message that politicians and the NRC can hardly ignore, she said.

"They need to be told, unmistakably, that people here can't live with that sinking feeling in the pit of the stomach, waiting for the other shoe to drop. The

referendum question is not hysterical and it is not technical, in spite of what Gov. Thornburgh and President Reagan may have said in their efforts to downplay it," she said.

NRC Chairman Nunzio J. Palladino on a visit Feb. 23 to Middletown said that "no commission could ignore whatever attitude exists among the people."

The Vote "No" Campaign has two phases, said McCaughin, the first being to assure all persons are registered. The deadline to register is Monday, April 19, at 5 p.m. Registration mail forms can be obtained by contacting County Boards of Election (in Harrisburg, Carlisle or Lebanon) or directly from the Bipartisan Committee at 232-8534.

Persons who wish to register as Independent, or non-partisan, will be eligible to vote on the TMI question (but not for candidates) at the May 19 primary. All poll workers are to be instructed on how to set voting machines to accommodate those not registered by party.

Public service announcements urging registration will be supplemented by information tables manned by volunteers at shopping malls in places such as Hershey, Middletown and Camp Hill, where registration forms will be available.

McCaughin called "encouraging" the fact that voter registration picked up almost at once after the announcement that county commissioners had voted to include the TMI question on the ballot.

Following the registration period will be the campaign to convince voters of the need to

Continued on Page 4

TMIA TESTIFIES ON HEARINGS

With Louise Bradford at her side, TMIA member Joanne Doroshow testified that the TMI-1 restart hearing process was a sham when members of the U.S. House Energy and Environment Subcommittee came to Middletown late last month to hear the concerns of area residents over TMI.

Doroshow was part of a panel of restart hearing intervenors which included Robert C. Pollard and Steven Sholly of the Union of Concerned Scientists, and Gail Phelps of York, who represented TMI PIRC. All voiced similar concerns about the restart hearing process.

Other panelists presented pro and anti-restart testimony, and both sides urged Congress to get moving on the cleanup of Unit 2.

In her testimony, Doroshow described incredible difficulties faced by Bradford, who has represented TMIA at the licensing hearings since February, 1981. Doroshow also described difficulties she faced as an attorney assisting Bradford. She also had voluntarily prepared legal documents and briefs on behalf of TMIA since February, 1981.

"In the face of the utility and the NRC staff, with unlimited resources, high levels of technical expertise, full time legal representation, collusion and intimidation," said Doroshow, "the hearing process was an exercise in futility for the citizen intervenors.

"There are still highly significant and unresolved safety problems," she said, "exacerbated by the utility's incompetence, which would make operation of Unit 1 extremely dangerous."

Doroshow urged the committee to take this message back to the nation, fearing that Congress and public officials such as Gov. Dick Thornburgh are being fooled into thinking an NRC decision favoring restart means the plant can be operated safely.

In other testimony before the subcommittee, the Union of Concerned Scientists presented startling facts revealing "gamesmanship and in some cases, misconduct" on the part of NRC staff during the restart hearings.

The testimony, presented by Pollard and Sholly, made clear the process has been so subverted that "the (NRC staff)'s mandate to protect the public health and safety has been shunted aside."

USC made the following specific points:

1) The NRC improperly restricted the scope of the hearings by deciding not to consider safety problems at TMI-1 merely because they did not cause the Unit 2 accident and have not yet caused an accident at Unit 1. This included evidence relating to steam generator tube ruptures.

2) NRC staff witnesses were often ill-qualified. UCS has discovered an internal NRC staff document indicating the NRC's own director of licensing shares this opinion. He admits in the memo, which was widely distributed internally, that some NRC witnesses "appear not to be entirely knowledgeable and qualified." UCS noticed this problem long before the memo was discovered.

3) "Cooperation" between the NRC staff and the licensee was very evident. Not only were their positions on matters of substance and

Continued on Page 4

Vote No (continued)

pull the "no" lever on the referendum question. The campaign in Dauphin and Cumberland Counties is being handled by a single committee with a single funding drive and consolidated strategy and public relations approach, McCaughin said.

Donations for media announcements and other organization expenses can be made payable to "Bipartisan Committee to Vote 'No'" and sent to committee headquarters at 1953 Mulberry Street in Harrisburg, 17104

Persons willing to volunteer service to assist in any of the committee work can call 232-8534.

Restart Process (continued)

4) Documents which came to USC's attention recently show NRC staff testimony on crucial issues was incomplete, misleading or just plain incorrect. The licensing board, in fact, is presently deciding whether to reopen the hearings because a 1979 NRC report was withheld from UCS and the board until after the record had been closed. This report recommends a series of design changes, some of which are identical to those advanced by UCS during the hearings.

5) In a review of early versions of NRC staff testimony recently obtained by UCS, a pattern of altering, deleting or replacing testimony which would otherwise have supported or agreed with UCS was discovered.

"The concerns expressed by residents in this area about the competence of GPU and the integrity of the NRC are well founded," said the UCS representatives. "Unless elected officials force the NRC to carry out its mandate to protect the health and safety of the public,

we see little or no prospect that the 'careful and objective review' that Gov. Thornburgh seeks will ever be carried out."

questions of law often virtually indistinguishable, but on March 13, 1981, the NRC staff called a meeting at GPU's request during which attorneys and technical staff of both the NRC and GPU rehearsed GPU's cross-examination of NRC staff witnesses.

LETTERS

Editor:

In the interest of fairness you may wish your readers to know that it was Mark P. Widoff, the former consumer advocate, and not the present holder of that office who was responsible for the successful opposition to the deal proposed by GPU which would have had Met-Ed own the since scrapped Forked River nuke plant in New Jersey and Jersey Central to own TMI.

The deal, proposed in 1978 (as correctly stated in "There But For The Grace Of...", in TMI ALERT, March, 1982) was stopped by the joint opposition of Widoff's office and of the PUC staff.

In retrospect, it may be that Met-Ed's customers would have been better off if that deal actually had been consummated!

John H. Murdoch
Camp Hill

THANKS TO ALL THOSE WHO HAVE
SENT IN SPECIAL CONTRIBUTIONS
TO TMIA AND TO THOSE WHO HAVE
RENEWED THEIR MEMBERSHIPS!!!

KEEP THE MONEY COMING IN !!!

RENEW NOW AND GET ONE NEW
MEMBER TO JOIN.

Join in Suing the NRC

As you well remember, in June and July of 1980, the NRC allowed Metropolitan Edison to release krypton gas and other radioactive material from the damaged TMI-2 reactor into the atmosphere.

In allowing this release, the NRC ignored citizens requests for a hearing to see if other ways of removing this radiation would be safer.

This refusal to hold a hearing was illegal. According to a federal appeals court, the NRC commissioners had no authority to ignore citizen requests for a hearing.

Because of this, local citizens and TMIA (as endorsed by the Planning Council on March 9) are planning to sue the NRC commissioners who allowed the radiation to be released and will ask a jury to award money damages for their injuries. Lawyers have been obtained to initiate the suit on a pro-bono (voluntary) basis.

Were you injured by the actions of the NRC commissioners? Did you or members of your family have to evacuate the area? Did you suffer physical, mental or emotional injury as a result of the release of radiation? Were you hurt in any other way?

If you can answer yes to any of these questions, you should join in this lawsuit against the NRC. This doesn't involve any risk to you, and you might recover damages for your injuries. More importantly, we can deter the NRC from again denying us of our rights to be heard and to be free from radiation.

If you would like to join in this lawsuit, or if you'd like more information about it, fill out the coupon below and return it to:

TMI Litigation Team
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

 Yes, I want to join TMIA and others in this lawsuit against the NRC. When the NRC denied a hearing before venting the radioactive gas from the Unit-2 reactor:

I suffered physical, mental and/or emotional distress.

I or members of my family left town, incurring expenses of \$ _____.

I suffered other injuries. Specify: _____

I know someone who moved from the area because of the venting.

Please send me more information about this lawsuit.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ _____ to help defray your costs.

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____ CITY _____ STATE _____ ZIP _____

State

Limerick

Limerick's nuclear plants, being built 20 miles from Philadelphia, were much in the news last month.

NRC staff reporting to Congress affirmed the plants would never be completed. Philadelphia Electric, which is building these nuclear white elephants, made vehement denials.

Administrative Law Judge Joseph Klovecorn delivered a 280-page opinion asserting that the power from these two plants was needed and that they must be built.

Anti-nuke organizations in the Philadelphia area have presented a strong case that conservation could provide enough electricity to make the plants unnecessary. Consumer Advocate Walter Cohen publicly declared months ago that PE would be ahead financially by abandoning construction now. Limerick is expected to cost at least \$4.6 billion and perhaps as much as \$6 billion before completion.

The costs of Limerick have forced PE to request a mammoth rate increase and to push for construction work in progress (CWIP) to be included in the rate base.

Berwick

Berwick's "Susquehanna Steam Electric Station" staged its required evacuation exercise last month. The NRC requires this mock drill before issuance of an operating license. As usual, Pennsylvania Emergency Management personnel declared the exercise a success.

TMI's drill was in June, 1981, Beaver Valley's in February, 1982. Peach Bottom's is set for June, 1982.

Unlike TMI's drill, a small effort was made at Berwick to practice moving people during the exercise. An evacuation caravan was simulated, and at one high school the students were driven around the block.

Berwick's scenario pretended the accident was caused by sabotage. State police have previously practiced anti-sabotage exercises at Berwick.

The evacuation plan for Berwick was recently the subject of a newspaper series. The reporter revealed that many local plans were done by officials according to a formula, rather than an assessment of local resources. Several of the principals in the scenario did not even know their names were in the plan.

DON'T FORGET ABOUT SELLING RAFFLE TICKETS TO HELP TMIA RAISE BADLY NEEDED FUNDS.

MORE TICKETS CAN BE OBTAINED BY CALLING THE OFFICE AT 233-7897.

MONEY COLLECTED MUST BE TURNED IN NO LATER THAN MAY 1 AT THE TMIA OFFICE AT 315 PEPPER STREET IN HARRISBURG.

Our ALERT editor, Christine Arnold, has left Harrisburg and moved to Boston. We are most appreciative of her dedicated work for the last seven months. The remaining members of the editorial board will continue to do a quality job but need additional assistance from individuals who have some editorial experience. Call the office if you have questions or can help.

GPU AND THE TUBES

GPU has begun putting dollars into the repair of those cracked tubes in Unit 1. Under a somewhat misleading Harrisburg Evening News headline on March 10, it announced "TMI Engineers Plug Leaky Tubes."

What GPU was actually announcing was that it has permanently plugged 19 tubes and placed temporary plugs in 137 others -- this out

of a possible 10,000 corroded tubes.

The temporary plugs will allow the company to change its mind and fix them in other ways later if desired. The cracks ranged from hairline cracks to cracks completely around a tube.

This action by GPU leaves only 9,844 more tubes to be "tied."

The White House switchboard is not the place to call to register an opinion on the President's policies. There is a White House Comment Line which takes calls and records opinions. Reaching this number is a toll call, but having your opinions recorded and counted is well worth the charge.

The number is (202) 456-7639.

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

APRIL

April 6 -----7:30 p.m.
Planning Council Meets
Friends Meetinghouse
Harrisburg

April 14 ----7:30 p.m.
NRC staff Meeting on Stress
Newberry Township Municipal Bldg.

April 18 ----1:30 p.m.
Ground Zero Week Kickoff
Front and Walnut Streets, Harrisburg
Speakers

GROUND ZERO WEEK APRIL 18 THROUGH APRIL 25
CALL THE OFFICE FOR DETAILS OF EVENTS

April 21 ----7:30 p.m.
Panel on Nuclear War
Calvary Methodist Church, Lemoyne

April 22 ----7 p.m.
Unit 2 Advisory Panel Meets
2nd and Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg

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.

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