

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

JANUARY 1983

Vol. 5, no. 1

February 1 -- TMIA Planning Council Meeting; 7:00 p.m.; Hbg. Friends' Meeting House

February 2

TMIA Advisory Panel Meeting

February 6 - 12 -- Pa. Campaign for Nuclear Weapons Freeze film & slide shows

February 15

TMIA Membership Meeting

February 19 -- RECYCLING

March 1

NRC Public Hearings

March 25 - 27 -- Critical Mass '83; A National Conference for Energy, Jobs, Security
(Details about this conference will be in the February issue of the TMIAAlert)

March 28 - 30 -- Critical Issues Associated with Nuclear Power Development; symposium

DETAILS ABOUT THESE COMING EVENTS ARE FOUND IN THIS ISSUE OF THE TMIA/ALERT. PLEASE PLAN ON ATTENDING. YOUR SUPPORT IS NEEDED IF WE ARE TO KEEP TMI CLOSED FOREVER!!

NRC APPROVES NEW SAFETY POLICY DESPITE OPPOSITION by NRC

Advisory Committee On Reactor Safeguards

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission formally approved a major policy statement on reactor safety on January 10, 1983, despite opposition by its own members and by its own prestigious Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards.

In a December 27, 1982 letter to House Interior Committee Chairman Morris Udall, D-Ariz., a wide split in the NRC was evident as Commissioners Victor Gilinsky and James Asselstine dissented and doubted the value of the system on which the policy was based, known as the "probabilistic risk assessment." Commissioner Gilinsky charged the NRC with using the calculations from this assessment "in combination with sparse data to explain away the need for... safety barriers which have been chosen on the basis of experience and engineering judgement."

Representative Udall had written to the commissioners about the inconsistency of their relying on calculations about which they were expressly skeptical in 1979. He included the Advisory Committee's description of probability risk assessment as "little more than a sham that will hide the fact that the basis for safety will always depend upon the judgement of a few individuals." In his 12/27/82 response to Udall, Commissioner Ahearne admitted to "large uncertainties in the quantitative assessments of risk from nuclear power plant accidents."

The NRC Advisory Committee on Reactor Safeguards sent a blunt memo to the NRC just a few hours before the final debate on the safety policy was held, criticizing the NRC for eliminating the language from the safety goals in which the NRC would have pledged to reduce the risk of nuclear power plant operation to "as low as reasonably achievable." They described this omission as evidence of the NRC's failure to recognize the public desire and demand for improved safety. The safety goal approved by the NRC on January 10 intends to limit the chance of a reactor core meltdown to 1 in 10,000 plant operating years.

Commissioner Gilinsky maintained his position of dissent alone in the final vote as the policy was approved 4-1. He argued that the Advisory Committee was "not just a bunch of people who scribbled this memo and passed it under the door...I think we should sit down and talk with them."

The NRC admitted that the new policy will pose considerable problems for several reactors which do not meet the requirements. In fact, six of the 13 plants studied in the last two years fail to meet the requirements. Most of the 82 operating nuclear power plants have not even been examined to see if they meet the standards.

Opponents add that the complex statistical system on which the calculations are based do not adequately account for human error, fire, flood, earthquake, or sabotage. The risk assessments for cancer fatalities included in the new policy have also been questioned by the Advisory Committee.

CALL or WRITE the NRC. Ask the commissioners WHY they passed this questionable policy against the advice of their own Advisory Committee. Commend Commissioner Gilinsky for maintaining his position and ask Commissioner Asselstine what swayed him to switch his position. These people must be reminded that they are public servants charged with preserving the public safety and limiting the risks of nuclear accidents. Tell them what you think.

You can write to the NRC at this address: U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission; Washington D.C. 20555.

This report was prepared from information supplied by Robert Sangeorge (UPI). Emphasis added.

TMIA Membership Meeting

The TMIA General Membership Meeting will be held on Tuesday, February 15, at 7:30 p.m. at the Harrisburg Friends' Meeting House, 6th & Herr Streets.

The meeting will begin with a 20 minute slide presentation on nuclear waste, narrated by John Houseman, followed by a discussion and up-date on current legislation and policy.

Please plan on attending and lending your active support.

Subsequent to the elections held at the last membership meeting, the TMIA Planning Council elected the following officers: Chair - Randy Smedley; Vice-Chair - Suzanne/Steve Patton; and Secretary - Bill Cologie. Paul Lujanac had already started to serve as Treasurer.

The NRC's Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of Three Mile Island will meet on Wednesday, February 2, 1983, from 7:00 p.m. to 10:00 p.m. This meeting is open for public observation and will be convened at the Holiday Inn at 23 South Second St. in Harrisburg.

Agenda items selected for this meeting include: Pa.'s participation in regional low level waste compact discussions; transportation of TMI-II radioactive waste; status of the GPU Safety Advisory Board; and, funding and scheduling of clean-up operations.

NRC Public Events

The NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeal Board will hear further testimony on the decay heat removal process at TMI Unit I. Evidentiary hearings related to TMI Unit I's system for decay heat removal under certain post-accident conditions, such as in the event of a loss of main feedwater or a small break loss of coolant accident, were ordered despite GPU's complaint that this issue is not unique to TMI.

The hearings will be held at 9:00 a.m. on Tuesday, March 1, 1983 in the NRC Public Hearing Room on the fifth floor of the East-West Towers Building at 4530 East-West Highway in Bethesda, Maryland. Anyone interested in attending and possibly carpooling should contact the TMIA office.

Originally scheduled to be held in February, the hearings were postponed due to a GPU request for deferral. Ironically, the delay was sought because one of GPU's primary witnesses, an employee of Babcock and Wilcox, would not be available for the February date because he would be testifying for his employer against GPU in the New York Federal District Court trial.

CLEAN-UP FUNDS

Edison Electric Institute, a trade association for private electric utilities, approved a plan asking its members to raise \$150 million to help clean up TMI Unit II, over a six year period.

The association also urged public electric utilities to contribute \$42 million towards clean-up. The total would meet the goal set by Gov. Thornburgh for industry contributions towards the clean-up costs which are expected to be more than \$1 billion.

Thornburgh's plan calls for \$190 million each from the utility industry and the federal government over six years; a total of \$45 million from Pennsylvania and New Jersey (where GPU also operates); and \$245 million from GPU. Insurance companies have already paid about \$300 million towards clean-up.

The EEI plan was approved by its board of directors on January 14. Frederick Webber, EEI's executive vice president, said that he hoped regulatory commissions in each state would allow companies to charge the expense to consumers rather than stockholders. If commissions refuse to charge consumers, EEI's more than 200 companies may have to go to the stockholders, Webber said, but they could oppose a reduction in their profits.

GPU Nuclear Corp. plans to spend more money again in 1983 on repairing and maintaining TMI Unit I than on cleaning up the damaged Unit II and maintaining its safety.

The company plans on spending almost \$10 million more this year and spent almost \$20 million more last year on Unit I, insisting that its return to operation is necessary for the company's financial survival.

GPU claims that money spent on Unit I does not take away from the clean-up of Unit II, including the more than half-million dollars it spent on its recent media campaign in support of restart, prior to the November NRC hearings.

In a recent Lancaster New Era article, Mark Eyerly reviews some of the opposition to GPU's commercials, including comments from Bev Hess of Susquehanna Valley Alliance, Thomas Smithgall of the NRC Advisory Panel on TMI clean-up, and Mayor Robert Reid of Middletown, who noted that GPU would gain a lot more credibility if they would just clean TMI II up.

COALITION ACTIVITIES

PP&L ratepayers are asked to voice their objections to the proposed 25% rate increase, which is estimated to raise customer bills by more than \$500 million. The PP&L Ratepayers Coalition Against the Rate Increase formally intervened in the case and is urging customers to write to the PUC and tell the commission of their opposition to the rate increase.

The coalition also requested of the PUC that it hold evening public information sessions throughout the 27 county service area, to listen to consumer testimony.

In addition to contacting the PUC, rate payers are being asked to contact local government officials to request that they testify against the proposed increase, as it will raise expenses for every public building.

The company estimates that the increase will amount to only \$315 million, if they can reduce energy costs by \$186 million through successful operation of Unit I of the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station, or Berwick. The company admits that 2/3 of the rate increase is related to their new nuclear facility.

The PUC letters can be sent to P. O. Box 3265; Harrisburg, Pa. 17120. The general complaint phone number is (717) 783-5239.

Anyone seeking further information can contact the Susquehanna Alliance at P. O. Box 249; Lewisburg, Pa. 17837, or LEPOCO at 555 Main Street; Bethlehem, Pa. 18018.

PP + L RATEPAYERS

MARCH - 28th

The March 28th Coalition is developing plans to hold public meetings in Harrisburg, York, and Lancaster beginning around the 4th Anniversary of the TMI accident.

The format proposed includes: an explanation of non-violence, a discussion of direct action and what is planned for TMI, and sign-up for Affinity Group training.

The coalition hopes to co-sponsor with each respective regional group some fundraising event in the evening following the public meeting.

Other 4th Anniversary plans have not been finalized, but the consensus is that an event will be staged at the NRC office in Middletown.

NOTE: the "Last Resort Coalition" meeting set for February 19 has been cancelled, and will be rescheduled later in the Spring.

For more information about the proposed public meetings, please contact: Laura Brown (238-2396) or Keith Bentz (233-2207).

The Pa. Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze plans to show "The Last Epidemic" and "War Without Winners" at the times and locations listed below.

Sunday	-- Colonial Pk. United Church/Christ
2/6/83	5000 Devonshire Rd.; Hbg. 2 p.m.
Monday	-- Church/Redeemer/U.C. of Christ
2/7/83	500 W. Chocolate Ave.; Hershey 7:30
Tuesday	-- Trinity United Church of Christ
2/8/83	235 Center St.; Millersburg 7:30
Wednesday	-- Museum of Scientific Discovery **
2/9/83	Strawberry Square; Hbg. 7:30 p.m.
	St. Catherine Labore Parish
	4000 Derry St.; Hbg. 7.00 p.m.
Thursday	-- Market Square Presbyterian Church
2/10/83	Blackberry & 2nd Sts.; Hbg. 12:00 Noon and 7:30 p.m.
Saturday	-- Lakeside Lutheran Church
2/12/83	245 Division St.; Hbg. 7:00 p.m.

**Use of Museum of Scientific Discovery facilities does not indicate their endorsement. "The Last Slide Show" will be shown.

Georgiana Nyce, who had been serving as Chairperson for TMIA, recently resigned from the TMIA Planning Council and announced her intention to devote herself to personal matters which had been neglected during her busy days as Chair. Her efforts to fulfill the demanding position as interim executive were outstanding and appreciated by those who worked with her. Good luck, Georgiana, and thank you muchly.

Louise Bradford, TMIA's intervenor before the NRC, is currently touring Europe to participate in meetings and speaking engagements. From January 13 through February 5, she will be the guest of KAGAF, a Swiss anti-nuclear group. From February 6 through 27, she will be the guest of Heltrund Zum Schutze das Lemens in West Germany. Louise also hopes to visit France and England, her birthplace, before her return in March to Harrisburg.



Environmental News

KRYPTON-85

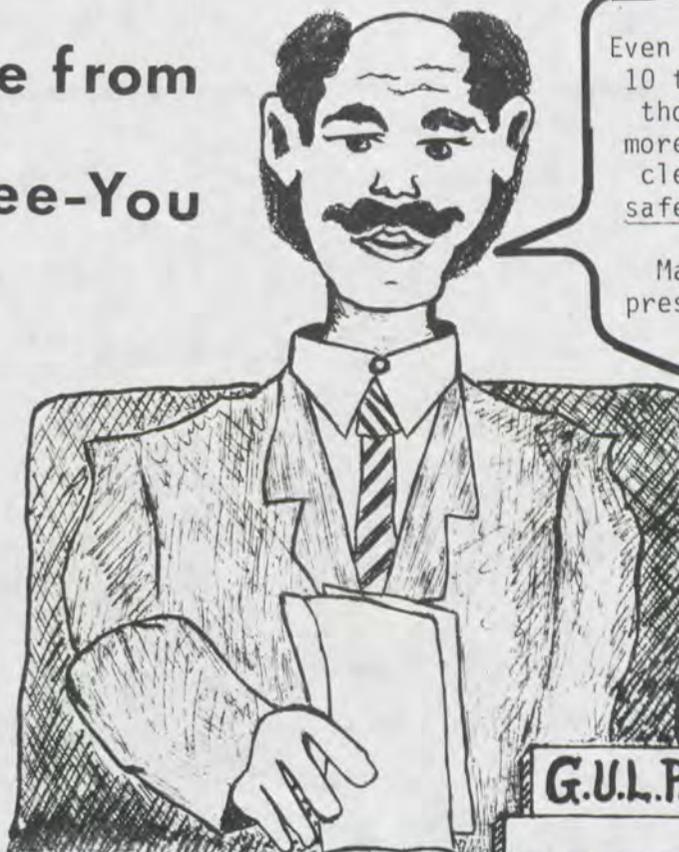
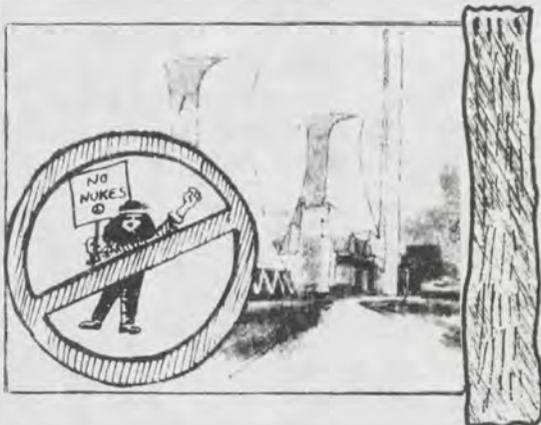
Noble gas samplers are operated near TMI to monitor kr-85, which also exists in the atmosphere world-wide as a result of nuclear weapons testing, nuclear power generating, fuel reprocessing and in very small quantities from natural sources. Samples collected in the vicinity of TMI from April 1979, through June 28, 1980, showed background levels to be less than 40 picocuries per cubic meter (pCi/m³) of air. The analytic results for samples collected for the period Dec. 10 - Dec. 21, 1982 are shown below.

<u>Location</u>	<u>Kr-85 Concentration pCi/m³</u>
Goldsboro	26
Middletown	26
York Haven	26
TMI Observation Center	28

EPA 189/01/14/83

To Set The Record Straight :

a message from
Mr. Gee Pee-You



Even though Unit II is 10 times hotter than we thought, and will cost more and take longer to clean up, it's just as safe as it has been since March 28, 1979, and presents no danger to the public.

G.U.L.P. Nuclear Ink.

R.G.S/GLM

Public Health Symposium III-Timed

Protest Letters Encouraged

The public symposium approved by Judge Sylvia Rambo to be funded by the public health fund portion of the class-action suit settlement is scheduled for a time when most members of the public are busy at work and unable to attend. Although attorney David Berger, in seeking approval of the symposium, acknowledged the high level of concern that local citizens have about this information and the unique possibility this symposium presents for bringing together experts who can disseminate this information to the public, it seems ironic that it has not been scheduled during the week-end hours when more people can take advantage of it. For the \$40,00 price tag, local residents deserve a symposium that is available when they are free to attend, but "Critical Issues Associated with Nuclear Power Development" is currently planned from Monday, March 28, through Wednesday, March 30.

If you would like to attend this symposium but can not, You should complain. Even if you are not personally interested, but believe that other local citizens have the right to have this public symposium scheduled at the time best suited for the public and not to suit some high-priced "expert," WRITE TO COMPLAIN. Contact David Berger, Attorney at Law; 1622 Locust St.; Philadelphia, Pa. 19103. Send a carbon copy to Judge Sylvia Rambo; Federal Building; Third & Walnut Streets; Harrisburg, Pa. 17108.

TMIA offices at 315 Peffer Street have been moved to the second floor of the building. Volunteers recently moved the materials to the upstairs offices, and installed and cleaned a carpet. The move was instigated by Harrisburg Housing Authority's needing more room on the first floor and was approved by the TMIA Planning Council.

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

CMEJ REBATES WILL BENEFIT TMIA

Critical Mass Energy Journal (CMEJ), a publication of Ralph Nader's Public Citizen organization dealing primarily with energy issues, should be on your reading list.

The Journal provides monthly reports on current energy events, legislative reports, in-depth analysis and resource listings relative to energy issues.

For a limited time, CMEJ will be providing a 40% rebate to TMIA for subscriptions generated by TMIA and its members. a one-year sub is only \$10.00 and two-year subs are \$17.95.

Each one-year subscription adds \$4.00 to the TMIA treasury. Besides helping TMIA, your subscription dollars also support the important work of the Critical Mass Energy Project and counter the pro-nuclear push currently in Washington.

Call TMIA at 233-3072 and a subscription form will be mailed to you.

RECYCLING is still the 3rd Saturday of every month, but... it has been relocated....

The K-Mart and Pathmark Parking Lot further out Route 22 is the present site for recycling your

- * newspapers
- * glass - all colors
- * aluminum cans
- * bi-metal cans

beginning at 9:00 a.m. 'til 3 p.m.

Volunteer to support local efforts to cut down on the waste of resources. If not your time, at least you can **DONATE YOUR TRASH!**

IF YOUR MEMBERSHIP IS LONG OVERDUE...

YOU ARE IN DANGER OF BEING PURGED FROM

THE MAILING LIST AT SOME FUTURE DATE...

DON'T DELAY --- RENEW TODAY.

**ROY KCHHC
LAW ENFB
! REB MUN**



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U.S. Postage
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Harrisburg, PA
Permit No. 807

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
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Harrisburg, PA 17102

IF YOUR ADDRESS IS ALMOST UNREADABLE... RENEW NOW--
You're long past due... Those who can read their
addresses can check their renewal date below.....