



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

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NRC choice is basic: Satisfy caution or weariness

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Even for an attorney well aware that the Three Mile Island Unit 1 restart is the most complex case the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has handled, the choice before the commissioners is a relatively simple one.

As Martin G. Malsch, NRC deputy general counsel, put it to the commissioners last week, "We do have competing values."

Does the commission want to satisfy the need to hold further hearings in the interest of the public health and safety, Malsch asked, or does the commission want to satisfy the need to make a decision more than five years in the making?



NRC's James Asseltine
Wants broader hearings

ON THE FIRST point, Sen. Arlen Specter, R-Pa., wrote to the NRC last week that "the NRC simply must not make a restart decision until all safety and management integrity issues have been conclusively resolved."

On the second point, GPU Nuclear President Philip R. Clark has said, "It would be unnecessary and unfair to continue to defer... The lengthy time which has passed has seen new issues arise. This is not unique to TMI. Additional questions and issues are always being raised and addressed at every nuclear plant."

On Wednesday, at a meeting that had been expected by some to be crucial to electricity ever again flowing from the Unit 1 reactor in Londonderry Twp., near Middletown, Pa., five divided commissioners resolved nothing.

"I CAN SEE we're not as of one mind," observed the TMI-weary NRC chairman, Nunzio Palladino. Palladino asked his colleagues

to be ready to discuss in two weeks the need for further hearings on the management integrity of GPU Nuclear before a restart vote. Beyond integrity issues, the NRC staff has said virtually all of the hardware safety changes recommended in the 1979 shutdown order on Unit 1 have been made by GPU Nuclear. If the latest repairs on steam generators at Unit 1 meet with NRC staff approval, the plant will be physically ready in March, GPU officials have said.

But from everything that can be drawn from the public record, the NRC is still months away from a final decision. Here is why:

COMMISSIONER Lando W. Zech, who was most vocal at the meeting Wednesday about reaching a prompt decision, said he didn't want to vote on the Unit 1 restart until an NRC licensing board ended hearings on the adequacy of operator training at Unit 1. (The hearings ended Friday).



Sen. Arlen Specter
"Management integrity"

Asked after the meeting for clarification, Zech said he meant a restart vote should await the decision of the licensing board on training. Attorneys for two parties to the case said Friday they don't expect the board to rule until March at the earliest.

By that time the commissioners should also have a board decision on the so-called (Herman) Dieckamp-Mailgram issue, in which the veracity of the General Public Utilities Corp. president and other utility officials was questioned at the time of the Unit 2 accident in 1979.

FOUR OF THE commissioners also said they want to see a final set of hearings held on the 1978-79 cooling water leak rate falsification at Unit 2, for which Metropolitan Edison Co. already has been convicted on one count of criminal misconduct.

Attorneys participating in that set of hearings have yet to start



Rep. George W. Gekas
Wishes NRC "bon voyage"

"discovery," the process by which attorneys on all sides ask questions of witnesses and each other. Discovery could take two months or more, the attorneys said. Hearings and a decision might take until late summer, they said.

There are two points of dispute affecting the date of a restart vote.

FIRST, PALLADINO and Zech want the hearings narrowly focused and therefore brief. They intend to follow roughly the NRC general counsel office's advice to consider only the "segregation" from Unit 1 any operators who were involved in falsifying leak rate records at Unit 2 six years ago.

Commissioner James Asseltine wants the leak rate hearings to be much broader, to take more time.

"It's not just which individuals participated in and knew of" the rigging of leak rate records, Asseltine said, "it also should be to



NRC's Nunzio Palladino
"We're not of one mind"

what extent management was responsible" for breaking the law. Commissioner Frederick Bernthal didn't commit himself along those lines, but said he would take "a liberal point of view on added hearings."

SECOND, WHILE the commissioners seem ready to await an operator training decision from the licensing board, they said nothing about waiting for the leak rate hearings and decision. NRC attorneys have said it would be legal to forgo any further hearings and vote on the restart, precisely what Specter and dozens of other Pennsylvania officeholders have counseled against.

(A majority of commissioners have pledged publicly to factor the criminal conviction of Metropolitan Edison, GPU Nuclear's predecessor operating company, into the restart decision. But anti-restart intervenors want to get as much of the grand jury evidence on the



GPU's Herman Dieckamp
The Mailgram issue

public record as they can — particularly evidence bearing on how high in the chain of command leak rate rigging approval went.)

Shutting unforeseen new developments that have become commonplace at TMI, or radical changes of mind by the commission, the restart vote could occur as early as March or as late as summer.

U.S. REP. GEORGE W. Gekas, R-Harrisburg, was the only member of the audience at Wednesday's indecisive meeting who was allowed to speak. Once he learned there would be no restart vote and TMI issues would only be reviewed, Gekas was relieved.

"We wish you bon voyage in these proceedings," Gekas said — meaning farewell, have a good trip and a happy return.

The NRC started the restart decision voyage more than five years ago, has had a rough trip and has yet to return.

Friday, Jan. 18, 1985 The Philadelphia Inquirer

NRC might have lied about Three Mile Island probe, Congress is told

By Susan FitzGerald
and Jim Detjen

The U.S. Justice Department has told Congress that it is investigating whether any Nuclear Regulatory Commission official lied about an inquiry into the falsification of safety records at the Three Mile Island nuclear station.

The department said in a letter that it believed such a misstatement was made to Justice officials and to a

congressional committee, and added that the action could amount to "prosecutable criminal misconduct."

Victoria Toensing, deputy assistant attorney general, disclosed the matter in a letter to U.S. Rep. Morris Udall (D., Ariz.) earlier this month.

A Justice Department spokesman declined to say yesterday whether the department's investigation was part of a continuing probe by a federal grand jury meeting in the District of Columbia. Federal sources said the grand jury was examining

whether NRC employees engaged in criminal conduct during agency investigations of TMI and the William H. Zimmer nuclear plant near Cincinnati.

In the letter to Udall — who is chairman of the House Committee on Interior and Insular Affairs, which has jurisdiction over the NRC — Toensing stated that the Justice Department had gathered information leading it to believe that it was "misled by the NRC" at an August 1983 meeting and that "erroneous infor-

mation" may thus have been passed on to Congress.

Discussions at that meeting centered on whether the NRC knew in 1981 that it could go ahead with an investigation into allegations of falsified records at TMI despite a criminal investigation of the same allegations by the Justice Department.

The NRC has maintained that it was unaware, because of a mix-up in communications, that it could pursue its own investigation. The Justice Department has said it told the

NRC that it could proceed with an inquiry.

The allegations of falsified records were made by Harold Hartman, a former TMI control-room operator. He told NRC investigators in May 1979 that TMI employees routinely falsified and destroyed records on whether excessive water was leaking from the Unit 2 reactor's cooling system in the months before the March 28, 1979, accident.

Metropolitan Edison Co., which operated TMI at the time of the acci-

dent, pleaded guilty or no contest in February to seven counts of an 11-count indictment stemming from those allegations.

In a separate matter, an NRC spokesman said the agency's Office of Investigations was conducting another probe into the use of a massive crane in the cleanup of the TMI Unit 2 reactor. Three TMI engineers alleged in 1983 that safety reviews were being short-circuited in the repair of the crane.

Broad-based opposition to Unit 1 restart is building

By MICK ROOD
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Opposition from a broad political spectrum began building again yesterday in anticipation of a decision to restart the dormant Three Mile Island Unit 1 nuclear plant.

Anti-nuclear activists held a news conference here at which they speculated the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was about to announce a TMI-Unit 1 restart voting date. They also speculated that GPU Nuclear's operating license would be approved on that date.

The NRC is scheduled to meet publicly at 2 p.m. tomorrow to decide whether further hearings and recommendations on GPU Nuclear management integrity are necessary before a restart decision. Anti-nuclear activists believe the hearings will be ignored in favor of a decision — perhaps yet this month.

"Suddenly, they don't feel hearings are necessary, and they can go ahead and turn this thing on," said Lanny Sinkin, director of the Nuclear Information and Research Service of Washington.

The licensing board now meeting in Harrisburg was ordered to convene last year when an NRC appeals board decided that important management integrity evidence had not previously been con-

sidered in the 5-year-old restart proceeding. The new board has finished hearings on allegations the utility didn't pass on crucial TMI-Unit 2 accident data in 1979 and is expected to finish hearings on GPU Nuclear's training program, but has yet to start hearings on water-leak-rate alterations at both TMI units.

"Restarting the plant would make the hearings useless," said

attorney Joanne Doroshow, who along with attorney Lynne Bernabei represented TMI Alert Inc., an intervenor group opposing the restart.

Their view appeared to dovetail in the TMI context with those of Republican Gov. Dick Thornburgh and U.S. Rep. George Gekas, R-Harrisburg, whose district includes the Londonderry Twp. home of TMI.

A spokesman for the governor confirmed yesterday that Thornburgh is not satisfied that a six-point list of safety assurances he announced last Aug. 15 as being necessary had been met. The points included assurance of TMI-Unit 2 funding and completed hearings on Unit 2 accident communications, training and leak-rate allegations.

Thornburgh spokesman Re-

land Page said progress has been made on cleanup funding, primarily because of the utility industry's first of six annual payments of \$25 million toward the cleanup.

"We still don't have assurances the commitment will be fully honored," Page said.

Gekas said, "I cannot visualize they're making such an egregious error" by considering restart prior

to the hearings' end. The congressman plans to deliver another letter to the commission today conveying that sentiment.

Anti-nuclear groups plan to keep the publicity heat on this week.

TMI-Unit 1 restart intervenors Norman and Majorie Aamodt of Coatesville, Pa., have scheduled a news conference today at which they are expected to accuse the NRC of a "coverup" in withholding evidence of severe health effects from the Unit 2 accident in 1979.

The Aamodts drew an angry denial from NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino with similar charges before. But Francine Taylor, who helped Aamodts with an informal health survey in 1984, claims there is new evidence to support their claims.

After the NRC meeting tomorrow, the National Council on Science and Technology, another intervenor in the TMI case, will release a critique Thursday of the NRC's performance on the agency's 10th anniversary. The review is expected to include severe criticism of the commission's handling of the TMI restart proceeding.

Express feelings to NRC, midstaters urged

By FRANK LYNCH
Staff Writer

With a vote on the proposed restart of Three Mile Island's Unit 1 looming on the horizon, local officials yesterday urged midstaters to express their feelings on the matter to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

"If there is anytime a voice from citizens will be effectively heard, it will be now," said Dauphin County Commissioner Larry Hochendoner, who held a noon press conference in the courtroom.

The five NRC commissioners may decide this week whether they will vote on the restart of TMI Unit 1, which was undamaged by the 1979 accident at the

Island. NRC sources have said the commissioners have slated two other meetings for the end of this month and a restart vote could be taken then.

Also attending the press conference yesterday were Dauphin County Commissioners John E. Mimich and Norman P. Hetrick, state Rep. Peter Wambach Jr., D-Harrisburg, and a representative for state Sen. John Shumaker, R-Grantville. Hochendoner said County Commissioners Marcia Myers of Cumberland County and Brad Fisher of Lancaster County, and Harrisburg Mayor Stephen R. Reed, did not attend although they supported a statement Hochendoner read.

"We are united in our insis-

tence that the Nuclear Regulatory Commission make the decision that our community wants it to make. By referendum, by editorial, by common conversation, we have made it clear that we do not want TMI Unit 1 to be restarted," Hochendoner said.

He said "it appears likely" that the NRC will make its final decision within the next two weeks.

Wambach said all safety issues concerning the island should be addressed, "then they can make a decision."

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board is currently hearing testimony on testing and training practices by General Public Utilities, the operator of TMI. Those hearings are being held at the Uni-

versity Center at Harrisburg, North Front Street.

In a related matter, Minnich said the county yesterday received a check for \$95,356.80 from the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency. The check, the first of four installments that will bring the county \$350,000 in the next two years, will be used to improve the county's ability to respond to emergency situations at TMI, Minnich said.

Dauphin is one of 12 county governments to share in the \$1 million fund, provided by the operators of TMI and administered by PEMA under a federal court order. Minnich said municipalities will receive funds from the portion allotted to Dauphin County.

Judge OKs \$3.9 million for TMI suits

By MARY WARNER
Staff Writer

A Dauphin County Court judge has approved more than \$3.9 million in settlements of injury claims resulting from the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island.

The largest — in a claim filed for a Down's syndrome child — was for \$1,095,000.

The settlements, all reached out of court, had to be approved by a judge because they involved claims on behalf of children or of the estates of adults who have died since the accident.

A statement issued yesterday by the insurance companies representing the nuclear plant's operators indicated the claims were being settled without regard to the evidence, strictly to avoid the expense of trials.

"These settlements represent an economic decision arrived at by the insurance companies and do not constitute an admission of liability by the companies involved, General Public Utilities Corp. and Metropolitan Edison Co.," the statement said.

"In exchange for payments to the claimants by the insurance companies, all of the defendants in the settled cases are being given general releases from claims of liability."

It could not be learned how much money was involved in the settlements that did not require court approval. Plaintiffs and defendants have agreed not to discuss the settlements, the statement said.

In all, the statement said, "the great majority of 300 personal injury claims" were being settled out of court.

Doug Bedell, a spokesman for TMI operator GPU Nuclear Corp. released the statement. He had no other comment.

The settlements approved by Judge William W. Lipsitt closed claims by 70 children and three estates.

A group of 19 settlements approved yesterday included \$855,000 for Gabriella Eisen of Harrisburg, an infant born since the accident who suffered cerebral palsy, and \$1,095,000 for 5-year-old Bradley R. Baker of New Cumberland, a Down's syndrome child.

Court documents said Bradley, born just over nine months after the accident, suffered the disorder, which includes mental retardation.

His parents Blaine and Deborah Baker were among 62 plaintiffs in a 1981 suit that sought damages for injuries allegedly linked to the March 28, 1979, accident at the Londonderry Twp. nuclear plant.

The suit said the plaintiffs "most probably came into physical contact with some radioactive debris," which "was dispersed throughout a large area."

Defendants in the suit were General Public Utilities Corp.; its subsidiaries, Metropolitan Edison Co., Jersey Central Power & Light Co., and Pennsylvania Electric Co.; plant designer Babcock and Wil-

cox and its parent company J. Ray McDermott & Co.; and engineer Burns & Roe.

"Based on the extreme difficulty in establishing the connection between low level radiation and Bradley's illnesses, the petitioners believe the offer of settlement is fair and equitable," plaintiff's attorney Lee Schwartz said in his petition seeking Lipsitt's approval of the \$1,095,000 settlement.

The Bakers also entered a claim for their daughter Jennifer, now 6, for physical damage and emotional and mental suffering. The settlement in her case was \$28,500.

The settlements approved by Lipsitt were in two groups. One group, approved yesterday, included 19 settlements totalling \$3.3 million.

One-third of the money will go for contingency fees for the law firms of Hepford, Schwartz, Menaker & Morgan and Levin & Fishbein and, in some cases, attorney Richard Jameson and the firm Friedman and Friedman.

It was not always clear from court documents whether the addressees listed for the plaintiffs were for the time of the accident, the time of the suit or now.

Besides the Baker and Eisen cases, the settlements yesterday were:

- \$47,500 for Maryella Durborow, 17, daughter of William and Catherine Durborow, claiming physical damage and emotional pain.
- \$47,500 for Rennie Crossman, 16, child of Kenneth and Barbara Crossman of Richmond, Va., claiming physical and genetic damage.
- \$264,000 for the estate of Joseph Dowden, who died of cancer at age 53 in September 1981. The address of the executor of the estate was Glen Cove, N.Y.
- \$116,500 for the estate of Evelyn Gordon of Harrisburg, who died of a heart attack in November 1980 at the age of 64.
- \$170,000 for the estate of Gilbert Mannell of Harrisburg, who died of a heart attack at the age of 66 in 1979.
- \$123,500 for the estate of Carl Hess, who died of a heart attack last year at age 56.
- \$415,000 for Samantha Yiengst, 5, daughter of Richard and Kathleen Yiengst of Duncannon, claiming congenital heart defects and other physical and genetic damage.
- \$9,500 for Jennifer E. Yiengst, 7, also the daughter of Richard and Kathleen Yiengst, claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damages.
- \$15,200 for Stacey Schuchman, 5, daughter of Donald and Judith Schuchman of York Haven, claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damage.
- \$5,700 for Greg M. Schasse, 5, son of Terry Schasse of Salem, Ore., claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damage.
- \$19,000 for Barbara Martin, 13, daughter of Robert and Marie Martin of Ebers, claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damage.
- \$20,900 for Elizabeth Malestestinic, 15, daughter of Mark and Kathleen Malestestinic of Steelton, claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damage.
- \$15,200 for Matthew Malestestinic, 9, also son of Mark and Kathleen Malestestinic, claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damage.
- \$15,200 for Charles Malestestinic, 17, also son of Mark and Kathleen Malestestinic, claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damage.
- \$9,500 for Kelly E. Hare, 14, daughter of Ellen Hare of Penbrook, claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damage.
- \$9,500 for Joshua Chubb, 9, son of Julia Chubb of Middletown, claiming emotional trauma and physical and genetic damage.

See TMI — Page A8

TMI cancer-link study requested

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Jan. 16, 1985

By MICK ROOD

Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Study of a controversial survey concerning abnormally high cancer deaths in an area west of the Three Mile Island accident site will be proposed by a TMI watchdog group.

David Berger, an attorney representing the Three Mile Island Public Health Fund, yesterday said the fund will propose the thorough epidemiological study soon.

Berger said results of the cancer survey, directed by Norman and Marjorie Aamodt of Coatesville, Pa., "must be taken seriously."

The Aamodts, who are legally recognized intervenors in the TMI Unit 1 restart case, say cancer deaths in three small, unspecified areas in York County were seven times higher than would have been normal in 1980-84.

The health fund was created to study TMI Unit 2 accident dose assessments with \$5 million out of a \$25 million settlement of a class-action lawsuit brought after the TMI accident in 1979.

U.S. District Court Judge Sylvia Rambo must approve use of the funds once the study is proposed, probably within three months, Berger said.

The Aamodts repeated their survey conclusions at a news conference yesterday on the eve of a Nuclear Regulatory Commission meeting at which a final vote on

Unit 1 restart will be discussed. An actual vote on the nearly 6-year-old question is not expected.

The session, here at 2 p.m. today, is expected to be crowded with TMI area residents, nuclear industry representatives, anti-nuclear activists, public officials and the media.

In saying the TMI Public Health Fund wanted to conduct a more scientific survey, Berger said it would appear the death rate findings are "in excess of observed cancer deaths from what one would expect."

In a telephone interview from his Philadelphia office, Berger cautioned that there has been no showing that the deaths are related to the Unit 2 accident, plant operation on the island, "or anything else."

"Unless you do a careful epidemiological study, you can't make statements," Berger said.

Accompanied at the news conference by three TMI-area members of Concerned Citizens of TMI — Francine A. Taylor, Mary S. Osborn and Jeffrey H. Newman — the Aamodts fielded questions from skeptical reporters demanding hard evidence.

Marjorie Aamodt said they have death certificates of 19 of 20 people who died of cancer in the three York County areas west of TMI Unit 2 during 1980-84. According to the Aamodts' calculations, three cancer deaths might usually be expected in those areas. As they have before, she and her husband implied strongly that the higher-than-normal cancer mortality rate was attributable to large radioactive releases during the Unit 2 accident in March 1979.

However, later in the news conference, Norman Aamodt conceded: "We can't prove a lot of stuff [radiation] got out of TMI."

tion to refute previous studies that found negligible health effects from the Unit 2 accident.

The NRC based its rejection of the Aamodts' motion on a U.S. Centers for Disease Control review of the couple's survey. CDC concluded the Aamodt study lacked "convincing evidence."

The Aamodts fired back yesterday, saying the NRC staff deliberately had altered their survey report before sending it to CDC.

The Aamodts asked the Justice Department to investigate for criminal misconduct. Pages were omitted from the survey report, and in one section, language was altered, they charged.

An NRC spokesman yesterday responded on behalf of Dr. William A. Mills, who as chief of the agency's Health Effects Bureau, was the principal staff member dealing with the CDC.

According to Mills, the copy of the Aamodts' study did have missing pages because of a photocopying error. Mills said he was unaware any language was altered, the spokesman said.

In addition, Mills knew, as the Aamodts also have said, that the Pennsylvania Health Department had forwarded a complete copy of the report and therefore decided nothing else needed to be done about it, the spokesman said.

Another group of settlements, approved Jan. 25, were presented to the court by the Pittsburgh law firm of Trasi, Tighe, Tierney and Johnson, which will receive 40 percent contingency fees.

Each petition said the parents of the children involved had engaged the firm "with respect to possible emotional and other injuries" resulting from the accident.

None of the children had "provable" physical injuries or emotional injuries that required medical treatment, the petitions said.

Therefore, the petitions said, the plaintiffs' attorneys found the offered settlement to be a "fair and reasonable" compromise.

Receiving \$10,000 apiece through those settlements were:

- James R. Klinedinst Jr., son of James R. and Carla Klinedinst of York Haven.
 - Gina Metzgar, 16, daughter of Lewis and Sall Metzgar of Mount Joy.
 - Elizabeth Ropka, 17, Thomas Ropka, 12, and Richard Ropka, 6, children of Richard V. and Connie Ropka of Bainbridge.
 - Edrige Sardi, 14, and Marco Sardi, 14, children of Marchillo and Donna Sardi of Columbia.
 - John T. Melson, 17, and Melissa Melson, 1, children of Sharon Wettrau of Columbia.
 - Nicole Glenny, 16, Lee Glenny, 14, and Lor Glenny, 7, children of William and Connie Glenny of York Springs.
 - Angela Lovell, 9, and Adam Lovell, 14, children of Duane and Cindy Lovell of Lewisburg.
 - Paul Fletcher, 15, children of Marling and Louise Fletcher.
 - Sandeep Thakrar, 15, and Monica Thakrar, 10, children of Avil and Neema Thakrar of Camp Hill.
 - Andres Bratic, 7, and Kelly Bratic, 5, children of Kathleen Bratic of Grantham.
 - Marc Worona, 17, and Stephanie Worona, 14, children of Valentin and Lesia Worona of Harrisburg.
 - Robert S. Aquino, 17, and Deborah Aquino, 14, children of Edward and Peggy Aquino of York Haven.
 - Dean Laughman, 43, Dayne Laughman, 7, and Donald Laughman, 5, children of Craig and Joan Laughman.
 - Michelle Davis, 12, daughter of Barbara Cetera of Dover.
 - Jason Minnich, 15, and Michael Minnich, 17, sons of Howard and Vickie Minnich of Ebers.
 - Nicole Linsey, 13, and Jill Linsey, 8, daughters of Dennis and Rosemary Linsey of Tampa, Fla.
- The remaining settlements were:
- \$21,700 for Amy Shoop, 6, daughter of Edward and Sydney Shoop of Bainbridge.
 - \$42,000 apiece for Robert Thomas Jr., 13, Mathew Thomas, 12, and Deanna Thomas, 10, children of Robert and Mary Thomas of Lemoyne.
 - \$24,000 apiece for James Hartsfield Jr., 17, and Robert Hartsfield, 14, sons of James and Marian Hartsfield of Dunn, N.C.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, February 1, 1985

Couple loses round in bid for TMI data

Associated Press

State Attorney General LeRoy S. Zimmerman's office said yesterday that it has no jurisdiction to help a husband and wife team pry information out of the Health Department on health studies done after the accident at the Three Mile Island nuclear plant.



Aamodt

In a letter, Zimmerman told Norman and Marjorie Aamodt of Coatesville, Chester County, that they must take their case to court. The Aamodts want raw data collected on pregnancy outcomes and a rise in hypothyroidism in Lancaster County after the March 1979 accident, worst ever at a U.S. commercial nuclear plant. They argue the data is public under the Freedom of Information Act.

They contend the Health Department's studies were unscientific and they want the information to convince the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to open a new health-related inquiry on whether TMI Unit 1 should be allowed to restart. Unit 1 was shut down for refueling when the accident happened at Unit 2.

The Aamodts are officially recognized participants in the ongoing restart hearings held by the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

Dr. George Tokuhata, the Health Department's chief epidemiologist who headed the studies, said he could find no links between the accident and adverse pregnancy outcomes or the hypothyroidism cases.

He has refused to give the Aamodts the raw data, citing confidentiality rules and continuing department work on the data.

The Aamodts were not at home when a reporter called yesterday.

TMI pollution

EDITOR:

WHEN TMI reared its ugly head people in Central Pennsylvania and over the world as we know it, learned of the realities of that plant situated in our midst. It was not born of love, respect and clarity; it was conceived in greed, chaos and the air of a slow death. Furthermore the prospect of sudden death looms over us minute by minute.

We the people in this area voted no in what was termed a "non-binding referendum." I ask, is the fifth we breathe from that place, is the cancer eating our neighbors alive, is the death that has already claimed friends and loved ones through grotesque cancer "non-binding"?

I for one am weary of saying no over and over and over and over. My children understand no when they hear or read it. It is, therefore, difficult for me to understand why the word of the people is non-binding while profit mongers and death brokers are free to play at "caring" whether we the people matter. We answered no — why does it (the question) keep popping up?

I now want to ask a question: What does TMI have to do with love?

—India Garrett, Harrisburg

Waitress took on tough competition in hearings

By PETER KELLEY
Staff Writer

Louise Bradford says she found the competition tough in the Three Mile Island hearings that ended Friday at University Center at Harrisburg.

As the lone representative there of the TMI Alert watchdog group, she faced lawyers for GPU Nuclear Corp., the plant operators, and the Nuclear Regulatory Commission — women equipped with law degrees from Duke and Columbia.

Bradford, an emigre from London, England, at age 21, had dropped out of school at 13.

WHILE HER OPPONENTS headed for suburban motel rooms at the close of a long day of hearings, she went to work waitressing at a downtown diner. The Spot.

The attorneys, both from Washington, had direct access to NRC records and staff. She did her research across the street from the diner, poring over copied documents in a windowless room in the Dauphin Building.

Her next assignment, now that the latest round of hearings is over: a month of intense work on proposed findings for the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board.

At issue is whether incidents of cheating on tests by reactor operators casts doubt on GPU Nuclear's training practices and their ability to run the plant safely.

THE BOARD'S ultimate finding is expected to bear on the NRC's pending decision on whether to allow TMI Unit 1 to restart.

Bradford said it was coincidence that made her the "lightning rod" for anti-TMI activists.

Now 44, she said that until the 1979 accident at TMI Unit 2, "Nuclear power appeared to me to be a very middle-class issue, and I wasn't middle-class."

Among the plant's early opponents were some who worried as much about how it would affect their property values as whether it was safe. Bradford, a single parent with three children, was more interested in women's issues and low-income housing.

SHE FIRST LEARNED of the accident at work, in the office of a fair housing council that shared its telephone with TMI Alert. She said she soon decided, "What good is it if you have housing if it's in an unsafe area?"

By 1981, she was sitting in on NRC hearings and boning up on reactor steam tube generators, metallurgy, and operator training and testing.

Since then, with help from other volunteers and Joanne Doroshov, a sympathetic Washington attorney, Bradford said she feels like she's been "holding my finger in the dike" during the often highly technical hearings.

She said in earlier hearings on operator cheating on licensing exams, Chief Judge Gary Milltollin helped her develop a complete record for the NRC. "I was not constantly cut off" on legal fine points, she said.

IN THE LATEST hearings, it was different; she said the chief judge, Ivan W. Smith, "emasculated my case" and tried to force her to combine her efforts with the Union of Concerned Scientists, which was represented by an attorney.

She said Smith criticized her for missing a deadline last fall for submitting a list of the documents she would use in her case. When she tried to introduce the documents while cross-examining witnesses, she complained that he struck many from the record.

Bradford blamed the tight scheduling of recent hearings for giving her little time to meet the deadline. As for combining her

case, she maintained that employee morale at the plants was a key issue and one the UCS had not addressed.

AS THE HEARINGS went into their second month, she said, Smith lost his temper with her on numerous occasions. "He screamed at me," she said, "ranting and raving" until the other two judges stopped him.

Near the end of the hearings, TMI Alert joined Gov. Dick Thornburgh and the Union of Concerned Scientists in calling for the chief

judge to disqualify himself.

In their formal motions, they charged that Smith showed bias by urging another federal judge to give a light sentence to a former reactor operator who cheated on relicensing tests.

Smith said Friday that he wouldn't comment on whether he lost his patience with Bradford. "That has not been part of their motions" to disqualify him, he said.

BUT DOUGLAS Bedell, a GPU Nuclear spokesman, said last week

that "the intervenors have been dressed down regularly by Smith for not making a case against restart."

Bradford said "part of that could be frustration with the fact that non-attorneys ask imprecise questions."

"But that's precisely when the board should intervene and help those non-attorneys make their points. Otherwise, it becomes a total sham — this is not a public hearing at all if the public cannot participate unless you can afford to hire a lawyer."

Rep. Smith renews attack

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, January 26, 1985

NRC again urged to oust judge

By DAVID MORRIS
Staff Writer

A call for Ivan W. Smith's replacement as chairman of a panel considering whether the Unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island should be restarted has been renewed by a York County legislator.

Rep. Bruce Smith, R-Newberry Twp., said in a letter to Nunzio Palladino, chairman of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, that Smith's removal from the case was "imperative" because he "has lost his impartiality and credibility on the issue."

The legislator first called for the administrative law judge's

ouster in a Jan. 8 letter, which he said has not been answered.

Ivan Smith, chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board since 1979, came under fire for a Dec. 27 letter he sent to U.S. District Judge Sylvia H. Rambo. The letter recommended leniency for James R. Floyd, a former employee at the Londonderry Twp. nuclear facility who was convicted of cheating on a take-home licensing test.

The licensing board chief's letter said, in part, "I have always felt that Mr. Floyd's deception was an impulsive act and that it was not motivated by personal ambition. . . . One senses he neglected his examination responsibilities out of a misguided but altruistic effort to attend to matters of perceived greater urgency."

By writing to Rambo, Rep. Smith said, Ivan Smith lost his ability to objectively consider whether the Unit 1 reactor should

be allowed to resume operation.

"Perhaps the NRC is becoming callous to the concerns of central Pennsylvanians over TMI," the third-term legislator said in his letter to the NRC. "Perhaps the NRC doesn't recognize the fact that Ivan Smith has lost his impartiality and credibility on the issue by writing to Judge Rambo."

Rep. Smith also questioned NRC rules that allow Ivan Smith to pass judgment on himself. "Even President Nixon was not allowed to judge himself," he noted.

A number of others, including Gov. Dick Thornburgh, have called for the administrative law judge to step down. Thornburgh said Smith "has gone out of his way to prove himself incapable of fair and impartial decision-making in this complex and difficult matter."

Ivan Smith has said he will decide by the end of the month whether he should step down.



Louise Bradford

panel chief dismissed

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, Jan. 31, 1985

NRC lawyers ask removal of Smith from TMI-1 case

By MICK ROOD

WASHINGTON — Administrative Law Judge Ivan Smith should be disqualified from presiding over hearings on the Three Mile Island Unit 1 restart, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff attorneys said yesterday.

Smith should be disqualified because he has "clearly created an appearance of bias," the attorneys said.

Smith already is considering a motion that he disqualify himself. It was filed by the commonwealth of Pennsylvania which, like the staff, is a party to the TMI-1 restart case.

Smith, 57, who has been an NRC law judge for 10 years, has not indicated when he will rule on his own fate.

If Smith does not disqualify himself, the issue automatically will go to an NRC appeals board for a decision.

If he does disqualify himself, another judge will have to be appointed to head the three-member TMI licensing board.

In either case, the issue will delay board hearing conclusions.

It is uncertain how the situation will affect the TMI-1 restart ruling, which the commission has yet to make. The NRC still has not announced whether it wants to wait for the licensing board's scrutiny of TMI operator GPU Nuclear Corp.'s management integrity.

If not unprecedented, the staff attorneys' opinion against a judge in their own agency is extremely rare, NRC officials said last night.

Along with the state, NRC attorneys Jack Goldberg and Lois Finkelstein first cited Smith's Dec. 27 letter to U.S. Middle District Court Judge Sylvia H. Rambo in which he pleaded for leniency for James R. Floyd.

Floyd is a former TMI senior reactor operator awaiting sentencing in Rambo's court after he was convicted in November of cheating on a licensing exam in 1979.

After vouching for Floyd's character, Smith advised Rambo that:

"A severe criminal penalty against Mr. Floyd is, in my personal view, not needed to ensure the integrity of the NRC operators' licensing process at TMI. . . . The civil regulatory scheme presently administered by the NRC. . . is ad-



Judge Ivan Smith
Disqualification sought

equated to assure that the operators of TMI are persons of competence and integrity.

"I have confidence that the NRC administrative regulatory process. . . will provide an orderly and reliable mechanism for assuring that any problems caused by deception respecting TMI will have been identified and resolved. Deception in the future is very unlikely. A severe sentence for Mr. Floyd would add nothing."

In addition to the letter, NRC attorneys Goldberg and Finkelstein cited instances in which Smith's on-the-record statements "suggest bias or prejudice against findings or conclusions which might adversely affect individuals [TMI personnel]. . . ."

Standing alone, the letter and concern for TMI operators under investigation might not justify disqualification, Goldberg and Finkelstein said. Taken together, however, "they do clearly create an appearance of bias," the attorneys said.

The appearance is, they said, "that Judge Smith is biased, has prejudged issues, or will be inclined to decide issues on a basis other than an objective assessment of the evidentiary record."

Goldberg and Finkelstein said disqualification would "further assure public confidence and the objective resolution" of the Unit 1 restart case.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, Jan. 10, 1985

Thornburgh wants

By PETER KELLEY and FRANK LYNCH
Staff Writers

Gov. Dick Thornburgh last night called for the removal of Ivan W. Smith as head of a three-member federal panel considering the restart of Three Mile Island's Unit 1 reactor.

By asking a federal judge to be lenient in sentencing a former TMI employee, Smith "has gone out of his way to prove himself incapable of fair and impartial decision-making in this complex and difficult matter," the governor said.

An aide to the governor said a motion for Smith's removal as chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will be filed with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington by the end of the week.

Thornburgh complained that while Smith wrote the judge that he was expressing personal views and

did not speak for the NRC, Smith also cited his standing as chairman of the restart hearings.

"I find those two statements to be irreconcilable," Thornburgh said, adding that Smith has shown an "insensitivity to public interest" during the TMI hearings.

In an ironic twist, Thornburgh aide Roland Page said consideration of the dismissal motion could end up before the licensing board, which Smith heads. He said NRC regulations would seem to allow Smith to vote on whether he should be removed.

Smith, an administrative law judge with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, has served as chairman of the licensing board since its formation in 1979.

The board is hearing testimony at the University Center of Harrisburg, North Front Street, on training and testing practices at the Londonderry Twp. plant, site in 1979 of the nation's worst nuclear accident.

ers from cheating and said he is confident "any problems caused by deception respecting Three Mile Island will have been identified and resolved" by the NRC.

The letter closed, "Deception in the future is very unlikely. A severe sentence for Mr. Floyd would add nothing."

Thornburgh's action comes on the heels of a similar request made Saturday by state Rep. Bruce Smith, R-Newberry Twp., who also called for Ivan Smith's dismissal.

Bruce Smith called the request for leniency "obviously a conflict of interest" and promised to write to the NRC asking for Ivan Smith's dismissal.

Yesterday, Thornburgh said Ivan Smith's behavior "precludes public confidence in the integrity of any decision he may render regarding Three Mile Island."

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Jan. 30, 1985

NRC checks tip on contamination of TMI workers

By PETER KELLEY/Staff Writer

A radiation specialist for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission has arrived at Three Mile Island to investigate an anonymous tip about unexpected contamination of workers.

The inspector, John White, was on site yesterday "because of the question of whether or not there should have been respiratory protection" worn by the workers, said Karl Abraham of the NRC Region 1 office in King of Prussia.

GPU Nuclear Corp., which operates the Londonderry Twp. nuclear facility, has confirmed that four workers breathed in airborne radioactive particles Dec. 27 while removing steam generator used in testing at the Unit 1 reactor.

They were allowed to work without clumsy respirators to cut the time needed for the job, thus reducing their external radiation dose, a GPU Nuclear spokesman said.

Their internal contamination was unexpected, he said, but the amount involved was "minute."

According to Abraham, whole-body tests showed the quantity of radioactive matter the workers "inhaled and were not able to exhale" was about 8 percent of the recommended lifetime limit for internal radiation.

He said the company would only have been required to report the incident if the workers were "over-exposed."

Last night, Douglas Bedell of GPU Nuclear said the company did report the incident to the resident inspector on the site, Richard Conte.

However, the first sign that the Region 1 office was aware of the case came in a Jan. 23 letter from Richard W. Starostecki, director of reactor projects for the region, to Henry D. Hukill, director of TMI Unit 1.

In asking for a report of the incident, Starostecki did not say how he learned of it, writing only that "we are in receipt of allegations," and "concerns were expressed."

Repairs at Unit 1, expected to be finished by mid-February, are one of the last steps in preparing the reactor for a possible restart. It has not generated electricity since before the 1979 accident at Unit 2.

Raymond L. Gover
PUBLISHER
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Reed on a limb

Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, January 22, 1985

Exaggerated claims did TMI area no service

IT NEVER was clear to us in the first place why Harrisburg Mayor Stephen Reed was invited to Britain to tell the story about the accident at Three Mile Island. He was a state legislator at the time and hardly a central figure in the drama of the world's most famous nuclear accident. Robert Reid, then as now mayor of Middletown, where the cooling towers of TMI loom like pyramids over the town, would seem to have been a better choice.

In any event, that was the decision of the local British officials who were interested in TMI because a similarly designed nuclear reactor was being proposed for the Suffolk coast near their community. In picking Reed, they choose someone who apparently has a lot to say about TMI, enough to fill 25 pages of testimony.

Unfortunately, Reed's testimony included some misleading information about the health effects of the TMI accident which had long since been discounted and discredited by health officials in this country. In raising the issue of a large and significant increase in the infant mortality rate in this area following the accident, Reed gave new life to an old charge first raised by Dr. Ernest Sternglass, the "Dr. Doom" of the anti-nuclear movement, a charge that has been thoroughly repudiated.

Reed also repeated charges of increased cases of cancer and thyroid problems in local children, and reports of the premature death of numerous locally raised animals from

leukemia, all of which have been probed by responsible and independent investigators without any evidence to link them to the accident.

THE ONLY known and proven health effect of the TMI accident is an increase in stress among people living closest to the nuclear power station. Other investigations and the on-going accumulation of statistical data may uncover and document previously undetected health effects, but there is no real reason to expect that the accident was any more pernicious in its effect on people and animals than existing evidence suggests.

Not surprisingly, the United Kingdom Atomic Energy Authority, which wants to build the plant, challenged Reed's exaggerated claims of the health consequences of the TMI accident. We would have thought the experience of the accident itself, the fear it created, the catastrophe it might have been and what it revealed about the awesome, probably unmanageable, problems that would arise in the event of a full-scale nuclear-power plant disaster, would have sufficed to leave the mayor's audience spellbound.

TMI needs no embroidery. The truth about the accident and its aftermath is as strange and fascinating as any work of fiction, and a telling indictment of the nuclear industry and its regulators. Too bad the mayor could not have left it at that when he told the British about our ordeal.

Look into cancer 'clusters'

STATISTICALLY, there appears to be a better-than-even chance that in any controversy surrounding a nuclear plant someone, usually Dr. Sternglass, will appear on the scene with what is purported to be statistical proof that radiation from atomic power plants is killing people.

"Dr. Doom," a radiologist by training, has done it at TMI and he has done it at countless places around the country, and all that he has managed to prove is that he is not a very good statistician.

That is not to say, however, that what Sternglass has failed to prove statistically is not, in fact, taking place. Even the government estimates that the small amounts of radiation released into the environment by the normal operation of each nuclear plant will contribute to the deaths of a small number of people over the life of the plant and that the accident at Three Mile Island possibly will result in a few more deaths over time. What is important to keep in mind is that these projected nuclear-power related deaths are infinitesimal in terms of the overall number of expected deaths from cancer.

These guesstimates, and they are no more than that, are based on a presumption that any amount of radiation is dangerous and that the greater the exposure the greater the danger. Where Sternglass and a handful of other researchers part company with most of the scientific community is in their conviction that very low-levels of radiation are much more harmful than is generally believed.

Trying to link cause and effect in cancer deaths is a tenuous business at best, even in what would appear to be the most obvious circumstances. Attempting to associate a particular cancer death with a particular incident at a nuclear plant really is stretching it, particularly when there are so many other random influences that could be taking

place, all the way from heredity to diet to possibly the type of house one lives in, not to mention a multitude of other possibilities.

THIS is the problem with the alleged cluster of cancer deaths found in three communities in York County by Norman and Marjorie Aamodt. Their claim is worthy of attention and investigation if for no other reason than it is not beyond the realm of possibility. But it has been reviewed once by the Centers of Disease Control in Atlanta, a credible and respected federal agency, which found that Aamodt's information lacked "convincing evidence of cancer incidence, cancer mortality, or adverse pregnancy outcome in TMI-area residents following the accident."

The state Health Department has gone over the same ground without finding evidence that the accident led to a rash of cancer deaths, but has agreed to review the Aamodts' data. Another study may be undertaken through the Three Mile Island Public Health Fund.

A thorough epidemiological study may be able to identify other possible explanations for the cluster, but it almost certainly will not be able to prove definitively that radiation released during the accident in March 1979 led to the cancer deaths of 20 residents living west of the plant between 1980 and 1984.

Unfortunately, clusters of cancer deaths — if there is a local cluster as the Aamodts contend and the disease center appears to refute — are all too commonplace in America as we are beginning to discover through improved record keeping. A great deal of work remains to be done to better understand the causes of these clusters, which in most cases are far removed from nuclear plants, before jumping to drastic conclusions on the basis of questionable statistical data.

State reviewing activists' request for raw TMI data

The state attorney general's office is reviewing a request for help from a Chester County couple seeking raw Health Department data about studies into the health effects of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident.

Norman and Marjorie Aamodt of Coatesville yesterday asked Attorney General LeRoy S. Zimmerman's office to ensure that the state Health Department gives them the information.

"Their request will be reviewed to determine what legal steps if any the attorney general may be able to take," said Zimmerman's spokesman, Patrick Boyle.

The Aamodts, who are parties to the hearings into the restart of the TMI Unit 1 reactor, want the information for their case.

They contend the Health Department studies were "unscientific" and not supported by available evidence. They have been seeking the data since November and filed a request under the Freedom of Information Act Jan. 15 after they were formally turned down.

One part of the study looked into the outcome of pregnancies after the March 1979 accident, in which the reactor core overheated and was severely damaged.

Four workers exposed to radiation, TMI says

By PETER KELLEY
Staff Writer
Four workers at Three Mile Island's Unit 1 reactor were unexpectedly exposed to airborne, radioactive particles in late December, the plant operator has confirmed.

The incident has led GPU Nuclear Corp. to reconsider a new policy of sending workers into certain radioactive areas without wearing clumsy respirators. It also prompted a recent inquiry from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

However, company spokesman Douglas Bedell said preliminary tests showed the four workers' exposure to internal radiation was "minute." He said the workers spent from two to 27 minutes on Dec. 27 in the head of one of the Unit 1 reactor's massive steam generators.

York Daily Record • Wednesday, January 16, 1985

Couple says government hid high rate of cancer near TMI

By SUSAN FITZGERALD and JIM DETJEN
Kingshott-Ridder Newspapers

WASHINGTON — A Pennsylvania couple filed a complaint with the U.S. Justice Department Tuesday, charging that the federal government has covered up a high rate of cancer deaths and other health problems among people living near Three Mile Island.

Norman and Marjorie Aamodt of Coatesville accused the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of deliberately altering a report on a door-to-door health survey conducted by the Aamodts and other volunteers last year.

They said the survey found that the cancer death rate in three communities near TMI was seven times higher than normal in the years since the March 1979 nuclear accident at the unit 2 reactor.

In a letter to Attorney General William French Smith, the Aamodts accused the NRC of omitting 10 pages of their report and deleting affidavits before the NRC turned the report over to the Centers for Disease Control in Atlanta in August for further study.

Dr. Glyn Caldwell, a CDC epidemiologist, made note of the missing pages in a letter to the

NRC in September. "Much to my surprise," he said, he discovered that the copy of the Aamodts' report submitted to him by the commission was different from a copy given him by the Pennsylvania Department of Health.

After reviewing a complete copy of the Aamodts' report, Caldwell concluded that the health survey did not present "convincing evidence of cancer incidence, cancer mortality or adverse pregnancy outcome in TMI-area residents following the accident."

NRC spokesman Joseph

plant officials.

In a motion filed Tuesday with the NRC, the Aamodts asked the commission to reconsider a previous request to investigate whether TMI hid or destroyed records showing the amount of radiation released into the environment during the accident.

Last month, the NRC turned down a similar request for an investigation by the Aamodts.

The commission noted that while radiation records from the accident were missing, there was no evidence to support the Aamodts' charge that they had been intentionally destroyed.

The Aamodts refused to identify the exact location of their health survey, saying they had promised confidentiality to the

residents of 100 households who participated in the study in the spring.

They said the survey, conducted in three communities on the west shore of the Susquehanna River within eight miles of TMI, found 20 cancer deaths among a population of 433 persons.

They said that number, which they said was supported by death certificates, was seven times higher than what would be expected among the population.

They said their survey also found an unusually large number of cases of tumors, various types of cancer, skin rashes and miscarriages.

The Aamodts said the NRC

the FORUM

Reed defends TMI claims

EDITOR:
ON JAN. 22 an editorial appeared suggesting that my testimony in the United Kingdom contained misleading information about Three Mile Island and potential health effects from the 1979 accident.

Ironically, underneath this editorial was a separate editorial stating the Patriot-News Company's view that reports of "cancer clusters" should be thoroughly investigated by independent health authorities. This is no different than my own view.

On Jan. 11, my office offered a copy of my testimony in the United Kingdom, at British governmental hearings on nuclear power, to a Patriot-News reporter. The offer was declined.

Your editorial of Jan. 22 was apparently written without even having read let alone evaluated this testimony.

I am therefore at a loss to understand how your editorial concluded that my testimony contained "misleading" information.

A review of the testimony indicates that I clearly offered but made no conclusions about several reported health problems. I specifically said that reports of increased infant mortality following the 1979 accident, reports of thyroid disorders in Lancaster County and reports of increased cancer rates in areas close to TMI, deserved independent investigation and that, for now, no conclusion can be made from such other than that they merited further review before any government determined that nuclear power plants were absolutely safe and that host community areas had no risk associated with being the site for a nuclear power plant.

That is no different than your own recommendation contained in the separate editorial of the same date of Jan. 22 and certainly no different than any responsible governmental official should seek on the question of nuclear power plant siting.

Your editorial also questioned why I was invited to go to the United Kingdom instead of the mayor of Middletown. The invitation to attend was issued following a visit by a representative from the English municipalities to this area.

—Stephen R. Reed,
Mayor,
Harrisburg

Cancer

Continued from 1A

Fouchard said Tuesday that the missing pages were due to a clerical error. "According to the people who did it, they said it was a Xeroxing error," he said.

At a news conference here Tuesday sponsored by the Concerned Citizens of Three Mile Island, a Lancaster County citizens' group, the Aamodts said the high number of cancer deaths they documented in three communities near TMI was a strong indication that far more radiation was released during the early hours of the accident than was ever acknowledged by government or

TMI says four workers inhaled radioactive particles at plant

By MICHAEL ARGENTO
Daily Record staff writer

Four workers at Three Mile Island last month unexpectedly inhaled a small amount of radioactive particles inside a section of the plant's unit 1 reactor, plant operator GPU Nuclear Corp. said Tuesday.

The technicians, who were working on the reactor's steam generators, inhaled amounts of

radioactivity well below standards set by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, GPU Nuclear spokesman Gordon Tomb said.

"It was unexpected," he said. "From our past monitoring of airborne radioactivity, we determined that the level was low enough that they wouldn't ingest any radioactive material."

The technicians weren't wearing bulky respirators while they worked in the top of the steam generators, Tomb said. When

possible, he said workers don't wear the respirators because they make work difficult.

The incident occurred Dec. 27 when the technicians entered the building to remove test probes from the steam generators. The probes were inserted into the tubes in the generators to detect leaks.

Leaks in the steam generators were detected two years ago and GPU Nuclear has been working since then to fix them. Tomb said the repairs should be completed

by mid-February.

The work is preparation for the restart of the undamaged reactor. It was closed for routine re-fueling since the March 1979 accident at the adjacent unit 2 reactor. GPU has said it will be ready to restart Unit 1 by the spring. The NRC has yet to rule on the restart.

During the incident, one technician spent as little as two minutes in the building, Tomb said. The longest a worker was in the area was 27 minutes, he said.

Because officials had deter-

mined that the area had a safe level of airborne radioactive particles, the four workers weren't wearing respirators to filter the air they breathed, Tomb said.

Later, it was discovered each worker had inhaled up to 10 millirems of radiation, much less than the NRC's annual limit of 5,000 millirems of internal contamination, he said.

Those levels were measured by whole-body counts of radiation conducted at the plant and analysis of paper filters in radiation

detectors, he said.

Each of the four technicians also were exposed to between 50 and 260 millirems of external radiation, but that exposure was expected, Tomb said. The external exposure was well below the company's standard of 5,000 millirems a year and the NRC's limit of 12,000 millirems a year.

Until the company finishes its investigation of the incident, all workers will be required to wear respirators inside the plant, Tomb said.

Thursday, Jan. 17, 1985 The Philadelphia Inquirer

Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, February 1, 1985

Key decision on TMI restart put off

By Jim Detjen and Susan FitzGerald
Inquirer Staff Writers

WASHINGTON — More than 200 spectators, many of them Harrisburg-area residents, jammed a Nuclear Regulatory Commission meeting room yesterday in anticipation of a pivotal decision concerning the future of the Three Mile Island nuclear station. But that decision never came.

Instead, the NRC chose to continue to debate a while longer about whether the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at TMI was ready to be restarted.

The five-member commission was divided yesterday over what issues needed to be resolved before a restart vote could be taken. Nunzio Palladino, chairman of the commission, told the members to submit written opinions on what course the agency should take.

Palladino said he hoped the agency could reach a consensus within the next two weeks.

A top agency lawyer told the commission that at least one additional TMI hearing was needed. Richard Levi, a senior attorney for the NRC, said the agency's legal advisers believed that hearings should be held on charges that safety records were falsified at the TMI Unit 2 reactor in the months leading up to the March 28, 1979, accident there.

Despite more than five years of deliberations centering on TMI, the NRC has never held hearings on the so-called Hartman allegations. Harold Hartman, a former TMI control room operator, told NRC investigators in 1979 that plant workers routinely falsified and destroyed records showing whether excessive water was leaking from the Unit 2 reactor's cooling system in the months leading up to the accident.

In November 1983, a federal grand jury in Harrisburg indicted Metropolitan Edison Co. — a subsidiary of General Public Utilities Corp. (GPU), which then operated the plant — on charges stemming from those allegations. Last February, the company pleaded guilty or no contest to seven counts of an 11-count indictment.

Unit 1 was shut down by an NRC order in the aftermath of the Unit 2 accident and has remained shut since. The NRC has been conducting hearings since 1980 on whether GPU, the plant's owner, should be allowed to begin producing electricity again at the Unit 1 reactor.

James Asselstine, an NRC commissioner, said he believed the agency should also hold hearings on allegations that three former TMI engineers were harassed by plant managers after challenging the safety of cleanup procedures at Unit 2.

But Lando Zech, another commissioner, urged the agency to move swiftly with its decision-making.

"The time is rapidly approaching that the five of us make a decision," he said. "The time is near."

The agency's inability to reach a consensus on what further TMI hearings are needed appears likely to delay a restart vote for at least a month.

Palladino said that if hearings were held on the falsification of records at Unit 2, it was possible that they could take a year to complete.

But he said the commission could decide to vote on the restart of Unit 1 before the completion of those hearings.

Philip Clark, president of GPU Nuclear Corp., the GPU subsidiary that now operates TMI, said that although company officials were "pleased with the apparent determination of the commission to continue to press to reach a decision [on restart]... we're disappointed that there's not more of a consensus among the commissioners on how to reach that decision."



The Patriot-News Co.

Raymond L. Gover
PUBLISHER

Ronald W. Minard
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TMI vote

NRC slouching toward restart decision

Harrisburg, Pa., Monday, January 14, 1985

IF GOVERNMENT agencies make New Year's resolutions, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission seems to have made one to finally take a vote on whether to allow the restart of the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island. The commission is expected to decide on Jan. 16 whether it will take a vote on restart, possibly to take place on Jan. 28 or Jan. 31, or at least that is the word filtering out of the agency.

Several times in the past the NRC appeared on the verge of voting on restart and then backed off. On this occasion, however, a commission that does not contain one member who was around when the TMI accident occurred nearly six years ago may feel it is time to end the impasse at America's most famous nuclear power station.

If the NRC had any backbone and if it had a strong sense of what constitutes the public interest, rather than the interest of the nuclear industry, the agency could have made an informed decision on restart years ago. It could have said "no." But the NRC doesn't like to say no — indeed, it appears to have an institutional inability to say no — so it delays and delays and delays, all in the pretext of gathering additional information, until it gets up the gumption to say "yes."

THERE is no reasonable justification for the length of the time that has been spent waiting for a resolution of the restart question. If business and the rest of government took six years to decide similarly important and delicate issues the entire country would grind to a halt.

The industry and its bureaucratic cohorts in government like to blame this delay — and most of the other delays that seem to be congenial to nuclear power — on the tactics

of critics and opponents of restart. In the case of TMI, this smacks of blaming the victims for the worst nuclear-power accident in the nation's history.

But the real cause of the delay was the total unpreparedness of the NRC and the nuclear industry to deal with a major nuclear accident. It took five years before there was a reasonable prospect that adequate funding would be available to clean up the accident and almost six years have gone by without the NRC coming to a conclusion on whether TMI-owner General Public Utilities has the wherewithal to operate a nuclear plant competently.

SURELY if the NRC had something decisive to say about TMI, other than granting restart, it would have said it by now. And yet if the NRC does act this month it will confirm what many people have believed from the start, that all of the hearings and miles of reports were meaningless because it will have made a decision while some presumably significant matters, such as an investigation of management competence and integrity, remain unfinished.

But the whole aftermath of TMI has been a lesson in failure, not only for the nuclear industry but for regulators as well, and there isn't any reason to expect a change now. One would hope, though, that the NRC decision on restart, when it finally comes, will have something more reassuring to offer the people of central Pennsylvania than the prospect of GPU being given an unrestricted license to operate as if TMI never happened and GPU wasn't responsible.

An understandably concerned public deserves no less from the NRC after the TMI accident and the equally trying ordeal of watching the NRC try to make up its mind.

Intelligencer Journal

Thursday

January 24, 1985

Panelists Declare TMI Health Issues Cover-up

By David Sturm
Intelligencer Journal Staff

A public panel, meeting in the city Wednesday, hammered away on the need to clear the air on health issues before the restart of Three Mile Island's Unit 1.

The panel meeting came a week before the Nuclear Regulatory Commission is expected to vote on restart of the undamaged reactor.

Norman and Marjorie Aamodt, the Coatesville couple who conducted their own health survey of the area, again charged a virtual cover-up is going on.

They accused the NRC, General Public Utilities and others of conspiring to withhold from the public evidence showing public health problems and death from the accident.

About 40 persons turned out at city council chambers for the two-hour discussion, which was most-

ly led by the Aamodts.

The Coatesville couple did door-to-door surveys of residents in the vicinity of TMI and came up with a survey including sworn affidavits from persons who experienced health problems in the wake of the accident.

The Aamodts are all but convinced these cases including skin disease, organ failure, cancer and even death are in places where the radioactive cloud, or "plume," enveloped the ground in the hours and days after the accident.

Their data has been greeted with skepticism in some scientific quarters and the Aamodts themselves have welcomed an independent inquiry.

But in response to a question Wednesday, Aamodt said he doubted if there was any new information or safeguard that would convince him Unit 1 can be

safely restarted.

"I can't honestly think of a way they could do that," he said.

As they have on other occasions, the Aamodts outlined some of the health issues indicated by their survey:

- Rashes, skin reddening and other skin problems experienced by TMI neighbors.
- Deaths, diseases and birth abnormalities in farm animals and pets.
- Unusual size and abnormal shape in some plant life.

- Disappearance of bumblebees and other insect life.
- Muscle cancer in humans which could be associated with exposure to cesium.

- Collapse of internal organs depression of the immunity system, loss of hair and other incidents.

\$1 billion 'in place,' GPU insists

By PETER KELLEY
Staff Writer

The owners of Three Mile Island yesterday repeated an official's claim of last September that nearly \$1 billion is "in place" for the cleanup at the Unit 2 reactor.

A GPU Nuclear Corp. spokesman said the utility knows how it will get all but \$38 million — about 4 percent — of the estimated cost for the 10-year-long cleanup.

One way apparently is to restart TMI's Unit 1 reactor, undamaged in the 1979 accident. The 1985 budget of \$120 million includes an estimated \$15 million from the existing rate structure following a restart.

"Of the many proposals for financing the cleanup, the current plan follows most closely the one advanced in 1981 by Gov. Dick Thornburgh," company officials told members of the Citizens Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI Unit 2.

Thornburgh has urged federal authorities not to allow the restart until cleanup funding is complete.

Yesterday, a press aide to the governor said Thornburgh was unimpressed by the latest announcement.

"We're not satisfied at this point that we have

assured funding of the cleanup," Roland Page said.

That also was the response of TMI-Alert, an independent citizens' group monitoring the cleanup and opposed to restart. Kay Pickering, a group leader, said several sources the utility is relying on still may fall through.

"There's no guarantee" that electric utilities around the country will continue meeting payments on their voluntary commitment of \$130 million — or that future federal budget cutting will spare the \$83 million expected from the Department of Energy, she said.

The largest sources are insurance policies that already have contributed \$305 million, and electric customers. GPU Nuclear expects another \$201 million from its ratepayers, on top of \$45 million they already have paid.

According to the budget released yesterday and outlined to the citizens advisory panel last September by Ed Kentner, GPU Nuclear executive vice president, company stockholders will contribute another \$82 million; the state of Pennsylvania, \$30 million, and New Jersey, \$11 million.

The Japanese nuclear industry, which is studying the cleanup, is providing \$18 million in staff and services. Another \$21 million of similar support is coming from Babcock and Wilcox, designers of the plant, as settlement for a lawsuit.

—The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, January 12, 1985

THREE MILE ISLAND: Accident without an end

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1985 The Philadelphia Inquirer

Problems cited by NRC

The NRC has cited at least 140 instances of problems at TMI, including lapses in radiation protection for workers, inadequate plant security, fire-safety violations, inadequate environmental monitoring and improper handling of radioactive materials. The agency has issued 42 "notices of violation" — formal letters of criticism — to TMI managers for these infractions.

Through the end of last year, TMI records show, there had been 593 documented cases in which a cleanup worker's skin had been contaminated by radioactive materials.

Among the safety problems documented in records on file with the NRC are these:

- Radioactive particles leaked into the air outside TMI in January 1982 because drain plugs in the plant's air-filtration system were missing. TMI engineers had learned of the problem in June 1980. But instead of being resealed with carbon-steel plugs, as required by plant specifications, the drains were covered with tape.

- Contaminated water from a storage tank near the reactor complex leaked onto the ground in January 1982 and August 1983. Radioactive substances such as cesium, strontium, cobalt and tritium have been detected repeatedly in the groundwater near the Unit 2 reactor.

- More than 600 gallons of concentrated sulfuric acid spilled onto the ground outside Unit 2 on Jan. 13, 1981, after a control-room operator turned the wrong valve. One reason for the mistake was that plant engineering drawings were out of date — a recurring problem in the cleanup.

- TMI engineers installed a sewage holding tank for waste water in 1982 without obtaining a permit from the state Department of Environmental Resources or from local authorities. Radioactive particles later were discovered in the tank's sewage, which was being trucked to a treatment plant in Lancaster.

Despite the NRC's criticisms, TMI officials say the cleanup is being run safely and poses no health problems to workers or the public.

Parks, King and Gischel complained about safety on numerous occasions before they left TMI, according to affidavits and sworn statements on file with the federal government. Parks and King have appeared before a U.S. House subcommittee that investigated the cleanup; all have complained to the NRC.

Each has argued that shortcuts were taken to hurry one of the tasks most important to the cleanup — the repair of a 400-ton device, called a "polar crane," that is crucial to major cleanup work.

The three engineers said there was no guarantee that the crane could safely carry a load because procedures had been violated during its repair. If the crane malfunctioned, they warned, a heavy load could come crashing down on sensitive equipment inside the reactor building, possibly triggering another serious accident and release of radioactivity.

Because of the three engineers' complaints, major cleanup work was delayed for more than a year while the NRC investigated. In a written report in September 1983, the NRC confirmed many of their safety allegations.

In July, the crane was used successfully to lift the 159-ton lid off the damaged reactor vessel in preparation for removing the intensely radioactive fuel from the reactor core.

But after the crane was used, plant inspectors found in August and September one set of brakes on the crane's hoist was not working properly.

An internal GPU Nuclear report issued in October said the problem had occurred because plant engineers, not wanting to wait nine to 10 weeks for the manufacturer to ship the necessary parts, had fabricated "homemade" parts for the brakes in 1982. They then installed the brakes in violation of correct safety procedures and reviews, the report said.

William Travers, the top NRC official at the plant to oversee the cleanup, said during an interview that if both sets of brakes on the crane's hoist had failed during the sensitive lifting of the reactor lid, the massive steel lid could have dropped.

It was exactly that kind of potential accident that Parks, King and Gischel had warned might happen if plant rules were not followed.

But by the time the lid was lifted, the three engineers were no longer working at Three Mile Island.

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THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Tuesday, Feb. 12, 1985 The Philadelphia Inquirer

Since the cleanup began, inspectors for the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission have identified more than 140 problems, such as plant security, fire safety in areas, environmental monitoring and radiation safety.

Environmental problems at TMI

1

SULFURIC-ACID SPILL:
Hundreds of gallons of concentrated sulfuric acid spilled onto the ground in January 1981, after a plant operator turned the wrong valve.

2

CONTAMINATED WATER:
Contaminated water has leaked from a storage tank. Tritium and radioactive cesium, strontium and cobalt have been found in the soil and groundwater near the tank.

3

RADIOACTIVE RODENTS:
Radioactive rodent droppings were discovered in the basement of the Unit 2 complex in February 1981. Three months later, radioactivity was identified in rats and in the droppings of mice and rabbits.

4

RADIOACTIVE AIR POLLUTION:
Radioactivity leaked from the plant into the air in January 1982 because drains that should have been sealed with carbon steel plugs were instead covered with tape.

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