



# Island Updates

News Watch on the Harrisburg Area

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, August 29, 1985

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The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, August 28, 1985

## TMI unit could run tomorrow

By Peter Kelley  
Patriot-News

Barring last-minute court action, the undamaged Unit 1 reactor at Three Mile Island could be operating by tomorrow.

Operators of the Londonderry Twp. nuclear power plant say they could restart Unit 1 within 12 to 16 hours of an expected go-ahead from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in Washington.

Word from the NRC could come today, Philip R. Clark, president and chief executive officer of GPU Nuclear Corp., told reporters at a news conference here yesterday.

"The plant is ready. It has been 'hot' since mid-June," Clark said, but he said there was some confusion about the wording of a judgment issued Tuesday by a panel of federal judges in Philadelphia.

Clark said he had expected the judges to lift a court-ordered stay of the NRC's May 29 order allowing the plant to restart. Instead, the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals panel simply "affirmed" the NRC order by a 2-1 vote.

"We don't know exactly what that means," Clark said. "It's our

judgment that the NRC would be able to release us, but they have to make that judgment, of course."

Frank Ingram, an NRC spokesman reached last night at home, said the NRC sent the court a letter late yesterday afternoon "saying that we interpret their decision as dissolving the previously imposed stay" and that "we are proceeding to issue the appropriate papers to allow a restart of TMI Unit 1."

Ingram said he did not know when those papers would reach GPU Nuclear or in what form, but he confirmed that they would be issued unless the court says otherwise.

Clark said he did not agree with an interpretation by Gov. Dick Thornburgh's office that the order would not take effect for three weeks, and that no steps could be taken to restart the plant in the interim.

He conceded that GPU Nuclear expects one or more appeals of the three-judge panel's decision to the full federal appeals court. It was unclear if that could further delay restart.

Clark, who spent part of yes-

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terday in the TMI-1 control room, said "everyone out there is just anxious to go, delighted that we have another favorable step and hopeful this will turn out to be the final [step]."

Near-operating pressure and temperatures of 530 degrees were reached June 8 at TMI-1 with non-nuclear heat developed by its four giant water pumps. Since then the plant's 915 workers have been training in six shifts, said Douglas Bedell, a plant spokesman.

If the company does receive an NRC go-ahead, Clark gave this scenario of events:

— Henry D. Hukill, director of TMI-1 and GPU Nuclear vice president, would decide when everything was in place to begin the restart sequence. Hukill, a former commander of Navy nuclear submarines, later held responsibility under Adm. Hyman G. Rickover

for selecting and training all nuclear submarine commanders. He joined GPU Nuclear in June 1980.

— At Hukill's direction, coolant water levels would be raised in the plant's steam generators and in the reactor, taking four to five hours.

— Control rods would be eased out of the uranium-loaded reactor over a period of several hours.

— Levels of boron, an element that absorbs speeding neutrons given off by uranium fuel and helps stop a chain reaction from occurring, would be decreased over eight or nine hours. The reactor would then be allowed to "go critical," an industry term for starting a self-perpetuating nuclear reaction.

The startup schedule for TMI-1 resembles that for a new plant, Clark said. It would reach 12 percent power, when it would start sending out electricity, during the

first week of operation. But it would take 90 to 100 days to reach full power, with monthlong plateaus at 48 percent power and at 75 percent.

Clark warned that "it's typical when you start a plant this large to have minor equipment problems or procedure problems." But he said "we feel we will be prepared to handle the problems which will inevitably arise."

The NRC has already sent more personnel to the site and will monitor the startup closely, Clark said.

The Unit 1 reactor was not damaged in the March 28, 1979, accident that crippled its sister reactor and discharged low levels of radiation. But it has remained in "cold shutdown" for most of the nearly 6 1/2 years since while the NRC and its Atomic Licensing and Safety Board held 155 days of

hearings and collected more than 100,000 pages of evidence on whether TMI-1 should be allowed to restart.

In the meantime, Clark said, GPU Nuclear's parent company, General Public Utilities Corp., has spent \$400 million to \$500 million on staff, new equipment and training at Unit 1.

Replacing the electric power that TMI-1 generated for more than four years has cost the company and its customers an extra \$14 million a month, for a total of more than \$1 billion in added power costs since 1979.

Individual ratepayers would see only a slight cut in their electric bills from the annual \$72 million that restart is expected to save GPU customers, Clark said. But he said the largest industrial customers may save more than \$1 million a year.

## TMI protesters oppose decision

By Wendi Taylor  
Patriot-News

About a dozen demonstrators gathered at Three Mile Island's North Gate last night to protest a federal court panel's decision that would allow the restart of the Unit 1 reactor.

State police said they arrested Gene Stip, 35, of Harrisburg, and Dale Singer, 33, of Lancaster, after they refused to leave the scene.

Each was arraigned before District Justice William G. Heckman on a charge of obstructing a passageway and released on his own recognizance. The charge carries a \$500 fine, police said.

Stip is a member of Three Mile Island Alert and Singer is a member of the Susquehanna Valley Alliance.

The action last night was part of an anti-restart campaign to get Gov. Dick Thornburgh to remove the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency from the emergency response plans drafted by GPU Nuclear Corp. TMI's operator, for protecting the public in the event of a nuclear accident.

Stip said that if the governor, as his chief officer, pulled PEMA out of the emergency plans, the plant would be "inherently unsafe" and could not reopen.

Stip said the governor has said repeatedly that he is opposed the restart and called upon him to prove it. "He could technically pull us out," Stip said. "The question is, does he have the guts to be leader?"

Doug Bedell, spokesman for GPU Nuclear, said he could not comment on what would happen if

the governor took such an action. "We have an approved emergency plan. It's been tested, approved and is in force," he said.

"We expect to demonstrate to the public that the plant is being run the way they want. ... We will be letting the public know if anything significant happens, but we're hoping they will be viewed in the proper context," Bedell said.

Those opposed to the restart also have asked Dauphin County Commission Chairman Norman P. Hetrick to pull the county out of evacuation plans.

Stip and Singer held a sign reading "You'd better react before they do" across the North Gate.

When they were asked to leave by GPU security guard Lt. John Enders, Stip answered, "We are blocking these gates in order to prevent the plant from restarting. Not only out of concern for our lives but those who work here." He then asked Enders help in preventing the restart.

Singer, who also refused to leave the gate, said that he and his wife "are hoping to have healthy children someday if we can stop this plant. They are hurting the public for financial gain."

At noon today a coalition of activists will demonstrate at the Governor's Mansion and ask concerned citizens to call the governor's hot line and tell him to pull PEMA out of the emergency plans.

"We're asking individuals not to cooperate with the emergency plans and to call the governor and tell him they will not participate in GPU's emergency plans," said Stip.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, August 30, 1985

# Restart stay keeps TMI in limbo

By Mick Rood  
Patriot-News

A federal court again left Three Mile Island Unit 1's fate hanging yesterday, by continuing a stay on the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's intent to order restart of the reactor.

The 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia continued its original June 7 stay on the restart minutes before the NRC planned to issue a go-ahead order in Washington yesterday afternoon. The continuance was issued by Judge Collins Seitz about 3:55 p.m.

"NRC attorneys, who had thought a 3rd Circuit three-judge panel's ruling Tuesday against further

review of the case meant the stay was lifted, pulled the restart order before it was issued at 4 p.m.

The circuit court action will allow parties opposed to the TMI Unit 1 restart at least two weeks to appeal for a rehearing by the full circuit court. The delay could continue beyond that as the federal judges mull the appeals.

"We haven't done anything and now we can't," NRC spokesman Frank Ingram said.

Poised to discuss restart procedures with reporters at its Harrisburg media center, GPU Nuclear Corp. officials cut short a briefing. The gradual start-up schedule to achieve full power at Unit 1 in about 100 days would have produced a nuclear chain reaction in the reactor within 12 to 16 hours.

"We of course will abide by the court's action," said GPU Nuclear spokesman Gordon Tomb. "We look forward to an early disposition of the petition so that we can proceed."

GPU spokesman Doug Bedell amplified on that yesterday evening, saying the company was "deeply disappointed."

"The NRC made a finding that we can operate the plant safely and the three-judge [circuit court] panel affirmed that [May 29] order," Bedell said. The plant will remain on hot standby status, which will allow the utility to restart Unit 1 within hours of any future court order lifting the stay.

GPU Nuclear officials had relied on a legal inter-

pretation of the circuit court panel's 2-1 opinion — one that the court had implied the stay was lifted.

In a confusing day of legal maneuvering, parties opposed to the restart filed a flurry of motions with the circuit court, including:

— The state's motion for an emergency stay, which said "the extreme public importance of this matter" required continuance of the stay.

— A Union of Concerned Scientists letter to the court saying an NRC restart order yesterday would constitute contempt of court because the restart stay was never addressed in the circuit court opinion. UCS counsel Elynn Weiss called the NRC and GPU Nuclear

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assumptions "incredibly presumptuous."

Three Mile Island Alert's motion for the court to clarify the stay situation, which the court did.

Weiss of UCS and attorney Lynne Bernabel of TMIA said they were preparing to file appeals for rehearing en banc — by the full circuit court.

Roland Page, a spokesman for Gov. Dick Thornburgh, was more circumspect about the state's intentions.

"It gives us time to carefully review the court's decision," Page said. "I don't want to overinterpret, but it will be at least two weeks."

Thornburgh was on his way back from New Hampshire, where Northeastern governors were meeting.

"We're delighted," said TMIA's Bernabel. "It means the stay will be in effect pending resolution of the petitions for review."

TMI Unit 1 has not operated since February 1979 when it was shut down for refueling. After the March 28, 1979, accident at TMI Unit 1, the NRC shut down Unit 1 indefinitely until safety improvements GPU Nuclear now contends are complete were in place.

Earlier yesterday, before the stay was continued, Dauphin County commissioners had delayed action on a TMIA proposal that the county withdraw its emergency response plans regarding Unit 1.

Emergency responses are drafted to protect and evacuate people living in the vicinity of a nuclear plant. Such plans are required in order for a utility to hold an operating license from the NRC.

TMIA spokesman Gene Stip

said there is precedent for such an idea.

This week an NRC panel denied an operating license for the Shoreham nuclear power plant on Long Island, N.Y. The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board refused to grant the license mostly because New York state and the county in which the plant is located refused to participate in emergency planning.

Stip said he is unsure what the legal ramifications of such a move would be regarding TMI, except that it probably would delay a restart.

If the state or the county would pull out of the emergency plan covering TMI-1, "you would throw an unknown legal roadblock in the way" of restart, Stip said. "I want you commissioners, and you are our last hope, to put some kind of obstacle in the way of restart."

Commission Chairman Norman P. Hetrick, who noted that the board has long been on the record as opposing restart, said the commissioners would need to talk with attorneys before withdrawing county participation in emergency response planning.

He questioned whether the county, which is "charged with protecting the people," could legally withdraw from the emergency system to block restart. He added that the county emergency management agency has received funds to help prepare against a nuclear incident at TMI.

"I believe we've got to follow the law of the land, and we will not do anything that will jeopardize [our] responsibility in upholding the law. So we cannot give you an answer today," Hetrick said.

Patriot-News staff writer Frank Lynch contributed to this report.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, June 27, 1985

## Judges to study TMI-1 restart

By Mick Rood  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A federal court panel will hear arguments today on the adequacy of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's May 29 order allowing GPU Nuclear Corp. to renew operation of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor.

In its pre-argument brief filed yesterday with the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals in Philadelphia, GPU Nuclear snapped at its detractors for suggesting the company is connected "to alleged wrongdoing of the past."

There have been enough safety hearings and a 100,000-plus page administrative record in the Unit 1 proceeding to vindicate the NRC's judgment that the plant undamaged in the Unit 2 accident six years ago can be operated safely, the utility's lawyers argued.

"TMI-Unit 1 will be operated by a vastly different, much larger and better qualified organization than existed at the time of the TMI-2 accident in 1979," the utility said.

A three-judge panel today could throw out petitions insisting more safety hearings were

promised by the NRC and required by federal law. Or it could agree with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, Three Mile Island Alert, the Union of Concerned Scientists and Norman and Marjorie Aamodt of Coatesville that more hearings are needed.

If the court sides with the intervenors, the next decision would be whether to lift the stay on the NRC's restart approval order while the case is being tried.

GPU Nuclear lawyers singled out Three Mile Island Alert's arguments for special attention of the court.

"TMIA's practice is particularly egregious when it argues that current TMI-1 management is somehow linked to alleged wrongdoing of the past," GPU Nuclear said.

GPU Nuclear said the midstate anti-nuclear group used in its brief "misrepresentations of fact," "distortions of the record," "attempts to mislead by omission," and "arguments as fact."

Utility lawyers gave the court 10 examples. In one, GPU Nuclear noted the NRC had rejected the removal of utility officials for responsibility in the 1978-79 leak rate falsification case. GPU Nuclear

ar's predecessor, Metropolitan Edison Co., pleaded guilty to criminal misconduct in 1984.

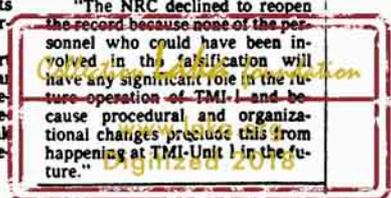
TMIA referred to the utility officials as "similarly involved in misconduct," the utility told the court, when there has never been direct evidence incriminating General Public Utilities Chairman William Kuhns, President Herman Dieckamp, or managers Michael Ross and Brian Mehler.

Both the U.S. attorney who handled the leak rate case and the NRC cleared the four from any wrongdoing in the falsification of reports to the NRC. The state, TMIA and UCS want hearings on the connection between GPU Nuclear management and the falsifications — hearings the NRC precluded in February.

As for other GPU Nuclear personnel the NRC plans to investigate later for involvement in falsifying the reports, the utility said:

"The NRC declined to reopen the record because none of the personnel who could have been involved in the falsification will have any significant role in the future operation of TMI-1 and because procedural and organizational changes preclude this from happening at TMI-Unit 1 in the future."

Order



# GAO concludes NRC's plan for nuclear plant safety lags

By Mick Rood  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — If you think progress on the Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear accident cleanup and the Unit 1 restart decision has been slow, don't worry, the problem isn't endemic.

The General Accounting Office has concluded the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's "Action Plan" for making nuclear plant improvements nationwide based on TMI accident lessons learned, is, well, behind schedule.

In a survey answered by 31 utilities running 54 nuclear plants, the GAO said all safety tasks wouldn't be completed until 1989 when they were supposed to be done by now.

By then, those utilities estimated they would spend \$1.7 billion on TMI-related backfitting and personnel improvements, or more than \$32 million per plant.

The NRC quibbles with some of the GAO report numbers and

denies it has downgraded monitoring of the Action Plan. GAO still thinks the NRC ought to give Congress a one-time full accounting of how well utilities have complied.

Although utility executives spend a lot of their time lobbying against what they regard to be needlessly elaborate NRC safety regulations, the GAO-surveyed utilities said only about one-fourth of the 176 different TMI Action Plan requirements were unnecessary.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, July 20, 1985

## TMI feedwater rated low in reliability

By Mick Rood  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff has classified Three Mile Island's Unit 1 emergency feedwater system as having "low" reliability, NRC Chairman Nuzio Palladino has told an inquiring congressman.

Rep. Edward Markey, D-Mass., had asked the NRC to rank feedwater systems of Babcock & Wilcox-designed reactors in the wake of the June 9 accident at Davis Besse-Unit 1 in Ohio. Steam generators at the Ohio plant were boiled dry during the accident, which Markey has

called one of the worst since the one at TMI-Unit 2 six years ago.

An NRC special investigation team concluded last week that poor management by Toledo Edison Co. led to the accident, but the team also suggested basic design problems with B&W plants.

The NRC staff estimated that three B&W plants — Davis Besse-1, TMI-1 and Arkansas-1 — had emergency feedwater systems with low reliability. Under that ranking, the feedwater system could be expected to fail one in 1,000 times. Five other B&W plants were ranked as having "medium" reliability, well within NRC safety goals.

GPU Nuclear spokesman Doug Bedell said GPU Nuclear plans to make improvements on the feedwater system, raising it to the medium category used by the NRC staff, during the first refueling after a Unit 1 restart.

The NRC granted GPU permission to restart Unit 1 May 29, but the order was challenged in the U.S. Third Circuit Court of Appeals by intervenors in the restart case. A decision is pending.

Markey said Palladino acknowledged B&W feedwater systems, which are relied upon to remove heat from the plant's primary system,

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## TMI errs on waste sent west

By Mick Rood  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Three barrels of low-level radioactive waste shipped to Washington state last month from Three Mile Island in Pennsylvania have been ordered sent back across the country.

Mislabeling of the barrels prompted the order and the suspension of GPU Nuclear Corp.'s permit to bury contaminated TMI materials at the Hanford Waste Management Facility in central Washington.

The Washington Department of Social and Health Services suspended the GPU Nuclear permit Tuesday after three barrels in a 104-barrel shipment from TMI Unit 2 last month were found to contain more radiation than the utility had classified them as holding.

Nancy Kirner, supervisor of the department's radiation control section, said yesterday the suspension will last one week. It could be lifted Tuesday when GPU Nuclear officials meet with her to outline the utility's shipment procedures, Kirner said.

The Washington's state Health Department ordered the three barrels shipped back to TMI to be repackaged and relabeled. Both GPU officials and Kirner said the barrels met shipping requirements and presented no hazard.

However, the misclassification of the three barrels' contents could have been a long-term safety prob-

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do not meet NRC safety standards set in the mid-1970s when the B&W systems were already built or being built. Palladino told Markey the plants met standards in place at the time and were, in effect, grandfathered in.

"As the result of this voodoo regulation," Markey said in a statement released by his office yesterday, "the NRC has admitted a key safety system is of low reliability."

To publicize the problem, Three Mile Island Alert, an intervenor in the TMI-Unit 1 restart case, issued a release yesterday noting the NRC's "low" ranking of the TMI Unit emergency feedwater system.

The NRC safety goal, generally, is to require systems projected to fail only once in every 10,000 initiations.

Bedell said the utility is "puzzled" by the low ranking and will explore it with the NRC staff.

Bedell made two other points:

— That the TMI emergency feedwater system is different in several basic design respects from the Ohio unit, and "we believe the Davis Besse accident wouldn't have occurred at TMI-Unit 1."

— That TMI seemed to equate an accident involving the loss of feedwater capacity with a radiation releasing core melt, something that does not necessarily follow.

The Union of the Concerned Scientists long contended during the TMI-Unit 1 restart proceedings that the plant's emergency feedwater system and its backup system were highly susceptible to failure and unplanned releases of radiation.

But when the commission approved restart of Unit 1 in late May, it rejected UCS contentions, despite an NRC appeals board's conclusion in 1983 that the NRC staff had failed to verify safety of the system. Noting that, Bedell said feedwater reliability at TMI-Unit 1 in Londonderry Twp. has been litigated.

lem had the barrels been buried undetected.

It was the second time GPU Nuclear's burial permit has been suspended. The other infraction occurred in 1982. Kirner said "that's a good record" for a utility. There are 1,400 permit holders that use the Hanford site, which is the largest nuclear dump in the country. Kirner said a license to bury waste is suspended on the average of about once a month.

The Hanford low-level waste facility is operated by a private firm licensed by both Washington state and the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission. The suspension was noted in a preliminary notice of violation issued Tuesday by the NRC.

GPU Nuclear, in a news release yesterday afternoon, acknowledged the suspension.

"GPU is strengthening its system to assure the proper classification of low-level radioactive wastes from Three Mile Island," the company said. GPU Nuclear noted, and Washington state officials confirmed, that "the shipment met all transportation criteria and posed no threat to workers or the public at TMI or along the shipping route."

The entire 104-barrel ship-

ment, which left TMI Unit 2 on July 14 and arrived at Hanford on July 23, was labeled "Class A" low-level waste by GPU Nuclear personnel. The Class A waste limit is .008 curies of strontium 90. Hanford officials found the three barrels contained strontium 90 above that limit — one as high as .012 curies. Those barrels should have been labeled "Class B" low-level waste.

Class A waste is normally buried in the 55-gallon drums in which it is shipped. More precautions are required to isolate Class B waste for burial.

GPU Nuclear spokesman Doug Bedell explained that the company's radiation engineering department correctly analyzed the three barrels of piping from the TMI Unit 2 water-processing system as Class B waste. But a shipping employee misread the analysis, did his own analysis and mislabeled the barrels as Class A waste, Bedell said.

The shipping employee erred in his analysis because sand in the barrel partially shielded the strontium 90 on the piping and lowered the detected level of radioactivity, Bedell said.

Washington state suspended GPU Nuclear's burial permit for 13 days in 1982 when the lid on a waste barrel from TMI popped off.

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# County court gets TMI suit over higher electricity bills

By Mary Warner  
Patriot-News

A 1981 class-action suit seeking recovery of higher electricity costs due to the Three Mile Island accident has ended up in Dauphin County Court, two years after a federal judge ruled for the defendants.

The suit was transferred to county court because appellate judges ruled last year that U.S. Middle District Court did not have jurisdiction when it granted summary judgment for the defendants in August 1983.

The suit names 18 people and 10 businesses as plaintiffs and seeks certification as a class action representing other electricity consumers who have paid higher bills

because of the 1979 accident at the Londonderry Twp. nuclear plant.

The plaintiffs are from New Jersey and from Pennsylvania cities and towns more than 25 miles from the plant. Residents within 25 miles of the plant were covered under a \$25 million class-action settlement in 1981 for economic losses due to the accident.

The suit was filed by attorney Lee Swartz, who has filed many of the recent personal injury claims resulting from the TMI accident.

The suit says TMI owner General Public Utilities Corp. and its subsidiaries have incurred substantial expenses because of the accident and that public utility commissions in Pennsylvania and New Jersey ruled that some of

those costs could be passed on to consumers.

The plaintiffs' electric bills were "substantially higher" because of the accident caused by the defendants' negligence, so they owe damages for that economic loss, the suit says.

The suit was filed in federal court in March 1981 and was assigned to U.S. Magistrate J. Andrew Smyser, who ruled that lawfully ordered rate increases cannot be undone through the courts and recommended summary judgment for the defendants. Federal Judge Sylvia Rambo adopted Smyser's report and followed his recommendation.

The plaintiffs appealed to the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals, which did not consider the issues in the suit but ruled that federal courts had no jurisdiction over it. The defendants sought review by the U.S. Supreme Court but were denied, so the plaintiffs asked the federal court here to transfer the suit to county court.

Plaintiffs in the suit are Donald A. Stibitz of Reading; Cumberland Woodcraft Company Inc. of Carlisle; Forget-Me-Not Inc. and Larry Welker Ford Inc., both of Shipensburg; FMG Investments Inc.,

Gettysburg Tours Inc., Heritage Inns Inc. and L.E. Smith Wholesale Distributor Inc., all of Gettysburg.

Also, Richard and Shirley A. Baade, Albert C. and M. Isabel George and New Freedom Lumber Co., all of New Freedom, York County; Victor Hebel and P.G. Engineering of Stewartstown, York

County; Dorothy S. Hostetter of McSherrystown, Adams County; J.L. Richard and Linda Harner of Hanover, York County; James and Diane Barron and Margaret M. Jonas of Dingmans Ferry, Pike County; Dr. Maxine C. Bush of Mehoopany, Wyoming County.

Also, the Rev. Alva Tompkins

of Tunkhannock, Wyoming County; Musette Duggan of Sayre, Bradford County; Wels I. Zimmerman of Lewistown, Mifflin County; Pocono Business Furniture Inc. of Stroudsburg, Monroe County; Harry Wallach of Long Beach, N.J.; and Stephen M. Young of Mine Hill, N.J.

# Valve error laid to GPU

By Mick Rood  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — GPU Nuclear Corp. has been cited with what the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff called a minor safety violation during the Three Mile Island Unit 1 start-up program, according to an NRC report issued this week.

The violation occurred June 7, the day the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals blocked an NRC order that would have allowed GPU Nuclear to restart Unit 1 after a six-year shutdown. The court, which heard arguments challenging the NRC restart approval on June 27, has yet to decide whether to lift its decision.

A valve on one of 12 reactor coolant pumps at TMI Unit 1 was mistakenly left closed, a condition that could have caused damage to pump seals during normal operation, NRC inspectors said.

The seals are important, inspectors explained in a report released Wednesday, because they serve as a "boundary" to keep radioactive water out of the secondary cooling system.

William F. Kane, director of the NRC's TMI Unit 1 restart staff, said GPU Nuclear was cited with a violation, but will not have to respond because the company "took immediate corrective action" and took measures "to prevent recurrence."

Kane noted in his report that overall findings from the special inspection were "generally favorable" about the utility's restart preparations.

On the agency's scale of 1 to 5, 1 being the most serious incident, the TMI Unit 1 violation was ranked a Level 4 citation, which does not carry with it imposition of a fine.

The violation was noted by an NRC inspector participating in a

# NRC reverses its view on citizens' panel

By Mick Rood  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — Reversing its previous inclinations, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission agreed yesterday in principle to let its citizens' advisory panel serve as a "conduit" to the public on radiation health effects from the Three Mile Island Unit 2 accident.

NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino said the commission would order within a month that the Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI Unit 2 be allowed to provide a forum at its

meetings for interpretation of various ongoing health studies.

A commission majority had indicated in March that the 12-member panel of technical and lay people was straying from its appointed mission to monitor progress of the Unit 2 accident cleanup.

But panel Chairman Arthur Morris, mayor of Lancaster, insisted yesterday that the panel unanimously favors calling in experts on TMI Unit 2 accident health effects. Public confusion over publicity about some of the health studies

has abounded, according to panel member Joseph Dinunno, and no other group was assisting in the understanding of it.

"Without interpretation of these studies, which are they to believe?" Dinunno asked.

Morris and other panel members assured Commissioner Lando Zech that the group wouldn't become "sidetracked" by controversial health effects issues.

The panel also reassured Commissioner Frederick Bernthal, who said "you can't afford to have your impartiality questioned." The panel

shouldn't "be identified with one school of thought or another" if "very opinionated people on this topic" appear at meetings.

"It's not a big concern," said panel member Thomas Costello. "At most of our meetings we hear from the NRC and GPU [Nuclear the TMI operator], and it hasn't seemed to rub off on us."

Panel Chairman Morris said he hoped the commission would prove the change before the sorry panel's next meeting in Harrisburg on July 18. Palladino said the NRC would try to do that.

special safety check the NRC conducted at Unit 1 between May 31 and June 28.

GPU Nuclear spokesman Doug Bedell said yesterday that a maintenance employee had shut off the pump valve while conducting a required test and forgot to open the valve when he was done.

"The maintenance people have been criticized and instructed," Bedell said.

Company officials had predicted during a June 6 news conference that "minor" problems would occur, which is one reason a gradual, three-month start-up program has been planned, Bedell said.

Joanne Doroshow, an attorney representing the restart intervenor group Three Mile Island Alert, had a different view.

"It goes to show that after all this time the company cannot operate this plant competently. They never mentioned in their press releases since June 7 that they were cited with a violation. It's another indication of downplaying problems at the plant," Doroshow said.

—The Patriot,  
Wednesday, August 14, 1985

# TMI fuel removal delayed

Associated Press

The removal of fuel from the damaged reactor at Three Mile Island is likely to be delayed several weeks because of the late shipment of needed equipment, officials at the nuclear plant said yesterday.

The process now is expected to start in October instead of September, according to GPU Nuclear Corp., operator of the Londonderry Twp. plant.

The equipment includes canisters that will be loaded with core debris from TMI's Unit 2 and metal racks that will be used to store the canisters prior to shipment.

Deficiencies in the equipment supplier's record keeping have required GPU Nuclear to do extra work to verify equipment quality, the plant operator said. Production problems also have slowed construction of the equipment, GPU Nuclear said.

# Anti-TMI group vows to stall on paying electric bills

YORK — A small but determined group of anti-nuclear activists is planning a non-cooperation campaign to voice their opposition to the restart of the Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor.

The campaign will consist of withholding payment on electric bills, conserving electricity and spreading word of the campaign to friends and neighbors.

The campaign was outlined last night to a group of nine people from the York, Harrisburg and Lancaster areas at a Project David regional meeting at West Manchester Mall.

Project David is a coalition of local groups and individuals opposed to the restart of TMI.

Bill Keisling, a Project David leader from Harrisburg, said people should withhold payment of their electric bills and make the utilities collect them.

"Keep your payment with the bill by your door," he said. "By law, the utility must come to your door and ask for your payment before shutting off your electricity."

# Agency summary contradicts TMI illness claims

By Christopher Quinn  
Sunday Patriot-News

While hundreds of area residents are claiming in Dauphin County Court that the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island caused illnesses, a federal agency's summary of medical studies finds the contrary.

The staff of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission recently compiled the results of six years of studies on the accident's effects on the health of people living near TMI.

The findings of those studies — published individually as they were completed — show when viewed together that the accident had no lasting effect on the health of area residents.

The NRC staff has recommended ending NRC-funded TMI health studies and is awaiting a commission ruling. TMI opponents claim existing studies are faulty and new ones are needed.

The studies find that there were no significant changes in pregnancies, men-

tal health, the number of children born with congenital defects and the number of infant deaths after the accident — a heart-meltdown of the TMI Unit 2 reactor.

But lawsuits filed in Dauphin County Court since February claim the accident left more than 900 people with cancer and other sometimes-fatal diseases. The lawsuits are pending.

THE COMPLETED and ongoing studies are summarized here.

A pregnancy outcome study sponsored by the state Health Department to determine whether the accident affected pregnancies near TMI found it did not.

About 4,000 women who gave birth in the year after the accident and another 4,000 who gave birth in the second year after the accident were surveyed. The incidences of infant deaths, birth defects and premature births were the same in each group, the study found.

The women and children will be surveyed every five years.

Another study involving infants was sponsored by the Health Department

to determine if children living in a 10-mile radius of TMI suffered from hypothyroidism, a condition of sluggishness that can be caused by radioactive iodine.

In the year after the accident, the survey found only one incidence of the condition in 4,000 infants, which the study said was normal.

The study said seven cases of the condition were found in Londonderry Twp. in 1979, but concluded that those cases were not caused by the accident.

The Western Psychiatric Research Institute sponsored a study to determine if the accident affected the mental health of TMI employees, mothers with small children, and patients at mental health clinics.

The study found that the mothers had an "excess risk" of anxiety and depression during the year after the accident. The TMI workers and mental patients were not affected.

The state Health Department conducts an annual survey on infant death in the 10-mile TMI radius and has found the accident had no impact on the number of such deaths.

✓ Pennsylvania State University and the NRC sponsored a study to determine how much money the accident cost area residents and communities in health care bills.

The study found that in the 10 months after the accident in a five-mile TMI radius, health-related changes in behaviors cost \$178,419. Days lost from work and visits to doctors made up the bulk of the cost. The study also found increased buying of alcohol, tranquilizers and cigarettes.

✓ A study to determine whether the accident caused people to move from the area found that the number of people who moved before and after the accident remained the same.

However, 15 percent of the people who moved out of the five-mile TMI radius in the year after the crisis said TMI was the main reason they moved.

✓ The state Health Department set out to determine how people living near TMI reacted to the accident. The study, completed in 1981, found that the major impact of the accident came during the

two weeks following it.

THE PEOPLE most distressed by the accidents were younger, educated, married or female, the study showed. People living within 15 miles of the plant suffered more stress than those farther away. The use of sleeping pills and other tranquilizers to deal with stress increased for some people, and the anxiety experienced during the accident fell off sharply after 18 months.

Other studies are under way. The state Health Department is looking at the rates of cancer and cancer deaths in residents living within five, 10 and 20 miles of TMI, and the TMI Public Health Fund is sponsoring a separate cancer study.

The Health Department, along with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency and the NRC, is compiling health information on people living within 20 miles of six nuclear plants in the state. Their findings will be compared to surveys of people living in six other Pennsylvania areas without nuclear plants.

# N-personnel coached on deception, lawmaker says

By Mick Rood  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — A Maryland contractor in November 1983 coached GPU Nuclear Corp. personnel on how to "put one over" on Nuclear Regulatory Commission inspectors, a congressman charged yesterday.

Edward Markey, D-Mass., released 14 pages of course material used by General Physics Corp. of Columbia, Md., in which GPU Nuclear employees who took a course conducted by General Physics were advised how to "interact" with the NRC on containment systems leak-testing programs.

GPU Nuclear said the material is "inconsistent" with the utility's rule that employees be "fully open" with the NRC. General Physics said the material Markey objects to was dropped from a later course for another utility.

BUT IN A letter to NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino, Markey said the "prescriptive" language in the course material should be investigated for its effect on GPU Nuclear management integrity and on the

federal contract status of General Physics. The Maryland firm has been awarded \$500,000 worth of NRC contracts in the last four years.

GPU Nuclear operates the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station in Londonderry Twp. near Middletown, Pa., and the Oyster Creek nuclear plant in New Jersey. Oyster Creek spokesman John Fidler said 17 engineers, all from the New Jersey plant, also took the course.

Jay Whitney, vice president and chief executive officer of General Physics, said the guidance offered in the course material was reviewed and removed after one of the Oyster Creek engineers objected to its content.

AT ONE POINT, under a subtopic titled "Interactions with the NRC," the General Physics course outline asked: "Should the utility inform the NRC of contemplated [leak-testing] program changes?"

The answer suggested in the course outline was, "This is debatable." Alerting the NRC "opens up utility for comments and second thoughts," whereas "springing changes on NRC has benefit of surprise," the material said.

The course outline also advised engineers to per-

form demonstration tests for NRC inspectors on "an 'easy' valve which has traditionally not been a 'problem' leak."

ON THE NEXT page, the General Physics outline said the "traditional industry approach" had been not to tell the NRC when a leak test had failed "since some smooth talkers have managed to get out of failures."

Below that description was the disclaimer that "discussion of the above experience should in no way indicate endorsement of any of these observed approaches."

Despite the disclaimer and subsequent deletion of the material, Markey told Palladino: "While I am sure you would agree that GPU has been in need of help in this area, clearly this is not the type of assistance that the only nuclear utility [TMI] ever indicted and convicted of criminal charges needs."

METROPOLITAN EDISON Co., the predecessor to GPU Nuclear Corp. at TMI, had pleaded guilty to one count of keeping falsified water leak-rate records and no threat to six other counts of falsifying leak tests at Three Mile Island Unit 2 in February 1984.

It may be no coincidence, Markey told Palladino, that the NRC recently issued a notice to all utilities that licensees were not properly performing containment leak-rate tests.

Whitney said he had been contacted by the NRC Office of Inspection and Enforcement last week about the course material referred to by Markey. Whitney brought the NRC up to date about deletion of the material from the course, but has heard nothing further, he said.

"On balance, the course counsels cooperation with the NRC and describes how to fulfill the public health and safety goals. Portions of the course gave the impression that we're counseling counter to that theme," Whitney said.

"WE'RE NOT IN the business to counsel to deceive [the NRC]," he said. "I understand how it could be taken that way."

Whitney noted that Markey had released only 14 pages out of 350 in the course. Fidler said the course material excerpted "is inconsistent with well-established company policy and training, which requires all of our employees to be fully open with the NRC."

# 66 found guilty in demonstration at TMI plant gate

By Frank Lynch  
Patriot-News

With the pound of his gavel in a makeshift courtroom, District Justice William Heckman yesterday found 66 men and women guilty of blocking a gate to Three Mile Island on May 29.

Some of the defendants at the hearing, which lasted more than four hours in the Middletown Area High School auditorium, stormed angrily from their seats and out the door after the verdicts were announced. Others surrounded Heckman, continuing to argue the merits of their cases.

"We've been robbed. What can I say?" said Brian D. Hunt, one of 81 people arrested the day Nuclear Regulatory Commission members voted 4-1 to lift orders that had kept TMI Unit 1 shut down for six years.

That order has been stayed by the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals, and parties to the restart proceedings have argued for and against the need for more health, safety and management integrity issues. A decision by the three-judge panel is pending.

The defendants yesterday did not dispute that blocking TMI's North Gate was an illegal obstruction of a highway or other passageway. But they said they were justified in doing so because they believed their actions were less harmful than operation of the nuclear reactor.

William Tully, Dauphin County assistant district attorney, argued that their defense, although well established in case law, does not apply because the defendants

had legal remedies available to them short of blocking the gate.

A year ago, five people were issued summonses for blocking the TMI gate, and they presented Heckman with the same "justification" defense. But Heckman found the protesters innocent that time.

"No, they're the same group of people," Heckman said when asked if last year's group had any different defense than the defendants had yesterday. "They [last year's protesters] wanted to go to jail, and I didn't want them to," he said.

After issuing his verdicts, Heckman indicated that if the protesters had exhausted every possible legal recourse before blocking the gate, he might have ruled differently. Asked later if that was what he really meant, he said, "No comment."

Those convicted were ordered to pay \$73.50 in fines and costs. Heckman said 11 of those arrested already had pleaded guilty or no contest.

Nine defendants addressed the court yesterday. Some complained that there were shortcomings at the TMI plant and in its management by General Public Utilities Corp. Others told about personal experiences involving the March 1979 TMI accident.

Susan L. Rudy, in an emotional presentation, talked about the death of her infant son to cancer. "I watched him go through that. I wouldn't want anybody else to go through that," said Rudy, who lives in Harrisburg. "I want my whole family intact."

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chael S. Good, 28, of Lancaster; and Nancy C. Benson, 33, of Millersville. Also, Robert W. Colman, 43, of Middletown; Nancy J. McVey, 29, of Lancaster; Ronald L. Davis, 29, of Millersville; Timothy P. Harner, 24, of the 1000 block of Huron Drive, Harrisburg; Janice H. Royer, 34, of Lebanon; Philip Trimble, 39, of Litzitz; Sandra J. Chroma, 36, of the 2700 block of Green Street, Harrisburg; Jonathan H. Hooper, 33, of the 200 block of Verbeke Street, Harrisburg; Bonnie M.B. Leed, 29, of Conestoga; Julia K. Hoskins, 29, of the 600 block of Geary Street, Harrisburg; and Karen A. Stipp, 32, of Newburg.

Also, Daniel M. Welliver, 28, of the 200 block of Emerald Street, Harrisburg; Joyce Ann Corrali, 40, of Middletown; Barbara A. Schoenfeld, 32, of the 2700 block of Derry Street, Harrisburg; Raymond T. Martin, 30, of the 100 block of Penn Street, Harrisburg; Cynthia Y. Pettinelli, 27, of the 200 block of Verbeke Street, Harrisburg; Elizabeth M. Chavey, 61, of Middletown; Jean A. Fitz, 54, of York; Maura E. Fitzpatrick, 28, of the 100 block of Hunter Road, Harrisburg; and David F. Shalt, 39, of the 3000 block of Second Street, Harrisburg.

Also, Vera L. Stuchinski, 30, of the 200 block of Antoine Street, Harrisburg; Leonard Raquozes, 38, of Millersville; Ronald L. Hevener, 34, of Litzitz; Robert E. Payson, 32, of Lancaster; Linda L. Rannels, 38, of Mount Joy; Marjorie A. Clement, 47, of the 100 block of Walton Street, Lemoyne; Toni S. West, 28, of Lancaster; Kirsten Moe, 42, of the 1000 block of Whitehall Street, Harrisburg; and Joan W. Hamm, 55, of the 100 block of Sylvan Terrace, Harrisburg.

Also, Kathy I. Everett, 43, of Lancaster; Dale E. Singer, 32, of Lancaster; Erma I. Weaver, 37, of Landisville; Michael B. Musser, 33, of Lancaster; Roxanne L. Harpster, 24, of the 200 block of Emerald Street; John M. Disanto, 23, of the 1200 block of Colonial Road, Harrisburg; Scott E. Martin, 27, of Elizabethtown; Richard D. Kushner, 27, of the 200 block of Monroe Street, Harrisburg; Eric J. Epstein, 23, of Liverpool; Judy A. Richard, 24, of York; and Brian D. Hunt, 33, of Snow, Okla.

Also, Susan L. Rudy, 32, of the 200 block of Verbeke Street, Harrisburg; Mary Margaret G. Conaway, 49, of York; Lauren M. Taylor, 28, of the 1100 block of North Fourth Street, Harrisburg; Sean D. Downey, 26, of Lancaster; Frank D. Davik, 39, of Mechanicsville; Matthew C. Dodd, 35, of Marysville; Deanne L. Bowman, 38, of York; and Maura Cowan, 23,

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The defendants argued that their actions on May 29 were not only justified, but carried out peacefully and with the cooperation of police. Tully turned that around to say that since the demonstration was planned — even before the NRC vote was conducted — it could not have been construed as being an attempt to stop the "imminent" start-up of TMI-1. "That [the planning] takes away imminence," he said.

The dispute "is not what happened at the North Gate, but whether they [did] deliberately and pre-meditatedly break the law for the sake of breaking the law," Tully said. He argued further that "they were not there to stop TMI, but to bring about greater public awareness.

"These people have gotten what they wanted. They've gotten publicity; they've gotten their day in court. It's time for them to pay their dues," he said.

But Michael Horgan of Harrisburg said the defendants, at the time they marched to the gate, did not know a federal judge would issue an injunction within 10 days of the restart vote.

"If two cars are heading toward each other down a road, when do you swerve? When is it too late? We thought it was our final calling," Horgan said. "We thought it was time."

Those found guilty yesterday were:

Herbert E. Marzoff, 24, of Pequea; John S. Adams Jr., 35, of Alrville; Linda K. Trago, 41, of Elizabethtown; Beth Ann

# Restart protesters turn to governor

By Tony Perry  
Patriot-News

Nearly 30 men, women and children demonstrated on two sides of the governor's mansion yesterday, calling for a "true friend in Pennsylvania."

They asked Gov. Dick Thornburgh to help prevent restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1. A federal appeals court panel Tuesday opened the way for restart by refusing to review a May 29 order by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

On the Front Street side of the mansion, several families held a large banner reading "Gov. Thornburgh, prove that we have a friend in Pennsylvania. Block the restart of TMI."

"What we want is for him to take a leadership role in this state, a firm leadership role," said city resident Louise Bradford, who has represented Three Mile Island Alert since 1980. "Whatever it would take to keep it closed, that's

See PROTESTERS—Page A4  
ready had too many cosmetic reactions" to the Unit 1 restart question, he said.

"I do not have confidence in that plan," he said, "but I think the issue is better addressed from a state level."

Hochendoner said a possible solution would be to press for legislative changes in the NRC's structure to allow local communities to hold a binding referendum about a possible nuclear power facility nearby.



Hochendoner speaks at rally  
From Page A1

what he should do."

"We are looking for three specific things," said Gene Stipp, a member of TMI, in front of the mansion on North Second Street.

"We want the governor to ask the court for an immediate stay of the decision, ask the court for an immediate appeal of the decision, and tell PEMA [the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency] to not cooperate with emergency evacuation plans."

Stipp, who was one of two protesters arrested Tuesday night during a demonstration at TMI's north gate, said the governor should "exercise his duty and prevent a disaster."

Earlier yesterday, Dauphin County Commissioner Lawrence J. Hochendoner called Tuesday's decision by the U.S. 3rd Circuit Court of Appeals "the second disaster at Three Mile Island."

In a prepared statement, Hochendoner said the ruling means "our people can only hope that nothing goes wrong at TMI. ... No one can say that the people of central Pennsylvania and their leaders failed the system. Rather, the system failed us."

Stipp said restart opponents plan to attend today's meeting of the county commissioners to ask that the county pull out of evacuation plans.

But Hochendoner questioned whether such action would be anything more than a superficial solution to the problem. "We've al-

## TMI effects

EDITOR:

ON JULY 21 the Patriot published an article summarizing the Nuclear Regulatory Commission staff report presented to the Three Mile Island Advisory Panel on Decontamination. The report recommends ending NRC-funded TMI health studies and contends that the 1979 accident produced no lasting effect on the health of area residents.

Health effects resulting from the accident have been documented and are still showing up. Studies done to date have only looked at immediate health effects. The effects of radiation exposure may be seen immediately with very high doses, but the NRC has not considered the available data. Following the accident, a number of area residents had reported skin burns, a metallic taste, vomiting, hair loss and other symptoms indicative of higher doses of radiation than the NRC recognizes in their health studies.

However, the effects of cancers from high or low doses of radiation may not be seen for five to 20 or more years following radiation exposure. Dr. John Gofman, who helped to isolate the world's first plutonium, has concurred with other experts in stating that "there never was, and there is not now, any evidence of a 'safe' amount of radiation."

According to a 1984 study commissioned by the TMI Public Health Fund, Dr. Jan Beyea concluded that "significant issues remain unresolved — issues that might bear on the ultimate health effects projected to occur as a result of the accident." Dr. Beyea reviewed hundreds of reports on the accident and found that conclusive evidence has not established just how much radiation was received by area residents.

On the day of the accident,

—Vera L. Stuchinski,  
Harrisburg

The writer is chairperson of  
Three Mile Island Alert.

# TMI: Judges study testimony in appeal on Unit 1 restart

By Mick Road  
Washington Bureau

PHILADELPHIA — A panel of three federal judges yesterday took "under advisement" pleas by lawyers for the state and anti-nuclear groups to block restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1.

Until the 3rd U.S. Circuit Court of Appeals acts, its stay of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission's May 29 order to restart the plant's undamaged reactor remains in place.

About 150 people crowded the largest available courtroom of the circuit court as the judges heard nearly two hours of oral arguments by six lawyers.

The state, Three Mile Island Alert, the Union of Concerned Scientists and Norman and Majorie Aamodt asked the court to order the NRC to conduct more hearings on the operator's integrity before the reactor is again allowed to produce electricity at TMI in London-derry Twp.

The NRC and plant operator GPU Nuclear Corp. asked the court to dismiss the appeal, saying the NRC already has thoroughly examined management's ability to run the reactor.

Afterward, Presiding Judge Collins J. Seltz said only that the issue would be taken "under advisement."

Arguments continued on:

— The NRC decision in February not to allow further licensing board hearings, a move that specifically dropped scheduled hearings on GPU Nuclear Corp. management involvement in leak-rate falsification at Unit 2 in 1978-79.

— Whether the NRC's restart "conditions" to exclude from Unit 1 duty personnel potentially involved in the leak-rate rigging constitutes an operating license amendment that requires a board hearing.

Commonwealth attorney Thomas D. Rees said the state insists on leak-rate hearings because the reporting of coolant inventory is "very crucial to the safety operations of a nuclear plant."

Metropolitan Edison Co., which preceded GPU Nuclear as TMI operator, pleaded guilty as a company to criminal misconduct in 1984 — the only utility to be convicted under the Atomic Energy Act.

The parties argued that hearings, were necessary and should not have been left to the judgment of former U.S. Attorney David Dart Queen.

Queen, in what NRC Solicitor William H. Briggs called an "unusual statement," exonerated 24 TMI managers (but left it open that others were implicated when Met-Ed pleaded guilty).

Judge Walter K. Stapleton was openly skeptical of the call for

more hearings. He told Rees "there never was a lawyer that didn't think of some ammunition" after the fact. Isn't the 5-year-old TMI case "just a case where there's some newly discovered evidence ... a case where you have to decide enough is enough?" Stapleton asked.

Rees said if the safety implications of the leak case had been "fully dealt with, chances are significantly less that we would be here today."

Attorneys Lynne Bernabei of TMI and Eilyn Weiss of the UCS tried to convince the judges that the NRC's way of handling restart gave them an opening to demand more hearings.

Instead of holding more hearings, the NRC has listed about a dozen Unit 2 employees who could not work at Unit 1 because of possible leak-rate falsification involvement. The NRC also said parent company General Public Utilities' Chairman William Kuhns and President Herman Dieckamp were not involved and should not be removed, and there was no direct evidence against former Unit 2 managers Michael Ross and Brian Mehler, and they could continue at Unit 1.

TMI and UCS said the personnel "conditions" were really license amendments requiring a hearing.

# NRC says TMI spill was minor

A Nuclear Regulatory Commission spokesman yesterday confirmed that a spill of 3,000 gallons of low-level radioactive water inside the reactor building of Three Mile Island's Unit 2 did not result in radioactive releases to the environment.

"As far as whether or not there should be concern by the people in the area because of radioactive releases, there should not be," said William Travers, the NRC's deputy director of the TMI Program Office.

He said his office conducted tests that confirmed early reports from GPU Nuclear Corp., the company that operates TMI, that the incident Wednesday had no effect on the environment.

Travers said the significance of the spill "is quite low."

TMI spokesman Gordon Tomb said a hose connected to a new filtration system apparently pulled loose shortly after 11 a.m. Wednesday, spilling 3,000 gallons of water onto the third level of the containment building. The water contained low levels of radioactive cesium, strontium and other materials.

The spill continued for about 15 minutes until a worker noticed the leak and shut off a valve, Tomb said.

# Nearly 100 new TMI claims filed

Almost 100 new claims have been filed in Dauphin County court by people who say they or their relatives were injured by the 1979 accident at Three Mile Island nuclear power plant.

Almost 700 people — or the estates of those who have died since the accident — have sued this year, claiming they suffered cancer, thyroid disorders, anxiety and other ailments because of the accident at the Londonderry Twp. facility.

More than 400 other claims have been filed by relatives of those people.

The suits say the plaintiffs suffered emotional distress because of the accident and were exposed to radiation that increased their risk of cancer and other ailments.

Defendants in the suits are General Public Utilities Corp., TMI's owner; GPU subsidiaries Metropolitan Edison Co., Jersey Central Power & Light Co. and Pennsylvania Electric Co.; the plant designer, Babcock and Wilcox Co.; Babcock's parent firm, J. Ray McDermott & Co.; Catalytic Inc., which performed maintenance at TMI, and engineering firm Burns & Roe Inc.

Government scientists and GPU have contended that too little radiation escaped during the accident to have caused such injuries. And a summary of post-accident medical studies, compiled recently by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, showed no lasting effects on the health of people living near TMI.

TMI critics claim those studies are flawed. Other studies are continuing.

The plaintiffs, their current addresses and their ailments, as described in the latest suits are:

Nelda and Carlton Ludwig of Beaufort, N.C. She suffered cancer.

Dorothy G. and Anthony Vasco Jr. of Steepleton. She suffered ovarian cancer.

Martin L. and Mae L. Kreiser of Elizabethtown. He suffered leukemia.

Thomas and Ruth B. Kesseling of Bainbridge. He suffered colon cancer.

Catherine S. Leno of Middletown, administrator of the estate of Daniel Leno, who had leukemia and died in August 1980.

Guy J. and Jean DePasquale of Camp Hill. He suffered stomach cancer.

Stephen M. and Karen L. Crawford of Harrisburg. He suffered cancer of the abdomen.

Kathleen M. Flanagan of Columbia, hyperthyroidism.

Clayton R. and Frances F. Vogel of Harrisburg. He suffered a malignant tumor in his back.

Florence L. and Samuel S. Cohen of Harrisburg. She suffered a malignant growth on her shoulder.

Robert S. and Catherine W. Hershey of Mechanicsburg. He suffered Parkinson's disease.

Carole A. Foy of Camp Hill, executrix of the estate of John P. Foy Jr., who had cancer in the sinus area and died in August 1980.

Glenna Frazier of Middletown, a heart condition.

Herman H. and N. Marguerite Prosser of New Cumberland. He suffered cancer.

Myrtle Miller of New Cumberland, executrix of the estate of Irvin S. Miller, who suffered widespread skeletal metastases and died in April 1980.

Cynthia Miller of New Cumberland, executrix of the estate of Irvin S. Miller II, who had malignant tumors with complications that led to his death in January 1984.

Robert Frederick of Camp Hill, administrator of the estate of Margaret Frederick, who had breast cancer and brain tumors and died in October 1984.

Audrey Wolfe of Dauphin, administrator of the estate of John M. Wolfe, who suffered aggravation of remissive leukemia and died in September 1980.

Alice E. Ishler and Frank H. Ishler of Londonderry Twp. She suffered cancer of the breast and tongue and he suffered heart disorders.

Myrtle Miller of Middletown, administrator of the estate of Wallace W. China, who had cancer of the esophagus and died in September 1980.

Wilhelmina Kammerer of Harrisburg, breast cancer.

Robyn and Scott A. Diven of Carlisle, whose son, Scott, suffered a cleft palate and hearing loss.

Jean Lehner of Hummelstown, executrix of the estate of Harold Lehner, who had cancer of the pharynx and died in November 1984.

Walter Armstrong of Harrisburg, cancer.

Mary Beth and Barry R. Aroczi of Mechanicsburg. She suffered cancer.

James H. Grim Jr. of Middletown, administrator of the estate of Donna G. Grim, who died of cancerous tumors.

Helen Isaac of Camp Hill, high blood pressure, irregular heartbeat, emotional distress, traumatic neurosis, hair loss and other disorders.

Doris J. Erwin of Mechanicsburg, executrix of the estate of Norman L. Erwin, who had lymph tumors and died in August 1980.

Shelby Kammerer of Harrisburg, administrator of the estate of William J.

Sullivan, who had lung cancer and died in June 1980.

Kenneth A. Pipher Sr. of Camp Hill, cancer.

Carl and Margery Ehrlich of Harrisburg, whose son Andrew suffered congenital heart defects.

Edith Z. Rose of Middletown, executrix of the estate of Bernard Z. Rose, who had a stroke and died in February 1981.

Marie and Carl A. Coble of Harrisburg. She suffered a thyroid disorder and other ailments.

Dolores A. Dix of Middletown, administrator of the estate of Arthur W. Dix, who had cancer of the bone and spinal cord and died in September 1984.

Suzanne and John Bender of Carlisle. She suffered breast cancer.

Paul P. and Benjamin Lipsky of Harrisburg. She suffered hypothyroidism and a thyroid tumor, a blood disorder and other ailments.

Diane Hindermyer of Steepleton, a growth on the ovary, endometriosis and mental anguish.

Rosemarie Conrad, of Harrisburg, administrator of the estate of Carl W. Conrad, who had a heart attack and died in June 1982.

Lelani Mumma of Manheim, hypothyroidism, emotional distress and other ailments.

Lynn and Eleanor Furlow of Harrisburg. He suffered a heart disorder and anxiety.

Earl J. and Amelia D. Beck of Camp Hill. He suffered cancer of the lymph nodes.

Virginia L. and Warren W. Haybs of York Haven. She suffered fibrocystic disease, high blood pressure and depression.

Martin and Betty Peifer of York Haven. He suffered cancer of the bowels.

Theodore and Florence A. Edwards of Harrisburg. He suffered cancer of the colon.

William H. Christine of Dover, skin cancer.

Lawrence and Esta Wolfe of Florida. He suffered lung cancer and a recurrence of thyroid cancer.

Marie K. and William M. Bunka of Effers. She suffered cancer.

"Ella J. Simmons of Dover, climber of the breast, uterus and ovaries.

Susan and Douglas Kandler of Pottstown. She suffered fibrocystic fatty liver and their child, Bobbi Jo, has chronic bronchitis and asthma.

Thomas Desso of Mechanicsburg, administrator of the estate of Carol A. Desso, who had cancer and died in February 1984.

Mary E. and Immen Thompson of Oberlin. She suffered throat cancer.

Catherine R. Brooks of Reynolds, severe skin disorder.

Patricia V. and John R. Frazier of Middletown. She suffered hyperthyroidism.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, June 22, 1985

## New study to probe TMI, birth problems

By Jerry Dubs  
Patriot-News

A new health study on the effects of the Three Mile Island nuclear accident on pregnancies has been commissioned.

The study will investigate whether or not the accident increased the number of miscarriages or the number of infants born underweight or with birth defects, according to David Berger, chief counsel for the \$5 million TMI Public Health Fund. The fund was established as part of a settlement of a class-action suit against the designers and operators of TMI.

The study will cost \$400,000 and is expected to take two years to complete.

Daniel Berger, also counsel to the fund, said the new study was ordered because a previous, six-year state Department of Health study on how the TMI accident affected pregnancies was not definitive.

"It's unfortunate, but the findings that they have come up with have been subject to criticism and varying interpretations. We're aware of the work of the state. The methodological approach by the state has been criticized by researchers. It's a complicated issue. We see [the new study] as building on the state study," Berger said.

Dr. George Tokuhata, director of epidemiology research for the Health Department, questioned what new information could be developed in the study.

"They all say that," Tokuhata said, referring to Berger's claim that the Health Department study was not definitive. "Otherwise, there would be no reason to ask the judge to do it."

"We're doing a very in-depth study. We've been doing these studies for six years.

"We made some preliminary reports, but the final analysis is not completed. We had to wait four years for a radioactivity study," he said.

Tokuhata said initial studies of about 4,000 pregnant women within five miles of TMI have shown no direct relationship between the nuclear accident and miscarriages or other delivery problems.

The only relationship shown in the statistical study dealt with pregnant women who took medication after the accident, Tokuhata said.

"Excess medication was taken during the accident to cope with stress and did not include medication normally taken by pregnant women," he said.

"We're not saying there was an effect. We're just saying that there are some open questions," Berger said.

He said another TMI-health study is being planned for later this year.

Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, August 13, 1985

# NRC staff asks fine for firm

By Mick Roob  
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The operator of Three Mile Island nuclear power plant should be fined \$64,000, the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission says, because one of its contractors allegedly discriminated against an employee who raised safety concerns.

The NRC announced yesterday that its staff recommended the fine against TMI operator GPU Nuclear because Bechtel Corp., lead contractor in the cleanup of the island's damaged Unit II reactor, allegedly discriminated against employee Richard D. Parks.

The action, which GPU Nuclear has 30 days to appeal, comes almost 2½ years after Parks, a senior engineer, claimed the utility was bypassing safety rules in the refurbishing and testing of a solar crane needed in the \$1 billion cleanup of Unit II, which was crippled in a 1979 accident at the Pennsylvania plant, situated in Londonderry Twp., Dauphin County.

Parks' allegations resulted in the citing of GPU Nuclear for a minor, non-fine infraction of federal safety regulations.

Parks claimed, and the NRC staff agreed, he was harassed in early 1983 when managers asked him improper and intimidating questions.

The managers also placed him on leave of absence, according to NRC spokesman Karl Abraham. Parks was relieved of his duties as alternate startup and test supervisor at the Unit 2 reactor, Abraham said.

The NRC staff based its decision on a June 1983 review of Parks' grievances by the U.S. Labor Department, which also found he had been harassed and should have been reinstated.

GPU Nuclear, which since has placed its own personnel in charge of the TMI-Unit 2 cleanup, said it will review the NRC's notice of violation before deciding what to do about it.

The company said in a release yesterday that its policy is "to protect its employees and the employees of its contractors from discrimination as a result of raising safety concerns."

Parks no longer works for Bechtel Corp., according to a company spokesman in San Francisco.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, July 3, 1985

## N-insurance again asked by legislator

Insurance companies would be required to offer home and business owners protection against damages in the event of a nuclear accident under legislation introduced by state Rep. Bruce Smith, R-Etters.

Smith, who introduced a similar bill in the last session, says he wants public hearings held on the measure in order to arrive at the best possible method of protecting property owners against loss.

Smith said few property owners realize their insurance policies specifically exclude a loss caused by radioactive contamination.

"It's time for Pennsylvania to take a leading role in correcting this gross inequity and protect its citizens and their property against the very real possibility of damages from a nuclear plant," he said.

According to Smith, the current market value within a 25-mile radius of Three Mile Island totals \$9.6 billion. Property within a similar radius of the five nuclear power plants operating in the state has an estimated market value of \$52 billion.

"The accident at TMI convinced the nuclear industry of the importance of insurance coverage," Smith said. "In 1979, nuclear plants were insured for \$300 million each; today, most are insured for \$1 billion — nearly twice the coverage available to the public."

Under existing federal laws, the only form of nuclear insurance coverage available to the public is through the Price-Anderson Act, which limits coverage of private property in the event of a nuclear accident to \$585, according to Smith.

The York County legislator is a member of the Nuclear Risk Task Force Advisory Committee which investigates the insurance industry's approach to nuclear insurance.

A 1979 state House report identified lack of insurance coverage as one of 11 specific problems stemming from the accident.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, July 16, 1985

## TMI claims transferred from South

By Frank Lynch  
Patriot-News

Several hundred claims filed in Mississippi against companies connected with the accident at Three Mile Island have been transferred to federal court here.

The suits represent hundreds of central Pennsylvanians seeking compensation and punitive damages for illnesses allegedly caused by the March 1979 accident at the Londonderry Twp. plant.

Fifteen of the suits have arrived in U.S. Middle District Court here for processing. Another 15 are being handled in Scranton, but they too will be shipped to the Harrisburg office for handling, said a spokesman in the clerk's office.

A federal judge in Mississippi ordered the cases transferred to federal court in Pennsylvania since nei-

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, July 12, 1985

## 2 workers in TMI's cleanup file lawsuit claiming illnesses

Two men who worked on the initial cleanup at Three Mile Island have joined the list of plaintiffs who say they suffer from cancer or other illnesses because of the 1979 accident at the nuclear plant in Londonderry Twp.

Arthur D. Tilley of Warminster and Vincent W. DeNoncour of Upper Darby filed suit yesterday in Dauphin County Court against TMI's owners, designers and related companies.

Both men worked at TMI as employees of Markim Corp., a crane operator hired shortly after

the accident to help in the cleanup, the suit says. The men were on the job at TMI for two to 10 weeks and were exposed to radioactive debris during that time, according to the suit.

As a result of that exposure, Tilley suffered cancer of the liver, and DeNoncour suffered cancer of the prostate, the suit claims. It does not say when the cancers were discovered or whether they are now in remission.

Tilley was joined in the suit by his wife, Gertrude, and DeNoncour by his wife, Nora.

ther of the defendants has its principal place of business in Mississippi, and because most of the litigants live in this area.

Lee C. Swartz, attorney for many plaintiffs, said the suits were filed in Mississippi because that state has a six-year statute of limitations for personal injury cases. In Pennsylvania it is two years.

Swartz said all those who filed in Mississippi also had filed in Dauphin County Court. If the court dismisses the county cases because of the statute of limitations, the federal suits will remain, he said.

Defendants named in the suits are TMI designers Babcock and Wilcox of New York, and Babcock's parent company, J. Ray McDermott of New Orleans.

Neither plant owner General Public Utilities Corp. nor Metropolitan Edison Co., the plant operator at the time of the accident, is a defendant in the federal suit. Both entities are named in the county suits.

# 3,000 gallons of TMI water leaks in plant

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, August 15, 1985

By Frank Lynch and Peter Kelley  
Patriot-News

Three thousand gallons of low-level radioactive water spilled from a hose inside Three Mile Island's damaged Unit 2 containment building yesterday, but officials said the incident should not delay the planned defueling of the reactor this fall.

No workers in the building were contaminated in the spill, and there was no radioactive release outside the plant, according to spokesman Gordon Tomb. It was not immediately known how many workers were nearby.

TMI officials also reported a fire in a fuse box in the turbine building. Tomb said the fire was limited to the secondary, or non-nuclear, section of the plant, and damage appeared to be limited to the electrical components of the unit.

Tomb said a hose connected to a new filtration system apparently pulled loose after 11 a.m., spilling 3,000 gallons of water onto the third level of the containment building. The water contained low levels of radioactive cesium, strontium and other materials.

The spill continued for about 15 minutes, until a worker noticed the leak and shut off a valve at 11:25 a.m., Tomb said. The water was carried to the building's basement by way of floor drains, from where it will be pumped out, decontaminated and stored for use in the cleanup at the plant.

Yesterday's spill occurred during a test of a new filtration system that will be used to defuel TMI-2. The test included pumping water from the building's fuel transfer canal into a filtration device and back to the canal.

William Travers, deputy director of the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's TMI Program Of-

fice, said the canal currently houses the highly contaminated plenum, an assembly that was removed from atop the reactor May 15. He said the water, which covers the plenum and shields workers from its radiation, dropped 10 inches during the spill. But he said the plenum remains safely covered by about six feet of water.

The planned defueling is the latest step in the \$1 billion cleanup of Unit 2, which was damaged in March 1979 when the reactor overheated, causing fuel to melt.

Karl Abraham, public affairs director for the NRC's Region 1, said such spills are not uncommon at nuclear power plants. He said his office receives anywhere from six to a dozen such reports a year from plants in the northeastern region.

"When you have a nuclear plant which has miles of plumbing, there's always something leaking someplace," Abraham said.

He said the most recent spill reported in the Northeast was at the Shoreham power plant on Long Island, N.Y., where an operator left a valve open and allowed 7,000 gallons of reactor water to escape.

Abraham said the water that spilled yesterday "is a very small amount when you consider the hundreds of thousands or millions of gallons of water which are in the average nuclear plant."

In the other, unrelated incident at TMI, an electrical transformer on the ground floor of the turbine building shorted and began smoking. TMI's fire brigade, made up of company employees, was called about 1:20 p.m. but the smoking stopped when electrical power was shut off, Tomb said.

The fire is being investigated, and Tomb said technicians doubt there was any damage outside of the electrical components.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, July 23, 1985-

## TMI hit with another suit

By Mary Warner  
Patriot-News

The number of people and estates seeking damages in Dauphin County Court from the owners and designers of Three Mile Island rose yesterday to more than 950.

A new suit was filed on behalf of 35 people, including nine children, and the estates of two people who have died since the 1979 accident at the Londonderry Twp. nuclear plant.

Since February, almost 600 claims have been filed in Dauphin County Court by people with cancer, anxiety and other ailments — or the estates of people who have died. More than 350 additional claims have been filed by the parents and spouses of those people.

Their suits say the accident caused emotional distress and exposed people in the area to radiation that increased their risk of cancer and other serious illnesses.

TMI and government scientists who investigated the accident said not enough radiation escaped to harm anyone. But some TMI critics have raised questions about radiation monitoring during the early hours of the accident.

Plaintiffs, their current addresses and their injuries as described in the latest suit are:

- Henrietta B. Adams of Middletown, glandular problems, nausea and high blood pressure.
- Gary E. and Miriam E. Allland of

Etters. She suffered anxiety. They also sued on behalf of their children, Kimberly and Melissa.

Manuel S. and Elizabeth M. Chavey of Middletown. He suffered prostate cancer, a perforated ulcer and anxiety. She had thyroid problems and anxiety.

Daniel A. Coleman Jr. of New Cumberland, testicular cancer and other tumors.

William E. and Brenda K. Deaven of Elizabethtown, administrators of the estate of Jessica S. Deaven, who died of leukemia in October 1981. They also sued on behalf of their son, Joshua.

Dorothy W. Dice of Everett, Mass., who suffered breast cancer and respiratory, heart and blood pressure problems.

Stella D. Guyer of Hershey, anxiety and high blood pressure. She also is administrator of the estate of James J. Guyer, who had pancreatic cancer and died in December 1982.

Scott E. and Patricia A. Herrold of Hummelstown, whose daughter Jessica had multiple birth defects.

Robert G. and Barbara A. Kosko, of Seven Valleys, suing on behalf of themselves and their children Lisa and Robert Jr. No specific ailments were listed.

Sandra L. and Lewis M. LaMarca of Dauphin. She had hyperthyroidism, fibrocystic breasts and anxiety. He suffered anxiety.

Glenn E. and Nellie E. Laughman of York-Haven. Both suffered anxiety.

Gregg A. Laughman of Mount Wolf, aggravation of a diabetic condition and chronic respiratory problems.

Carl E. and Sandra J. Cross of York Haven. Both suffered chronic respiratory problems, and she also suffered hyperventilation and arthritic problems. In addition, their children, Jennifer, Jason and Eric, suffered chronic respiratory problems and other ailments.

Elizabeth R. Rudy of Elizabethtown, high blood pressure, stroke, skin growths, chronic nausea and coughing spells.

George H. and Ruth A. Somerville of Mechanicsburg. She suffered ovarian cancer and he suffered anxiety.

James E. and Janet M. Thomas of York. He suffered skin cancer.

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