

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

MAY
1988

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

TMIA SEEKS AID IN GATHERING EVIDENCE

TMIA and the Union of Concerned Scientists (UCS) are working to enlist the help of elected officials to force the NRC to comply with the law and their own safety regulations.

TMIA and UCS have petitioned Governor Casey, Representatives Gekas, and Senators Heinz and Specter to force the NRC to provide public documents detailing the investigation of GPU's failure to install necessary safety equipment at TMI Unit 1.

In 1984, the NRC (at UCS's urging) conducted an audit of several reports approving GPU's installation of additional emergency systems. In each case, the NRC found that the required changes to be inadequate. GPU claimed, with the NRC staff's support, that all requirements had been met. It became apparent that both the staff and GPU had lied to the NRC.

At UCS's insistence, the NRC conducted an investigation of the material, false statements made by their staff, and the utility. UCS requested copies of the investigation, but received no reply. Finally in October of 1987, UCS filed a Freedom of Information Act request for the documents with the NRC. Although required to respond to such a request within 10 days, the Commission refused to cooperate.

--Vera Stuchinski

SVA/TMIA EFFORTS SECURE DATA

Frances Skolnick, intervenor for the Susquehanna Valley Alliance and TMIA, successfully petitioned the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) to obtain data regarding the technical specifications of the evaporator GPU plans to use should they receive approval to evaporate 2.3 million gallons of accident-generated, radioactive water. Additionally, the ASLB reprimanded GPU for failing to respond to earlier orders:

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**OPEN
IMMEDIATELY**

Planning Council Meets
Monday, May 9



The Licensee has wasted our time in seeking to elude the obvious thrust and sense of our Order of April 1, the Memorandum and order of January 5, and the Order of January 28, 1988. The design of the evaporator is an issue in this case and, accordingly, the "design" specifications as initially completed by its fabricator (and even if subsequently amended) must be made available by the License in a timely manner for the Joint Intervenor's inspection and copying.

Despite the fact that the hearings are not due to proceed until the fall, GPU has hired a vendor at a cost of \$800,000 to "...design, fabricate, install, and test..." an evaporator. In the event GPU fails to obtain permission to evaporate, they have agreed to sell the vendor the evaporator at half price.

It's not too late to submit your personal statement on the proposed evaporation or request time to present your views in person by writing to the NRC three-judge panel. Write to:

Administrative Judges Wolfe, Bright & Paris
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20555

--Eric Epstein

GPU HOLDS SHAREHOLDERS MEETING ON MAY 2 IN READING

GPU Chairman William G. Kuhns reported at this year's shareholders meeting the the company's earnings increased 24 percent, dividends were doubled to 30 cents a share (the payout ratio is 30 percent compared to industry average of 50 to 70 percent), and return on equity was 14 percent, which was above the industry average. Kuhns also noted the GPU stock had rebounded and increased from its 1980 low of 3 3/8 to 32 1/2 per share, yet GPU's bond rating has failed to establish or maintain an "A" rating.

Kuhns told the audience that by 1997 co-generation would produce 28 percent of GPU's electricity, coinciding with GPU's efforts to control expenditures, constrain capital expansion and establish improved bond ratings.

TMIA asked Kuhns when and how much it would cost to decommission and decontaminate Unit 2. Kuhns said no economic schedules were devised, however he implied GPU's assets could be more profitably employed elsewhere. He expected decommissioning and decontamination to occur somewhere between 2010 and 2020.

PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THEN GIVE MORE TO SUPPORT TMIA ACTIVITIES

NAME _____ PHONE _____
ADDRESS _____ ZIP _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: \$10 \$20 \$50 \$100 \$MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

Membership: \$15 Regular Membership \$50 Sustaining Member
 \$25 Non-Profit Organization \$100 Patron
 \$5 Low income, Student \$200 Club Member
 \$5 Non-member, newsletter subscription

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Hbg. PA 17102

GPU Nuclear President Phil Clark noted that during the next phase of cleanup, Post Defueling Monitored Storage (PDMS), there was, "no way radioactivity can communicate with the environment." In PDMS Unit 2 would be mothballed, in essence becoming an unsecure high- and low-level waste site well into the twenty-first century.

--Eric Epstein

NRC APPROVES DELAY OF TMI CLEANUP

In a Programmatic Environmental Impact Statement issued in April, the NRC staff endorsed GPU's Post Defueling Monitored Storage (PDMS) plan for TMI Unit 2. The plan would allow Unit 2 to be mothballed for "...a storage period of an unspecified length of time," after which the "...licensee plans to resume the cleanup process." The staff noted that, "The licensee has proposed placing the TMI-2 facility into monitored storage because of the benefits of occupational dose savings resulting from radioactive decay during the storage period as well as anticipated advances in decontamination technology."

This position is inconsistent with the NRC's general cleanup policy. The staff maintains that the storage of radioactive water at TMI-2 is an impediment to an expedited cleanup, and the water will not decay sufficiently to merit a delay (TMIA argued that the water should be monitored on site until a safe method of disposal is formulated). On the other hand, GPU and the NRC are content to allow TMI to serve as a high- and low-level waste site for an indefinite period of time. Not only is TMI not suited to be a waste site, but the radioactive materials are dispersed in an unstable state throughout the plant and not contained by barrels.

The disposal of the water and the completion of the cleanup cannot be separated since water is the essential medium in the resolution of both issues. In fact, GPU proposes dumping radioactive water accumulated during PDMS directly into the Susquehanna River.

What can you do? First, to obtain a copy of the PEIS, contact: Dr. Michael Masnik at the Office of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, U.S. NRC, Washington, D.D. 20555. His phone number is 301-492-1373. Public comment is encouraged before the final supplement is completed. Second, contact Thomas Smithgall, 717-291-1041, to reserve time on the agenda of the next Advisory Panel meeting. The meeting is scheduled for May 26, 1988, 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2nd and Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg.

--Eric Epstein

UN PEACE WALK PLANNED

Disarmament, anti-intervention and justice movement activists have come together in a unified call for public action in June when the United Nations convenes its third Special Session on Disarmament. A Walk for World Peace in Support of the UN Special Session is planned.

For Sunday, May 15, a pot-luck meal is planned at Unitarian Church with Buddhist walkers at 6 p.m. On Monday, May 16, they will visit TMI and return to the church for lunch. At 1 p.m. they will begin walking to the Harrisburg City Government Center with local citizens. They will meet with Mayor Reed at 3 p.m.

Saturday, June 11 -- National Protest Action vans have been reserved and will leave designated locations at 6 a.m. for New York City and plan to return to Harrisburg by 11 p.m. Round trip fare is \$25. Interested people should phone 652-0755 and ask for Milton Lowental.

Agenda: Gather at UN and begin march at 11:30 a.m. March to Central Park. Rally of cultural presentations and speeches begins at 2 p.m.

TMIA NEWS NOTES TMIA NEWS NOTES TMIA NEWS NOTES

Volunteers Deb Davenport and Dan Welliver have been reading the printouts of the 15 GPU radiation monitoring stations on a weekly basis. The printouts are housed at the Dauphin County Emergency Management office in the basement of the Courthouse Annex. **Additional volunteers are needed!** Please call Deb at 763-9552 or Dan at the TMIA office 233-7897.

WANTED -- Hosts for house meetings. We supply the speakers and invitations. You supply the house and we will even help with the invitation list. This is an enjoyable way to hear the latest information on the water evaporation issue and raise some money for the upcoming hearings. Phone Kay at the office (233-7897) or Debbie Baker (566-7466).

The TMI Advisory Panel will meet Thursday, May 26, 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn Town, 2nd and Chestnut Streets, Harrisburg. Come, present your views on the evaporator and GPU's Post Defueling Monitored Storage Plan for TMI Unit 2.

Radon info packets available. The March 26 Radiation Forum was a success. For those who were unable to attend, we are willing to distribute the Radon information packet supplied by EPA and DER. Call the office (233-7897) and order your packet.

CALENDAR---CALENDAR---CALENDAR

Monday, May 9 -- TMIA Planning Council Meeting. 7:30 p.m. at the Friends Meetinghouse, 6th and Herr Streets.

Sunday, May 15 and Monday, May 16 -- Walk for World Peace activities in Harrisburg.

Thursday, May 26 -- TMI Advisory Panel. 7 p.m. at the Holiday Inn, 2nd and Chestnut Streets.

Saturday, June 11 -- Walk for World Peace. March and rally, New York City.

Saturday, June 18 -- TMIA Summer Solstice Picnic. 2 p.m. at the Perry County residence of Eric Epstein.

You Are Invited to the Third Annual Summer Solstice Benefit

- Date:** TMIA will host a bluegrass-folk music happening on **Saturday, June 18**
- Time:** **The picnic will begin at 1:00** and last 'till dark. Music, beginning at 2:00 p.m., will feature Jay Smar, Chris Magoc and Friends and Trick Bag.
- Place:** At Eric Epstein's land in Perry County.
- Directions:** Take U.S. 322 West, crossing the Clarks Ferry Bridge, to U.S. 11/15 North (Selinsgrove). In Liverpool (about 12 miles north of the 322/11&15 intersection) turn through the parking lot of Lowe's Restaurant. Turn right, go 5 feet and turn left. Sign will read: Centerville 3 Newport 11. Go 9/10 of a mile. Turn left. Second lane on the left. If you are lost, call Eric's at 444-2173. There is no rain date. If the weather looks bad, call 444-2173.
- Tickets:** \$10 each are available from TMIA and include vegetarian food, chicken, non-alcoholic and alcoholic beverages. Please contact TMIA in advance if you'll be bringing a covered dish or dessert. Call or write TMIA for tickets: 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102. Phone 233-7897.
- Sponsored by:** Three Mile Island Alert (717) 233-7897.



Pay at the door or make you reservation today.

TEAR OFF AND MAIL TO: TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Harrisburg, PA 17102

TEAR OFF

Third Annual Summer Solstice Benefit - Saturday, June 18, 1988

Name _____ Phone _____

Address _____

I have enclosed \$ _____ for _____ reservations (\$10.00 per person includes food, drink and music)