

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

December
1990

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

Working Effectively for You, TMIA Wins a Couple

TMIA Wins at Supreme Court

On an 8-1 vote, the U.S. Supreme Court let stand the ruling of a federal appeals court which forces the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to develop training standards for nuclear plant workers. The NRC was given that charge by Congress in 1982, based on a recommendation of the presidential commission appointed to investigate the TMI accident. The NRC, however, handed-off the responsibility to the Institute of Nuclear Power Operators (INPO) and industry trade group. A coalition of groups including TMIA and Public Citizen filed suit in 1986 arguing that the NRC had not complied with the 1982 law's provision for "regulations or other appropriate regulatory guidance."

Appeals Court Checks NRC on "Streamlining" Effort

A federal appeals court ruled in early November that the NRC went too far in attempting to streamline the licensing of future atomic power plants. The unanimous decision in the Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit was a victory for TMIA and other groups that had argued the streamlining was not in the public's interest. The court specifically said a "one-step" licensing scheme violated the Atomic Energy Act.

Evaporation Hits Snag

GPU Nuclear's plans to dump additional radiation on us hit a snag when the evaporator started making funny noises. What a company! When they aren't busy picking up awards from their nuke industry colleagues, they seem to constantly be working overtime just trying to get things right. At press time (Sunday, 12/2) they were assuring us the evaporator factory reps would be on hand to get any problems corrected and our delayed exposure would be underway in an expeditious manner.

It appears our daily dose will be accompanied by daily assurances of the innocuousness of the low levels of radiation let loose on the population. Cumulative effects? Of radiation? Don't ask them. Apparently GPU's employees are too busy posing for a newspaper ads (Be warned! They do live among us!) to worry about such matters. Wouldn't it be refreshing if in just one of those ads somebody said: "Evaporation is a lot cheaper than disposing of this stuff in a responsible manner. When you get down to it, the well-being of GPU stockholders is what this is all about."

A RED X INDICATES
YOUR DUES PAYMENT
IS REQUESTED

Three Mile Island Alert
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102



**OPEN
IMMEDIATELY**

**Your complimentary "No Evaporation at TMI" bumper sticker enclosed.
Happy Holidays from all your friends at TMIA.**

Baker Out Front on Evaporation - TMIA's Deb Baker was in front of TMI and on the front page of Wednesday, Nov. 28's Harrisburg Evening News (above the fold!) protesting the evaporation which was scheduled to start on Nov. 29. Deb's sign read: "GPU wants us to believe 1 (TMI Accident) + 1 (Krypton Release) + 1 (Evaporation) = 0 Health Effects. It does not require a math degree to know it's 3 times the risk to our children." Baker was with Deb Davenport of Concerned Mothers and Women for what Baker characterized as "our last, final attempt to have a say on this issue."

Please Shop at TMIA for your Holiday Gifts - While it isn't as glamorous as some of the Fifth Avenue shops in New York City, TMIA's Peffer Street office has gifts that might be just perfect for the social activist on your list. Consider:

TMI Contaminated Forever Buttons - a perfect stocking stuffer at only 50¢ each

Bumper Stickers - an assortment available at \$1.00 each

The popular "They Lie" tee shirt is back and at only \$10 this collector's item could serve to replace the one bought way back on the fifth anniversary. Available in all sizes in vivid blue and green.

The Peace Calendar is one of the most popular social issue publications in the USA. It blends dynamic artwork, graphics and poetry by more than 25 artists with life-affirming, progressive values. For the 20th anniversary each grid carries a vignette about the calendar's evolution written by Dik Cool, its founder.

People's history dates (revised each year) provide little known information on world history. Full color; 11x14; religious holidays of many faiths. Only \$10.00.

TMI Study Shows Increased Risk to Children from Background Radiation

from The Nuclear Monitor

When the TMI Public Health Fund's study of cancer risk from the TMI accident was released in September, most media and public attention focused on the study's disputed finding that no excess cancers resulted from the 1979 accident. Overlooked was a potentially much more significant finding: the study found "a statistically significant relation between increased childhood cancer" and background radiation.

According to Jan Beyea of the National Audubon Society, one of the four scientists who conducted the study, in breaking up the TMI area into 2300-person subgroups, the researchers found varying levels of background radiation. The variation was as much as 100 milirems/year. Beyea said that children living in the higher background radiation zones had double the risk of cancer as children in the lower zones. No similar risk increase was seen in adults.

The implication is clear: if background radiation itself poses risks to children, then every exposure above background—even the routine releases from nuclear plants—will add to the risk. The researchers plan to soon publish a new paper focusing on the background radiation issue.

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 Members _____ \$50 Sustaining Membership
 _____ \$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 Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Is Nuclear An Answer to America's Energy Woes?

by Scott Denman, excerpted from the Safe Energy Communication Council's "Viewpoint"

Nuclear power only provides 4.8 percent of America's energy services. Yet the nuclear industry is spending millions to convince Americans that more nuclear power is the answer to America's dangerous liaison with foreign oil. In fact, nuclear power is a "fool's gold" solution to reducing our addiction to foreign oil.

In the first six months of 1990, only 4.7 percent of our nation's oil was used to generate electricity. More than 95 percent of all oil consumed in the U.S. is used to run our vehicles, heat our homes and power our industry. Since nuclear power only supplies electricity, it is not a practical or economical substitute for 95 percent of our oil consumption.

Furthermore, the small amount of oil used to generate electricity is a byproduct of the gasoline distillation process. There currently is no concern about a shortage of this residual oil. Even if there were, nuclear power is a "baseload" power source, designed to operate at least 60 to 65 percent of the time. Unlike nuclear reactors, oil-fired plants can be turned on and off with relative ease and most often are used for "peak" power at times of highest demand. Of the roughly 400 oil-fired power plants now in use in the U.S., only 10 percent or fewer are considered baseload plants. For these reasons, nuclear power is an ill-suited replacement for oil—foreign or domestic.

Massachusetts Study Finds Increased Leukemia Risk Near Pilgrim

from *The Nuclear Monitor*

A three-year study by the Massachusetts Dept. of Public Health (DPH) has concluded that adults living and working within 10 miles of Boston Edison's Pilgrim reactor from 1978-1983 had a four times greater risk of contracting leukemia than those living elsewhere. The study also concluded that the risk of leukemia increased the closer one lived and worked to the plant. Said the DPH, "a dose-response relationship was observed in that the relative risk of leukemia increased as the potential for exposure to plant emissions also increased."

GAO Criticizes Safety of Nuclear Plants

The Harrisburg Patriot reported nearly two-thirds of America's nuclear power plants—including four in Pennsylvania—may have parts that do not meet government safety standards. The substandard parts include steel, pumps, fuses, valves, circuit breakers, and pipe fittings sold to the plants—including TMI, Limerick, Peach Bottom and Susquehanna—during the 1980s. The GAO reported that government investigators found substandard or counterfeit fasteners in more than half of the nation's 113 nuclear plants, some of them in safety systems designed to shut down a reactor in an accident.

VITAL STATISTICS

courtesy of Greenpeace

Number of barrels saved per day if the United States used oil as efficiently as Japan: 7 million

Number of barrels of oil imported per day (pre-boycott) from Iraq and Kuwait: 730,000

Cost, in one September week, of maintaining the U.S. military operation in the Persian Gulf: \$600 million

Amount devoted to renewable energy for fiscal year 1990 by the U.S. government: \$411 million

Average fuel efficiency, in miles per gallon, of cars in the United States: 18

Average fuel efficiency, in miles per gallon, of cars in Italy: 34

Average fuel efficiency of new U.S. cars in 1988: 28.6

Average fuel efficiency of new U.S. cars in 1990: 27.8

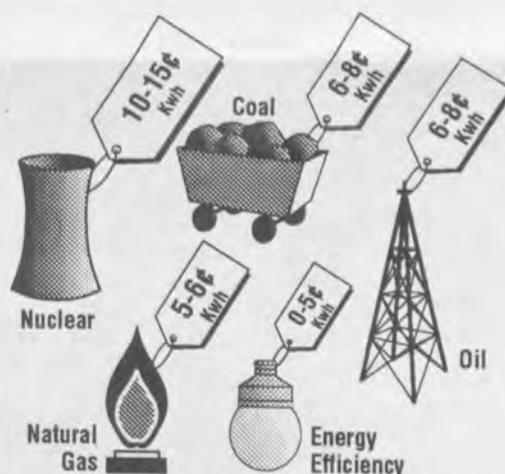
Number of years before the United States is completely drained of oil, if all sources were exploited: 30

Number of tons of CO₂ that a 15 mpg car releases into the atmosphere each year: 7.8

Number of tons of CO₂ that a 28 mpg car releases into the atmosphere: 4.2

The Cost of Energy

Consumers are billed for how much electricity they use. A quick comparison shows improving energy efficiency is cheaper than conventional energy sources like nuclear power.



Source: Komanoff Energy Associates
© Safe Energy Communication Council

Gofman Book Challenges Safe Radiation "Threshold"*from Radiation Events Monitor*

John W. Gofman's newest book, *Radiation-Induced Cancer from Low-Dose Exposure: An Independent Analysis*, (1990, Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, Inc., \$29.95, ISBN 0-932682-89-8) forcefully argues a daunting and important thesis: that the smallest dose of ionizing radiation can and occasionally does cause cancer.

Radiation-Induced Cancer comprises 342 closely-argued pages and more than 100 tables of data, all arrayed to give weight to the warning that "low-dose ionizing radiation may turn out to be the MOST important single carcinogen to which huge numbers of humans are actually exposed." Gofman focuses much of his independent analysis on the Atomic Bomb Survivors study carried on by Radiation Effects Research Foundation, as well as the most recent reports on ionizing radiation by the United Nations Scientific Committee on Effects of Atomic Radiation and the Biological Effects of Ionizing Radiation Committee of the National Academy of Sciences. In each instance, Gofman offers a detailed critique of the assumption that there is any safe level of radiation exposure.

Although he has spent the past 20 years disputing these and similar "official" assessments of the human hazards of radioactivity, Gofman has not written a mere polemic. *Radiation-Induced Cancer* is detailed, comprehensive, tightly organized, well documented and well cross-referenced. Despite the book's density, it's surprisingly readable, its tone quite measured: "Readers who take our step-by-step journey in this book, from the evidence to the conclusions, will be in a position to judge for themselves whether or not our conclusions are believable." Gofman's presentation appears credible and inspires confidence.

Copies may be ordered from the Committee for Nuclear Responsibility, Inc., Book Division, PO Box 11207, San Francisco, CA 94101. Copies are \$29.95 for the first copy, \$15.00 for each additional copy. CNR pays shipping (book rate) unless expedited service is requested. For UPS shipping include \$4 for one book, \$5 for two books and \$6.00 for three books to the same address.

CALENDAR**CALENDAR****CALENDAR****CALENDAR**

December 15: Christmas Peace Pilgrimage. A ten-mile walk via Rt. 191 from Nazareth to Bethlehem, Pa. 11:30 AM-7:30 PM. Singing, fellowship, and warm food.

Every Thursday: Noon to 1PM gather at the Federal Building, 3rd & Walnut Streets, Harrisburg, to show support for bringing the troops home from the Persian Gulf.

Mid-January, '91 (date to be announced) TMI Advisory Panel will meet with Dr. Maureen Hatch, author of the Columbia University Health Report, in open session.

April, 1991 - A major conference on nuclear power issues is being planned for Washington, D.C. to be held in conjunction with the fifth anniversary of the Chernobyl accident. Sponsors include Greenpeace, Public Citizen, NIRS and the SECC. Details will be included in the January Alert.

*Best wishes for the holiday season
to TMIA's many friends
Have a safe and happy 1991!*

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