

# THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

April, 1991

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

## Celebrate the Earth! Earth Day is Sunday, April 21

"Now More Than Ever" is the theme of Earth Day '91. Locally, a festive afternoon of food, games, educational exhibits, music, tree give-aways, and more is planned from 1:00 to 6:00 p.m. at Fort Hunter Park. Capitol Area Transit will run shuttle busses from the HACC and Farm Show parking lots to the park throughout the day. Admission is free. No pets. No alcohol. Music by High Strung, Third Stream, New Voices of Freedom, and The Earthtones. While there, visit the TMIA table.

## Your Help Needed to Block Bush Energy "Strategy"

Somehow, just as we were beginning to assume that the whole world was getting the message about energy conservation, reducing greenhouse gasses, and the dangers of nuclear power, along comes the Bush Administration's long-awaited "National Energy Strategy." In his State of the Union address, Bush called for "a comprehensive national energy strategy that calls for energy conservation and efficiency, increased development and greater use of alternative fuels." But what he actually proposed was a plan that looks to flood the marketplace with the cheapest oil possible, maximizing oil production and consumption.

The Administration rejected a long list of conservation proposals put forth by the Department of Energy, putting the interests of the oil, gas, automotive and nuclear industries ahead of our economy, our public lands, our coastal areas, the air, and our national security. In addition to paving the way for oil exploration in wilderness and coastal areas, the plan calls for streamlining the licensing procedure for new nuclear reactors. Why stop half-way?

Right now an army of oil and auto industry lobbyists is waging war against conservation on Capitol Hill. Write members of Congress asking that less costly conservation measures be enacted before drilling is allowed in wilderness areas. Ask that the miles-per-gallon requirements be improved for new cars and trucks. Ask that federal energy research dollars be moved away from oil, gas, and nuclear technologies and towards energy efficiency and alternative fuels. Remember the IRS tax credits for installing insulation or solar heat from the Carter administration? Ask that they be brought back. We won't get a responsible energy policy unless we let the Congress know this is what we want.

A RED X INDICATES YOUR DUES PAYMENT IS REQUESTED

Three Mile Island Alert  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102



OPEN IMMEDIATELY



**TMIA Will Have Presence at "Conference for a Nuclear Free 1990s"**

TMIA chairperson Deb Baker, and Planning Council members Kay Pickering and Eric Epstein will take turns staffing a table at the the April 26-29 "No More Chernobyls" conference and they have requested that other TMIA members planning on attending (and interested in helping) contact Kay at the TMIA office (233-7897) as soon as possible.

The conference provides an excellent opportunity to hear first-hand the leaders of the safe energy movement. Plenary speakers include: the world's foremost nuclear epidemiologist, Dr. Alice Stewart; the nation's most accomplished grassroots organizer, Lois Gibbs, of the Citizens Clearinghouse on Hazardous Waste; the world's leading expert on Chernobyl, Dr. David Marples; Ralph Nader; the Union of Concerned Scientists's Dr. Robert Pollard; author Amory Lovins; Dr. Ernest Sternglass; Tom Carpenter of the Government Accountability Project; Jeremy Rifkin; and more. The registration fee is \$45, \$25 for students and seniors. For more information, 202/328-0002.

**Appeals Court Will Rehear One-Step Licensing Case**

Throwing out the victory won by the Union of Concerned Scientists, the U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has accepted a Nuclear Regulatory Commission appeal of a decision upholding the public's right to participate in reactor licensing decision.

Rather than reversing the lower court, the Court of Appeals will start from scratch and rehear arguments as to whether the NRC's streamlined licensing plans violate the Atomic Energy Act's requirement for a second public hearing before reactor operation.

Though no commercial nuclear plant licenses are pending, by vacating the previous decision the Court of Appeals has put the NRC's rules into effect until the case is finally decided. The court will accept briefs in July, hold oral arguments in November, and probably not decide the case until early next year. In addition to the court battle, safe energy groups are also working to remove one-step licensing language from pending legislation (the National Energy Strategy and S.341, the Johnson-Wallop energy strategy bill). Letters to Congress on this issue should note that the unanimous lower court decision which left stand about 95% of the NRC's streamlined licensing rule—including standardized designs—but found the public has a right to a hearing before a reactor begins operation.

**Epstein Rejected Nomination as GPU Board Member**

TMIA activist Eric Epstein recently sought appointment to the Board of Directors of General Public Utilities. As a stockholder of GPU (he owns a share), Eric put forward his name for consideration by the Board's Nominating Committee. Their response:

Dear Mr. Epstein:

The Nominating Committee of the Board of Directors of General Public Utilities Corporation has considered, but has not recommended approval of, your request for nomination as a director of GPU. Accordingly, your name will not be included on the management slate of nominees to be presented at the Annual Meeting of Stockholders on Thursday, May 2, 1991. As I have mentioned to you, however, GPU's By-Laws permit your nomination at the meeting...

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**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

### GPU Stock Splits, Directors Approve Dividend, Met Ed Seeks Rate Hike

GPU's Board has raised the utility's quarterly common stock dividend by 15 percent and approved a 2-for-1 stock split. The quarterly dividend on each of the new shares will be 37.5 cents per share. The number of shares will increase from 55.4 million to 110.8 million (Yes, that's \$41,550,000 in dividends this quarter). In the meantime, Metropolitan Edison Co. has asked the Pa. Public Utility Commission for an increase in its energy-cost rate. If approved, the monthly bill of a residential customer would increase by \$2.25. The overall request is for a \$45 million rate increase..enough to cover the increased dividend plus some change! Coincidence? Cosmic design? Material for a Time-Life book? Or just business as usual?

### New Susquehanna Valley Nuclear Waste Dump Pushed

PP&L has filed the final environmental report on a \$23 million, 12,000 square foot radioactive waste holding facility. The building is constructed of steel and has moveable interior concrete walls. It is designed to receive a total of 60,000 cubic feet of cement-solidified and dry trash drums per year from the two Berwick reactors, it has a four-year, 240,000 cubic foot capacity.

### Help Sought for the Children of Chernobyl

*by Deb Davenport*

Five years after the nuclear accident in Chernobyl, the truth about the health effects from that event are surfacing. In the Ukraine, four million people, and in its neighbor Byelorussia, 2.2 million people, are living on land contaminated with radioactive fallout. Because of severe food shortages in the U.S.S.R., citizens there are forced to eat food grown there. The constant exposure coupled with the original dose during the accident are taking a terrible toll on populations around Chernobyl, particularly the children.

Plagued by both malnutrition and debilitating illness, many children are being lost and many more will be unless adequate aid reaches them in time. Thyroid problems, severe anemia, leukemias, and sarcomas numbering in the thousands have been reported and there are not the facilities nor supplies to treat the affected children. One person in charge of a relief group has estimated there are 80,000 children identified as having serious health problems and needing treatment, a number others have characterized as the "tip of the iceberg."

How serious is the problem? In the U.S., 2,600 cases of pediatric leukemia appear each year. A recent report published in *People* said a clinic in Byelorussia has treated 7,000 children for leukemia since the Chernobyl accident.

I hope some of TMI Alert's members and other newsletter recipients will find a way to reach out to help these children. Listed below are two groups now sending aid to Chernobyl's children. Both have access to planes to get goods to that area, assuring that items sent will arrive.

Americans for Human Rights in the Ukraine  
43 Midland Place  
Newark, New Jersey 07106  
Contact: Betty Olshaniwsky  
201/373-9729  
Seeks vitamins or cash contributions

The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund  
272 Old Short Hills Road  
Short Hills, New Jersey 07078  
Contact: Nadia Matkiwsky  
201/376-5140  
Seeks cash or goods. One hospital established, working on second, seeking funding/supplies for third.

For more information, contact Debbie Davenport, the Harrisburg-Hiroshima-Nagasaki Committee, 717/763-9552.

**DOE Study Finds Increased Cancer Risk Among Oak Ridge Workers**

*from The Nuclear Monitor, March 25, 1991*

A major new study at the Department of Energy's (DOE) Oak Ridge facility has found that workers exposed to even low levels of radiation had higher death from cancer rates than unexposed workers. The study, published March 20 in the Journal of the American Medical Association, concluded that the cancer effects of low-dose, slow-delivery radiation were ten times higher than seen in the population exposed to radiation from the Hiroshima and Nagasaki bombs. This lends new credence to the theory that long-term exposure to low levels of radiation is more hazardous than exposure to higher radiation levels in a short period.

According to the study, which was funded by the DOE, each rem of radiation exposure accounted for nearly a 5% increase in the risk of fatal cancer.

Workers at the plant were exposed to an average of only 1.7 rem over the entire course of their careers. Only 638 of the 8318 workers studied received over 5 rem during their careers. Five rem is the permissible annual amount nuclear workers may receive, according to NRC radiation standards. Whether the study means increased risk among residents near nuclear facilities is unknown.

Workers at the Oak Ridge plant actually were found to have lower-than-expected death rates, even from cancer. This is believed to be due to the nature of the study population: well-paid white working men with access to health care and other societal benefits. However, the study did find that deaths from leukemia were 63% higher than expected, a potentially staggering finding, especially considering that other death rates were lower than expected.

**Major Bush Campaign Contributor Said to be Next NRC Chairman**

Ivan Selin, whose background includes no known work on nuclear power issues, is reportedly the White House's choice to replace current NRC chairman Kenneth Carr, whose term expires June 30. Selin, who made the top-100 list of Bush campaign contributors, currently serves as an under secretary in the State Department. He founded a computer consulting firm, American Management Systems, which has annual revenues of more than \$200 million. It has been suggested that Selin was selected primarily because of his lack of a grasp on nuclear issues, which means he'll be open to guidance from White House nuclear promoter John Sununu.

**No More Chernobyls!**

*Conference for a Nuclear Free 1990s*

**Help Create a National Grassroots Safe Energy Strategy! Join Us on the 5th Anniversary of the Chernobyl Disaster • April 26-29, 1991 • Hyatt Regency Hotel • Washington, D.C.**

*Sponsored by:*  
Nuclear Information and Resource Service  
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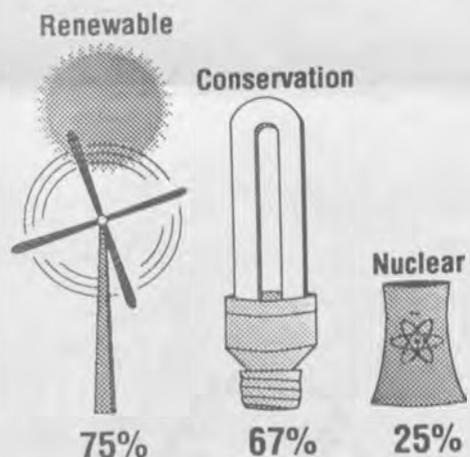
**HEAR...Ralph Nader, Lois Gibbs, Amory Lovins, Hon. Claudine Schneider, Jeremy Rifkin, Robert Pollard and More!**

**Program Events include... Fifty workshops to discuss ideas and design strategies... And Ben & Jerry's Saturday Night Ice Cream Social and Much More!**

*for more information contact:*  
**Nuclear Information and Resource Service,  
1424 16th St. NW, Suite 601,  
Washington, D.C. 20036, 202-328-0002**

**Energy Survey Says...**

In a December 1990 national poll, a vast majority of Americans ranked renewable energy and conservation as their #1 or #2 priority for government funding (75% and 67%). Nuclear power ranked last (25%).



Sources: Research/Strategy/Management, Greenberg-Lake: The Analysis Group  
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