

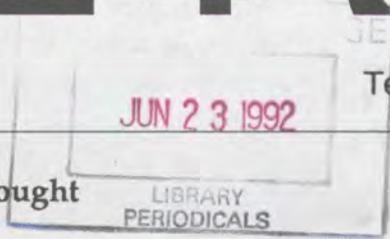
THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

June
1992

315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102-1834

Telephone: 717/233-3072



Chernobyl Study Shows Impact Worse Than Thought

The Chernobyl Disaster is worse than previously reported. In a move that will sound familiar to TMI neighbors, the International Atomic Energy Agency (funded by national utilities) spent six days in the area and concluded the major problem was stress, not radioactive fallout. Along with USSR bureaucrats they determined there was no such thing as chronic radiation sickness.

Now that the Ukraine and Belarus are independent and the truth can come out, a 13-month study by a Soviet-American team is finding widespread health problems, even among those in low-level radiation areas. They estimate a million people may be suffering adverse health effects. Dr. Zoreslava Shkiriak-Nizhnik from Kiev, Ukraine, delivered the bad news about Chernobyl victims at an early-May conference in Connecticut in which TMIA participated.

A startling 70 percent of newborns in the Ukraine fail to thrive due to immune deficiency and the lack of uncontaminated food. They get sick more often, are more seriously ill, and do not gain weight and strength. For the first time in history, 40,000 more Ukrainians died last year than were born. This, she pointed out, is in a region where big families are the rule.

What do they need most? The doctor put food at the top of the list, followed by medicine and medical supplies, such as anesthesia.

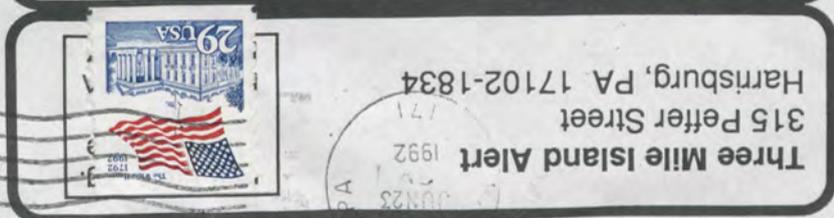
Americans have sent more than 300 planeloads of these supplies through The Children of Chernobyl Relief Fund, 207 Old Short Hills Road, Short Hills, New Jersey, 07078.

Johnsrud Addresses Nuclear Waste Symposium

"The nuclear industry survives on permissible emissions and acceptable risk," Dr. Judith Johnsrud told a national symposium on radioactive wastes held in late-April in St. Louis. She said the industry was founded on a basic belief that, so far, has proved unbelievable. "It is the religious faith that with time and money, some expert will devise a way to dispose of the undisposable."

The meeting was held in St. Louis to commemorate 50 years of accumulating nuclear waste in St. Louis County, dating back to when a local chemical company processed uranium for the Manhattan Project. "Sad to say, it's still here 50 years later," said conference director Roger Pryor.

TMIA's Eric Epstein, who reported on a nuclear waste facility sited in the middle of a flood-prone river, attended.



IMMEDIATELY
OPEN

Camp Riley Picnic
Sunday, July 19

A RED X INDICATES
YOUR DUES PAYMENT
IS REQUESTED

Nuclear Industry Wins Big on Energy Bill

Members of the nuclear power industry were the only ones smiling as the House of Representatives give final approval to the national energy strategy bill, 381-37, late on May 27. The nuclear industry won nearly every vote that mattered, proving that Congress remains captive to industry lobbying and political contributions over public opinion. The legislation now goes to a House-Senate conference committee where differences will be ironed out. As both bodies agreed on one-step licensing for nuclear power plants, there's no opportunity to influence the licensing language in place. "Below Regulatory Concern" (BRC) is a different story, however, as the Senate bill did not address BRC. The House language would modify existing standards, giving environmentalists their only victory in the bill.

The most important thing readers can do now to impact the outcome of the energy policy battle is to ask Senators Wofford and Specter to become co-sponsors of the anti-BRC bill (S. 1111) sponsored by Senate Majority Leader George Mitchell. A groundswell of new Senate support for this bill will help ensure the conference committee will accept the House BRC language.

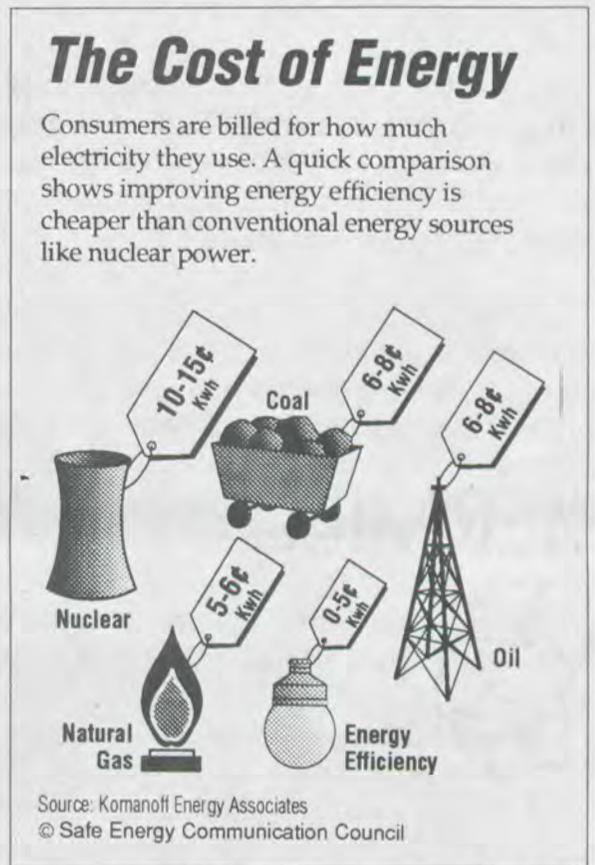
US Want Safe Energy - Nuke Industry Says "Too Bad"

According to a national poll, four of five Americans (79%) oppose Congressional efforts to roll back existing law and cut citizens out of meaningful participation in the nuclear power plant licensing process. The poll revealed by a similarly large margin(81%), the public opposes Congress's move to override state laws in order to establish a high-level nuclear waste depository, the so-called "screw-Nevada" language which was included in the House-passed energy policy bill.

The survey conducted by the Safe Energy Communications Council (SECC) found 63% of the public believes America can best meet increasing electricity demand by using existing supplies more efficiently; 76% named solar and other renewable sources, energy efficiency, and natural gas as their choice for the government's highest energy funding priority (while only a combined 19% picked nuclear, coal and oil as their top picks).

That Congress would go against the clearly articulated views of the American public (again) demonstrates the strength of the nuclear lobby. Their efforts in Congress was rife with mischaracterization and outright deceit. And it appears they're now looking to do a number on Nevada, the proposed site for the government's high-level nuclear waste depository.

The nuclear industry has contributed \$3.3 million to a disinformation campaign in Nevada (GPU and PP&L contributed \$66,673 each, Philadelphia Electric \$100,347). It is obviously much cheaper and quicker to spend money on public relations than researching thorny technical issues required to confidently predict where the earth will stand for the next 100,000 years.



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 Pepper Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102

Books Review Dangers of Low-Level Radiation

TMIA learned of two recently published books on the dangers of low-level radiation:

- *Deadly Deceit: Low-Level Radiation, High-Level Cover-Up* by Dr. Jay M. Gould and Benjamin Goldman. The book presents the results of a multi-million dollar investigation of government records on atomic radiation and mortality. \$10.95, paper.

- *The Petkau Effect: Nuclear Radiation, People and Trees* by Ralph Graeub with an introduction by Dr. Ernest J. Sternglass. Published in France and Germany to wide acclaim, this book presents evidence that low-level emissions from nuclear power plants have contributed to the death of forests in Europe and North America and, even more disturbing, that millions of people are dying from a combination of damage to their immune systems and exposure to mutated strains of viruses, again due to the the routine emissions of nuclear power plants. \$24.95 hard cover.

The books were published by Four Walls Eight Windows of New York. Copies may be ordered by calling 1-800/444-2524.

News Notes

- Evaporation is on again. After evaporating 1,222,775 gallons of accident generated water (AGW), the evaporator was shut down in February due to a failure of the blender-dryer. Though it will take until August to get a replacement blender-dryer in place, evaporation resumed in May with a temporary blender-dryer.

- Philadelphia Electric was fined \$285,000 by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for improperly installing insulation at Peach Bottom. In one case, thermal insulation was installed on the wrong end of five of 11 safety relief valves in the plant's Unit 3 reactor, causing components to overheat and wear down (\$160,000 fine). The \$125,000 fine was for similar problems at their Unit 2 reactor.

- *Atoms & Waste* is a monthly newsletter published by Don't Waste U.S., Inc., a national grassroots organization of citizens opposed to nuclear pollution. Their June 5 edition reports on U.S. Army efforts to repair cracks in the shutdown reactor at Fort Greely in Fairbanks, Alaska, as well as a U.S. Navy practice of dumping wastes from a McMurdo Sound, Antarctica reactor at sea. When that reactor was shut down, 14,000 tons of contaminated soil were shipped to the Port Hueneme naval base north of Los Angeles. To keep abreast of what's happening on the waste front, a one-year subscription is \$30. Write DWUS, 310 Domer St. #1, Takoma Park, MD 20912.

- The Harrisburg-Hiroshima-Nagasaki Committee will be presenting its annual program as part of its sister city relationship (established by then Harrisburg Mayor Tim Doutrich in 1979) with the two Japanese cities. Scheduled events include:

ARTS FOR PEACE AND JUSTICE - An exhibit of works by socially concerned artists and writers and by internationally honored ceramicist Kazuaki Kita. The exhibit will be held at Gallerie 110 in Strawberry Square from August 1 through August 9, from 10 a.m. to 6 p.m. daily.

CANDLES ON THE WATER - Interfaith worship and reflection by representatives of area faiths. Following the service, Japanese commemorative ceremonial lantern boats will be floated on the Susquehanna. Assemble at Fellowship Hall, Market Square Presbyterian Church, August 6, 1992 at 7 p.m.

DOCUMENTARY FILMS - *Proposition I: Peace Through Reason* which describes the international initiative calling for nuclear disarmament and economic conversion via constitutional amendments; and, *Deadly Deception*, which is an Academy Award winning expose of the terrifying human and environmental costs of General Electric's nuclear weapons development. The film depicts grassroots efforts to get GE and other companies out of the nuclear weapons business. Both films will be shown from 2-5 p.m. on August 9 at a location to be announced.

- There will be a seminar for those opposing the GPU-DQE transmission project on Saturday, June 27, at the Harrisburg Hilton from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. The cost per person is \$15.00 and includes lunch. The seminar will examine the negative environmental concerns of electromagnetic radiation and present alternative energy technologies. It is sponsored by COUP (Citizens Opposed to Unsafe Power), CAG (Citizens Action Group) and AC-OUT (Adams County Opposes Unsafe Transmission lines). To register, make checks payable to COUP, PO Box 445, Fombell, Pa 16123. For more information: Chris Kochenderfer (717/432-4577) or Karen Carbeau (412/758-9810).

Summer Picnic Slated for July 19

See the enclosed flyer for more details about TMIA's annual Summer Picnic and Splash Party at Camp Riley.

CALENDAR

June 27 GPU-DQE Transmission Project Seminar, Harrisburg Hilton, 10AM to 3PM. See above for more information.

July 12-18 Conservation Workshop for Educators at the Pocono Environmental Center, Dingman's Ferry, sponsored by the Pa. Wildlife Federation, for information call Lauren Smith, 717/232-3480.

July 19 Summer Picnic and Splash Party, Camp Riley.

August 1-9 Arts for Peace and Justice, Gallerie 110, Strawberry Square.

August 6 Candles on the Water, 7PM, Market Square Presbyterian Church.

August 9 2-5PM, area premiers to two documentary films (see page 3).

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TMIA is 15 years old.
That's reason to celebrate.

TMIA Summer Picnic and Splash Party

Fun, food, frolic and friends at the annual Camp Riley picnic.

Date: Sunday, July 19 (Rain or Shine)

Location: Camp Riley

Time: Noon until...

Go north on Front Street past Fort Hunter (or 322 West until you reach Rt. 443), then turn right onto Rt. 443 East. Go less than two miles. The road to Camp Riley will be on your left.

Donation: \$5 per adult \$2 per child

Activities include:

Swimming 1:00 to 8:00 p.m.

Land and water volley ball

Greased watermelon contest

Music - bring an instrument

Much, much, much, much more!!!

Bring food to share for the big potluck dinner at 5PM.

Beverages provided.

Sponsored by: TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone:233-7897