

Three Mile Island Alert

Facing Public Opposition, Exelon Delays Attempt to Move Emergency Facility

from a June 27, 2001, York Daily Record article

Exelon Nuclear Corp. will look to improve communications with state and local officials before it moves ahead with a plan to relocate Three Mile Island's emergency operations facility from Dauphin County to Coatesville in Chester County.

The company has decided to delay its June application to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, pending meetings with officials from TMI's five surrounding counties, including York and Dauphin counties.

"Our plan is to meet these people to explain details and answer questions," said David Carl, spokesman for AmerGen Energy Co. "We will create a clear picture of the proposed changes going forward."

AmerGen Energy Co., which co-owns and operates TMI Unit 1, is co-owned and operated by Exelon

Nuclear Corp.

Exelon Nuclear Corp. owns and operates two other Pennsylvania plants, including three units at York County's Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and two at Limerick Generating Station in Montgomery County.

The plan that was to be submitted to the NRC would include a standardized emergency response plan for the three plants.

That would involve relocating TMI's emergency operating facility roughly 60 miles from Susquehanna Township in Dauphin County to Coatesville.

Three Mile Island is now 12 miles from the Susquehanna Township emergency operating facility.

(Continued on bottom of page 4)

Peach Bottom Seeks 20 Year Extension

from a July 3, 2001, Lancaster New Era (Lancaster, PA.) article

The owners of the Peach Bottom nuclear plant along the Susquehanna River are seeking permission to extend the life of the plant by 20 years.

The York County plant's two units were scheduled to be closed in 2013 and 2014.

But on Monday, Exelon Nuclear applied to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to extend the operating licenses to 2033 and 2034.

An Exelon official said today that the Three Mile Island nuclear plant will be studied to see if a similar license extension would be sought. Currently, TMI's license expires in 2014.

The cost of getting the renewed licenses at Peach Bottom -- if granted

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Three Mile Island Alert

Three Mile Island Alert (TMIA) is a non-profit citizens' organization dedicated to the promotion of safe-energy alternatives to nuclear power, especially to the Three Mile Island nuclear plant.

Formed in 1977 after the construction and licensing of TMI Unit-1 and the construction of the infamous Unit-2, TMIA is the largest and oldest safe-energy group in central Pennsylvania.

TMIA members interested in specific aspects of nuclear power are encouraged to join one of TMIA's committees. These committees include:

- Radiation Monitoring
- Low-level Radioactive Waste
- Health Effects of TMI
- Nuclear Plant Security

TMIA Planning Council

Eric Epstein, Chair
 Bill Cologie, Vice-Chair
 Betsy Robinson, Treasurer
 Kay Pickering, Secretary
 Mary Osborn
 Scott Portzline

Publisher - Kay Pickering
 Editor - David Raeker-Jordan

Three Mile Island Alert
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102
Phone: (717) 233-7897
FAX: (717) 233-3261

On the Internet at:

WWW: <http://www.tmia.com>
&
Email: tmialert@home.com

Glossary of Terms

AmerGen - corporation comprised of British Energy and PECO Energy. This corporate entity owns and operates TMI-1 and Oyster Creek, and is contracted by GPU Nuclear to monitor TMI-2 during PDMS

B&W - Babcock & Wilcox, the company that supplied the TMI 1 & 2 reactors. B&W is now known as Framatome

BRP refers to the Bureau of Radiation Protection, Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

BWR – Boiling Water Reactor

CPM refers to “counts per minute” or the number of radioactive disintegrations per minute

DEP – Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Protection

EPA – United States Environmental Protection Agency

Exelon - Corporate entity created by the merger of PECO Energy and Commonwealth Edison. This company is licensed to operate nuclear generating stations in Illinois and Pennsylvania

FirstEnergy - Electric company based in Ohio. FE and General Public Utilities have announced plans to merge in 2001. If the merger is approved, the newly formed company would be licensed to operate nuclear power plants in Ohio and Pennsylvania. This company would be responsible for decommissioning Saxton and TMI-2.

General Public Utilities - General Public Utilities Nuclear sold TMI-1 and Oyster Creek to AmerGen in 1999.

GPUN maintains a POL at TMI-2. General Public Utilities, GPUN's parent, is planning to merge with FirstEnergy.

MOX - Reactor fuel in which plutonium-239 is mixed with natural or re-processed uranium

MWe – Megawatts

NRC – United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission

NCV – Non-Cited Violation issued by the NRC in place of a more severe penalty (see Risk-Informed Approach)

pCi/m3 refers to picoCurries of radiation per cubic meter of air

PDMS – post-defueled monitored storage, which is the state in which TMI-2 is currently being kept

POL – Possession Only License, issued by the NRC for a non-operating nuclear reactor

PUC – Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission

PWR – Pressurized Water Reactor

Revised Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) - see Risk-Informed Approach.

Risk-Informed Approach - The NRC's “revised” oversight program for nuclear generating stations. This new protocol was implemented on April 2, 2000, and was designed to “reduce unnecessary regulatory burden” on the nuclear industry. (see NCV).

New Requirements for Nuclear Waste Site in Nevada

from a June 6, 2001, Associated Press article

The Bush administration agreed to tougher health protection requirements for a proposed nuclear waste site in Nevada, ignoring pleas from the nuclear industry and Republican allies in Congress. The requirements announced by the Environmental Protection Agency on Wednesday would limit radiation exposure from the Yucca Mountain site to no more than 15 millirems a year for people 11 miles away, including no more than 4 millirems from groundwater.

A millirem is a measurement of the biological effects of radiation on human tissue. According to the EPA, the standard would mean a person living 11 miles from the waste site would absorb every year a little less radiation than a person would get from two roundtrip transcontinental airline flights. By comparison, background radiation exposes people to about 360 millirems of radiation annually. Three chest X-rays expose a person to about 18 millirem, the agency said.

The Nuclear Energy Institute responded with separate lawsuits in two federal courts challenging the EPA standard. The industry had sought less stringent standards, arguing that recommendations from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission of a 25 millirems overall limit and no groundwater standards would provide safety to people living near the site.

Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham, who has favored the NRC proposal,

said the EPA standards were "tough and challenging" and that "we believe we can meet the requirements."

The government's health standards for the Nevada site have been considered crucial in determining whether the federal underground storage facility at Yucca Mountain, 90 miles northwest of Las Vegas, can be built. The scientific review of the site has not been completed. Abraham is expected to make a recommendation to President Bush this year with a final decision by the president likely in early 2002. The plan is to keep 70,000 tons of used reactor fuel now at commercial power plants in canisters 600 feet below the surface.

Nevada officials say the federal government has failed to prove that the waste, which will stay highly radioactive for tens of thousands of years, would not contaminate an aquifer running through the area and surrounding countryside. The state also has protested transportation plans for thousands of shipments of waste, including some traveling near Las Vegas. The EPA standard is designed to limit public exposure to any contamination over the next 10,000 years.

"Under these standards, future generations will be securely protected," Christie Whitman, the EPA administrator, said in a statement. She said the limits were designed "to ensure that people living near this potential

repository will be protected now and for future generations." The nuclear industry moved quickly to challenge the standard, suing in U.S. District Court and the U.S. Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia Circuit.

"The nuclear industry is extremely disappointed," said Marvin Fertel, director of business operation at the NEI, the industry trade group. He said the added groundwater exposure limits "will cost taxpayers and electricity consumers billions of additional dollars to license and build the repository without making the facility any safer."

Some environmentalists and nuclear watchdog groups said the standards were inadequate.

"The EPA has create an exclusion zone to safe drinking water," said Arjun Makhijani, a nuclear physicist involved in the anti-nuclear movement. Makhijani said that people live within several miles of the site, but the groundwater tests will be taken 11 miles away.

Also, he and other critics said, the standard would apply for 10,000 years, while the maximum radiation exposure from decaying isotopes is projected to be many years beyond that. ¶

Activist Sues Abraham Over DOE-PECO Agreement

from an April 30, 2001, Nuclear Fuel article

An antinuclear activist this month took Energy Secretary Spencer Abraham to court, saying the spent fuel settlement agreement DOE signed with PECO Energy last year should have undergone a National Environmental Policy Act review.

Eric Epstein maintained in the complaint he filed April 19 in U.S. District Court for the Middle District of Pennsylvania that the agreement could have a far-reaching impact and that the public should have had a say. Epstein is the chairman of TMI Alert, the anti-nuclear group founded in 1977 around local opposition to the Three Mile Island nuclear plant in Londonderry Twp.

The DOE-PECO deal would allow

the utility to receive compensation from the Nuclear Waste Fund for eligible costs associated with the dry storage of Peach Bottom spent fuel. In exchange, the utility agreed to drop all existing and future claims against DOE related to the department's failure to begin disposing of utility spent fuel by the 1998 contract. The agreement amended the utility's original waste disposal contract with the department and changed the disposal date from 1998 to 2010, DOE's current projected date for the start of repository operations.

Epstein argued the agreement would delay the removal of the waste from Peach Bottom, essentially creating a de facto waste site,

and that an environmental impact statement (EIS) should have been done to identify and assess reasonable alternatives. The complaint asked that the court remand the matter so an EIS could be done.

The lawsuit also contends that the deal would allow PECO to sell its place in line at the department's repository for high-level nuclear waste at Yucca Mountain, Nevada.

Also named as a plaintiff in the suit was Herbert D. Watkins, the DOE contracting officer who approved the agreement. ¶

(Continued from "Facility," page 1)

If the NRC approves the application, the Coatesville facility would lend support, in the form of technical experts and engineers, for all three plants in the event of an emergency.

The Coatesville facility now provides support to Limerick Generating Station and Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station. Coatesville is 56 miles from Peach Bottom and 22 miles from Limerick in Montgomery County.

Carl said the Coatesville center is equipped with updated automated machinery and computers that

would be used to offer additional assistance to TMI in the event of an emergency.

Eric Epstein, chairman of Three Mile Island Alert in Harrisburg, said the consolidation of the emergency operating facilities is a mistake.

"Each plant should be required to have an emergency operating facility that is specific to each reactor and each community," he said. "It's an important issue."

In place of the facility, TMI will increase its emergency on-site staff of technical experts from 28 to 41 employees as part of the proposal, Carl said.

Paula Tezik, manager of Fairview Township, said the township is within a 10-mile radius of TMI.

Improved communication between Fairview Township and Exelon Nuclear Corp. should be a priority over the plans to move the facility, she said.

"The board of supervisors believe they should not move the emergency operating facility," Tezik said. "To move it would mean they are forgetting about us and the accident that happened. Nobody wants them to forget what happened." ¶

High Energy Costs Fuel Boom for Solar

from a May 27, 2001, *The Daily News of Los Angeles* article

Until the energy crisis hit this year, solar equipment installers relied heavily on maintenance work to survive because the elimination of government incentive programs for solar energy users in 1985 had decimated their business. But today, with dramatic increases in the price of electricity and natural gas and the return of government incentives, the fortunes of solar contractors and manufacturers are on the rise again.

Los Angeles area contractors and manufacturers say they are seeing whopping increases in business and, in some cases, are so overwhelmed with work they have had to turn jobs away. "My sales are up 40 percent. They would be up more if I could do more," said James Bjorseth of Granada Hills, who specializes in solar water- and pool-heating. "I am turning down jobs."

As a result of a rebate program launched in February by the Los Angeles Department of Water and Power, solar installations have become affordable to many Los Angeles residents. Despite being shielded from the energy crisis by its own power plants, Los Angeles is still aggressively pushing for solar energy, say DWP officials, because it reduces the load on its electric grid and pollution resulting from traditional power generation. Under the rebate program, homeowners who install solar-electric panels that convert sunlight into electricity receive a \$5-per-watt rebate.

For example, a homeowner who installs 2 kilowatts worth of solar panels, typically at a cost of \$15,000, receives a rebate of \$10,000. In addition, when the solar energy the equipment generates exceeds his needs, his meter runs backward, reducing his utility bill.

According to Angelina Galiteva, the

DWP's executive director of strategic planning, some 120 homes have taken advantage of the rebates and many more have made reservations for rebates totaling \$2.25 million, out of an \$8 million budget for rebates this year. Galiteva said the DWP's goal is to have solar panels on the rooftops of 100,000 homes by 2010. ¶

Court Blocks Plaintiffs from Offering New Evidence

from a May 10, 2001, *Nucleonics Week* article

A federal appeals court has ruled that plaintiffs seeking damages related to the 1979 Three Mile Island-2 accident cannot add new evidence to their cases against plant owner GPU Inc. and other defendants.

GPU hailed the decision as a victory. Company spokesman Ned Raynolds said the decision means it is unlikely the plaintiffs can press their claims in a class action suit and that they would have to move forward on an individual case basis, if at all.

"Now, more than two decades after the accident, is not the time to try to find support for allegations that the accident caused any injury to the public," said A.H. Wilcox, attorney for the defendants.

However, Eric Epstein, chairman of the activist group TMI Alert, said the court decision is a minor one and won't affect the plaintiffs' case against GPU and the other defendants. The decision simply prevents the plaintiffs from introducing some new theories on causes of radiogenic cancer, he

said, which is "unfortunate" but won't stop plaintiffs from pursuing their claims.

The U.S. Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit on April 30 affirmed a determination by District Court Judge Sylvia Rambo that attorneys for the approximately 2,100 plaintiffs can only advance causation theories based on evidence of records existing at the close of discovery.

In 1996, the District Court heard 10 test cases chosen from among the plaintiffs' cases and dismissed them for lack of evidence. It then proceeded to dismiss the remaining plaintiffs' cases, which were using many of the same witnesses and much of the evidentiary material. But an appeals court ruled in 1999 that due process had been denied the remaining cases, and reinstated them. Rambo's ruling said the cases had to proceed from the point at which they were when they were incorrectly dismissed, and plaintiffs could not go back and start over. ¶

Nuclear Laundry Eyes Pennsylvania

from a May 18, 2001, Central Penn Business Journal article

Eastern Technologies, Inc. is scouring Pennsylvania in search of a place to build a commercial laundry that will wash clothes worn by workers in nuclear power plants. Eastern has one so-called "nuclear laundry" in Ashford, Ala., where it is based. The company wants an operation in Pennsylvania because of the state's central location and convenient highways, said Mark Fellows, Eastern's vice president.

Eastern sought to buy property in Highspire, south of Harrisburg, Fellows said. But the company's bid was turned down by the landowner, the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority. Fellows would not say what other sites Eastern is considering. He also would not disclose the company's revenues.

Nuclear laundries are licensed by the federal Nuclear Regulatory Commission. Since dirt on the clothing may be contaminated, the laundries operate under rules designed to ensure no radiation escapes, whether through stream or waste water. Otherwise, the laundries generally use the same soaps and processes as normal commercial cleaners.

Geography determined Eastern's interest in Pennsylvania, Fellows said. The state is centrally located and has easy access to the rest of the Northeast, home to many of the nation's nuclear plants, including five nuclear plants in Pennsylvania. But the state's Keystone Opportunity Zones also lured the company,

Fellows said. The zones are designated areas where new or expanding businesses can locate and win an exemption from state and local taxes. The site Eastern wanted is a KOZ.

Clifford Jones, chairman of the Susquehanna Area Regional Airport Authority, confirmed that Eastern was rejected as a buyer for the Highspire site. "It's the last good site, and it ought to go to someone with steady employment," said Jones. The airport authority manages Harrisburg International Airport.

The work force at the laundry would vary seasonally and range from between 45 and 120 employees, Fellows acknowledged. But he believed the authority's rejection stemmed, in part, from fear.

Nuclear laundries are often controversial, said Eric Epstein, a local activist who monitors radiation from Three Mile Island. "Most people," he said, "are uncomfortable having any kind of nuclear operation within close proximity of their home." Monitors at TMI can tell when radioactive waste is being taken away. Clothes sent out for cleaning are likely to have radiation as well, Epstein said.

Eastern is no stranger to controversy. Eastern's Alabama laundry was initially objected to by neighbors, with the ensuing battle ending up in court. Eastern won. ¶

(Continued from "Extension," page 1)

by the NRC -- would be about \$18 million, according to Exelon officials.

But that's still much cheaper than building a new natural gas or coal-fired plant, officials said.

Exelon officials said a special review team looked at more than 100 separate systems and 40,000 plant components "and determined that Peach Bottom has solid programs in place to maintain continued safe and reliable operation and maintenance of the plant," a company spokesman said in a press release.

"A 20-year extension in Peach Bottom's operating license is an investment in 2,200 megawatts of clean, emission-free electricity and helps to ensure an economical and reliable source of power for southeastern Pennsylvania for years to come," said Oliver D. Kingsley, president and chief nuclear officer of Exelon Nuclear.

In 2000, the plant generated the most electricity in its 25-year history. Each of the plant's two 1,100-megawatt boiling water reactors can produce enough electricity for more than 600,000 homes.

The plant has 700 full-time employees and 200 long-term contractors.

The NRC is expected to take about two years to review the license renewal application. ¶

NRC Alters Oversight Rather Than Fix Security Problems

by Scott Portzline, TMIA

Because 50% of US nuclear plants fail "force on force" security testing, many plants would have received a RED rating for its security performance indicator. The number of mock attackers for these tests is embarrassingly small and will not be disclosed here. Rather than fix the problem, the NRC originally tried to do away with these tests.

Since that plan drew strong opposition from watchdogs and Congress, the NRC reinstated the testing. Plants continue failing at the same rate. (Originally, we were led to believe

that a RED rating of any performance indicator would require a shutdown until corrected. But, the NRC actually can allow multiple RED safety indicators by one plant and permit continued operating. This is one of several reasons the new color-coded regulatory system does not adequately define safety.)

Now, the NRC has decided to just accept these failed tests and designate nuclear plants as secure by giving ratings higher than RED. They justify this course by claiming that there is no increased risk because there is no rea-

son to believe that a terrorist(s) would target a nuclear plant. This comes just one day after learning terrorist bin Laden tried to purchase uranium. In 1993, bin Laden's associates threatened to attack "nuclear targets" with "150 suicide soldiers" and trained 30 miles from Three Mile Island. (I will provide more details on the TMIA web page soon: <http://www.tmia.com/sabter.html>)

Here is the NRC's statement from yesterday: <http://www.nrc.gov/OPA/gmo/nrarcv/01-013.html> ¶

No. 01-013 February 8, 2001

The Commission has approved interim guidance to be used by the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission in assessing the results of security exercises at nuclear power plants.

NRC regulations ensure that commercial nuclear power plants are among the most secure industrial facilities in the United States with a capable and well-trained security force to serve as a deterrent to any potential adversary. The guidance will not change this requirement. As part of NRC's inspection effort to verify compliance with these regulations, mock terrorists engage in a force-on-force exercise which tests the security of nuclear power plants. But some problems have arisen in assessing the significance of security exercise findings under the agency's revised Reactor Oversight Process (ROP) since its initial implementation in April 2000. Under the ROP, a Significance Determination Process is used which incorporates risk-informed insights to assess the safety significance of inspection

findings. When applied to security exercises, the significance determination process over-estimated the significance of findings, leading to a higher level of NRC response than was warranted. The interim guidance approved by the Commission classifies findings from force-on-force exercises so that the level of significance more appropriately reflects the associated increase in risk to public health and safety.

Although the general nature of the threat nuclear power plants must protect themselves against is defined in NRC regulations, some of the provisions are difficult to interpret and the details and expectations have not always been communicated clearly and consistently by NRC to licensees participating in security exercises. As a result, some inconsistencies have existed. Progress has been made by NRC in addressing these issues. But, the Commission has directed the staff not to issue violations arising from force-on-force findings at this time. The Commission expects, however, that deficiencies identified during for-

ce-on-force exercises will be promptly addressed by the licensees' corrective action programs. In addition, licensees will remain subject to enforcement action if they fail to comply with their security plan commitments.

The staff will continue to work with stakeholders in an open forum to resolve remaining challenges involved in evaluating security plan exercises and clarifying and revising NRC regulations through the rulemaking process. The Commission continues to believe that a strong safeguards and security program is a central and important obligation of NRC licensees. During this interim period NRC licensees will be expected to continue to meet the regulatory requirements for the physical protection of nuclear power plants and to take corrective action for deficiencies identified during exercises. Typically, corrective actions are taken by licensees before NRC inspectors leave the facilities at the conclusion of a security exercise.

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Germany Joins a Growing Number of Countries Abandoning Nuclear Power

from a June 17, 2001, The Times Union (Albany, NY) op-ed

Just as President Bush has revived nuclear power as part of a national energy policy to increase supplies, Europe continues to show the way by abandoning this technology. Yes, Europe, the very continent that was supposed to be teaching the United States that nuclear power was safe, clean, and reliable.

But now Germany has become the third European country to say it wants no more nuclear plants, even though the country depends on 19 of them to generate electricity and has become accustomed to this form of generation. The phaseout of the existing plants will be gradual, with the final plant closed down by 2021. When completed, Germany will join with Italy and Austria in forgoing a technology that was once hailed as the power of choice for the future. It will turn instead to wind, solar and other forms of renewable energies, improvements to other power plants and conservation.

Given the pressure on all developed nations to reduce greenhouse gases, Germany's action, like that of Italy and Austria, is doubly significant. Nuclear power has been touted as one sure way to help ease global warming caused by burning fossil fuels. But the risks outweigh the advantages. There is still no way to safely dispose of nuclear waste -- a key concern that prompted Germany's decision. Although nuclear advocates insist that waste can be

reprocessed, and point to France as an example of a country with an admirable record in recycling, that has apparently failed to impress other European countries worried about the long-term consequences of accumulating radioactive waste that will remain hazardous for 200,000 years.

Even so, President Bush has proposed that American nuclear waste be reprocessed into weapons-grade material, a suggestion that brings with it the chance of theft and sabotage by terrorists. Many opponents of nuclear power rightly say that the risk is not worth taking.

As for other safety concerns, nuclear advocates insist that the record of America's 103 reactors should be proof that this technology does not pose the dangers that opponents fear. But that same argument was made before Three Mile Island. After that near disaster, the nuclear power industry had a huge credibility gap on safety issues. To a large degree, that gap exists today. Moreover, building more plants would only increase the chances that something would go wrong somewhere.

That leaves environmental benefits as the strongest case for expanding the nation's nuclear capacity. But even here, the record isn't quite what it appears to be. In truth, carbon dioxide is emitted at various

stages of the nuclear process, thereby diminishing the role of these plants in fighting global warming.

In Germany, the nuclear power industry is hoping that the shutdown order will be reversed once Chancellor Gerhard Schroeder leaves office. But proponents appear to be deceiving themselves. Mr. Schroeder isn't a renegade on this issue, nor is Germany. The trend is building across Europe, and for the better. ¶

PPL to Expand Susquehanna Generation Capacity

from an April 23, 2001, Reuters article

PPL Corp. today said that it would increase the capacity of its Susquehanna nuclear power plant. The \$120 million of improvements at the Susquehanna plant are expected to add to earnings as soon as they go into operation.

The capacity of the 2,200 megawatt Susquehanna plant in Luzerne County, Pennsylvania, will be increased with the installation of more efficient Siemens Westinghouse Corp. steam turbines to replace units that have been in operation since the early 1980s. The new turbines will be installed in the spring of 2003 and 2004 during refueling outages at the plant. ¶

Nuclear Nonsense

from a April 29, 2001, *The Wall Street Journal* letter to the editor
by: Eric Epstein, TMLA

Nuclear power's purported rebirth has been offered as a panacea to current energy problems associated with electric deregulation. This "orchestrated groundswell" has enjoyed minimal critical analyses from this publication, and media outlets throughout the country. However, a close examination of the "benefits" of nuclear power clearly demonstrate that this energy source remains uneconomical, unhealthy, and toxic.

Laissez-Faire Regulation: The current regulatory protocol, the Reactor Oversight Process (ROP), was instituted by the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) in 1998 at the behest of the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI) and nuclear industry. The Reactor Oversight Process has produced "deregulated regulation." The ROP is based on a specious document, i.e., The Martin Report (1995) to support the reduction of NRC staffing levels. The Martin Report (1995) compared NRC staffing levels with that of their counterparts in Japan and France. While these countries had half of the employees of the U.S., the reported failed to recognize: 1) the large number of technical employees provided by the national government in support operations; and, 2) the Generic reactor models employed by these nations.

As part of the ROP, the NRC's budget for fiscal year 1999 was slashed by 17 million by the Senate Appropriations Committee. The

public has witnessed a net decrease in dedicated inspector hours at nuclear stations from 3,100 to 2,500. Sam Collins from the NRC's Division of Nuclear Reactor Regulation, noted that the new Reactor Oversight Process has led to a 10-15% reduction in inspection hours. This "industry friendly" process abolished the Systematic Assessment of Licensee Performance (SALP) and the "Watch List."

Government subsidies: According to the Congressional Research Service, nuclear power received 60% of all federal research and development monies from 1948-1994, or \$97 billion since 1950. The Price-Anderson Act limits industry liability, nuclear corporations carry billions of dollars of property indemnification, and possess replacement insurance to help defray the costs of refueling and extended outages. Paradoxically, citizens are precluded from purchasing nuclear insurance, while they subsidize the industry to protect itself from itself. Moreover, rate payers are saddled with paying for the industry's uneconomical investments, i.e., "stranded costs." Two of the most "bullish" nuclear corporations, PECO Energy and PPL, recovered over \$8.3 billion in "uneconomical investments." This figure does not include the millions in savings PECO and PPL have accrued by unilaterally devaluing the combined PURTA and Real Estate tax assessments for their nuclear generating stations. The National

Energy Security Bill 2001, proposed by President Bush, provides the following subsidies for the nuclear industry: \$25 million for the design and development of new "inherently safe" reactors; \$750 million in production incentives for aging reactors; and, an additional \$20 million for a "1%" increase in energy efficiency. This legislation would allow companies to deduct the costs of on-site spent fuel storage now that those costs are no longer borne by rate payers in deregulated states.

Government subsidies also take the form of cost avoidance as evinced by the implementation of the Revised Oversight Process. The NEI estimated that the, "Elimination of Level IV violations would save the average plant \$300,000 annually in violation response expenses." This bizarre logic allows that the more violations a plant accrues, the greater the financial and personnel savings. The NEI estimated that it costs the plant owner's approximately \$50,000 to respond to each Violation. Case in point: By supplanting Severity Level IV Violations with "Non-Cited Violations," the Commission saved the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station at least \$900,000 from June 9, 1998 through October 22, 2000. (PECO/Exelon accumulated 18 "Non-Cited Violations" in this period.) The NEI also projected savings in annual baseline inspections to be \$63,000. Peach Bottom's savings during last

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year's refueling was at least \$100,000. Victor Dricks, NRC spokesman, also noted that baseline inspection hours could be reduced from 350 to 900 hours per plant for an annual cost avoidance of at least \$300,000. Simply by doing nothing, and requiring PECO/Exelon to do less, the NRC saved PECO/Exelon at least \$1.7 million in two years at one reactor site.

Reliability: Experience at large commercial nuclear power plants over 200 MWe has clearly demonstrated that most nuclear units will not operate for 40 years. The chief indicators that the nuclear industry relies on to measure plant longevity are spurious and imprecise. There is no clear nexus between operating capacity (measure of electricity actually produced compared to what would have been generated if the plant had operated continuously at full power) and plant longevity.

America is littered with reactors shutdown prematurely, including: Three Mile Island-2, Fermi-1, Humboldt Bay, Dresden-1, Indian Point-1, Shoreham, Rancho Seco, Trojan, San Onofre-1, and Big Rock Point. On December 4, 1996, Had-dam Neck closed prematurely in the hope of saving rate payers \$100 million, and on May 27, 1997, Maine Yankee was shut down and became the first Combustion Engineering reactor to be prematurely retired. The Connecticut Department of Public Utility Control removed Millstone-1 from the rate base on December 31, 1997. More recently, on January 15, 1998, Commonwealth

Edison announced it was permanently shutting down Zion-1 and Zion-2. Com Ed also reported this decision will cost shareholders \$515 million or \$2.38 per share.

With the premature closure of the Zion units, every American commercial nuclear reactor type and supplier has experienced early retirement well before their planned 40 year operating life.

Greenhouse gases and public health: Nuclear power generates significant amounts of radioactive and fossil emissions. The industry's mouthpiece, the Nuclear Energy Institute (NEI), was disciplined for attempting to propagate the myth that nuclear power is a benign energy source. On December 9, 1998, the Better Business Bureau (BBB) forced the NEI to change a misleading advertising campaign that proclaimed nuclear generation does not harm the environment. The BBB stated: "The process currently used to produce at least some, if not most, of the uranium enriched fuels that are necessary to power nuclear energy plants emits substantial amounts of environmentally harmful greenhouse gases." The NEI did not appeal the decision.

According to the NEI, Edward Teller, and the nuclear industry: "No one was killed at Three Mile Island." However, during the accident, the plant's operator reported monitors went off stack, filters became "clogged" and radiation monitoring devices were "missing." Just how much radiation was released during the accident is unclear and

varies from "276 to 63,000 person-rem delivered to the general population within 50 miles" (Beya, 1984.) Since the TMI-accident, the plant's owners, General Public Utilities, (GPU) and its 4 co-defendants and insurers have paid over \$70 million in health, economic and evacuation claims, including a \$1.1 million settlement for a baby born with Down Syndrome. In June, 2000, the United States Supreme Court remanded 1,990 health suits from the TMI-accident to Federal Court. (GPU V. Abrams; Dolan v. GPU.)

Government and industry sponsored "health studies" were completed in the early 1980s, relied on does projections, and did not factor data available in 1985 which demonstrated TMI-2 experienced a partial-core melt. Nor did any of these studies evaluate the impact to members of our community who defueled Three Mile Island. In fact, General Public Utilities choose not to maintain a health or cancer registry, despite the fact that from 1979-1989, 5,000 clean-up workers received "measurable doses" of radiation exposure. In August, 1996, a study by the University of North Carolina-Chapel-Hill, authored by Dr. Steven Wing, reviewed the Susser-Hatch (Columbia University; 1991). Dr. Wing reported "...there were reports of erythema, hair loss, vomiting, and pet death near TMI at the time of the accident...Accident doses were positively associated with cancer incidence. Associations were largest for leukemia, intermediate for lung cancer, and smallest for all cancers combined...Inhaled

(Continued on page 11)

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radionuclide contamination could differentially impact lung cancers, which show a clear dose-related increase."

Radioactive waste: Spent fuel "disposal" is the unresolved riddle of nuclear power generation. Each reactor produces approximately 20-30 metric tons of toxic, high-level radioactive waste (HLRW) per year. The technology to safely manage HLRW for an indefinite period does not exist. Rather than trying to constructively resolve this dilemma, the nuclear industry has sued the Department of Energy, and mounted a public relations campaign to convince Nevada

to accept a nuclear waste site (Yucca Mountain) that is geologically flawed and opposed by an overwhelming majority of Nevadans. Even if Yucca Mountain came on line in 2010, it would not have the capacity to store the radioactive waste that has already been generated. Moreover, Yucca Mountain must be designed to isolate nuclear waste for 10,000 years or 400 generations. Constructing a new generation of nuclear power would create additional tonnage of "low-level," "high-level," and "mixed" radioactive waste. This is clearly an irresponsible scenario that would perpetuate the vicious cycle of generating radioactive waste that has nowhere to go.

Conclusion: Those of us who live, work, and parent in close proximity to nuclear power plants have paid the price for corporate hubris and editorial ignorance. To further subsidize a technological relic from the Cold War would accelerate nuclear proliferation, undermine American national security, and create inter-generational debt. Nuclear utilities have historically profited from governmental largess. To embrace a new round of nuclear reactors is to endorse corporate socialism. Those who promote an "inherently safe" generation of nuclear reactors are asking America to ride a horse backwards into the Twentieth Century. ¶

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CANDLES ON THE WATER

Sunday, August 5, 2001

7 p.m. Interfaith Service at Market Square Presbyterian Church

8 p.m. Launching of the Candlelit Peace Boats down the Susquehanna

The Hiroshima and Nagasaki Committee is looking for children who would like to speak about Children's Rights. In the past, children have read letters, essays, and poetry. (5 minute time limit) Any children who would like to share their thoughts should contact Jess Hayden at 932-2348 or Deb Davenport at 763-9552.

Sponsored by the Hiroshima and Nagasaki Committee



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