

# Three Mile Island Alert

The Newsletter of Three Mile Island Alert

December 2002

## TMIA Launches TmiaBlog

by David Raeker-Jordan, Editor

As you may have noticed, it has been a while since we published *TMI Alert*. (The last newsletter came out in March 2002.) Why has our newsletter production been so slow? Well, the newsletter is produced primarily by one person (me), and he has been busier than usual since the summer and unable to get a newsletter out any earlier than now. Even if TMIA could publish *Alert* more frequently, however, there are several problems with TMIA's current publication that warrant a fresh approach to how TMIA communicates with you -- our members and friends. We think that an internet news site makes sense for several reasons:

First, the cost of producing the newsletter, especially postage costs, prevents us from being able to publish a newsletter that ever could be considered "timely." As a clipping

service, TMI Alert does a pretty good job of exposing you to a wide variety of news sources and stories that you probably have not seen. But, let's face it, by the time you get TMI Alert, the news isn't really "new" anymore. Given the budgetary and volunteer resources of TMIA, an online publication makes a lot of sense and allows us to publish more frequently.

Second, to keep TMIA and the goal of nuclear abolition alive, we must attract new members; most of these new members, born around or after 1970, are much more comfortable with computers than are those of us born before 1965. Although TMIA does have a website, an online news and commentary publication would give TMIA a new way to reach a new generation. Additionally, computers and online access have become so prevalent in the U.S. that



we think that most TMIA members already use their computers to access some websites; it's time for TMIA to make better use of the Internet.

Third, the current newsletter is not an effective means of responding to and countering the nuclear industry's public relations machinery. In the years since 1979, the mainstream press has been lulled into a false sense of security, and has come

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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

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**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 merged in 2001. The newly formed company is licensed to operate nuclear power plants in Ohio and Pennsylvania. FE is 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 par-

ent, merged with FirstEnergy in 2001

**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).

## Normal Cancer Rate Found Near Three Mile Island Plant

from a November 1, 2002, *The New York Times* article  
by Matthew L. Wald

A new study of 32,100 people living within five miles of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant near Harrisburg, Pa., found no significant difference in the overall rate of cancer deaths compared with the general population. The study did find some differences when cancers were analyzed by time period, type of cancer, and sex of the patient.

The study, by researchers at the University of Pittsburgh's Graduate School of Public Health, said that their surveillance "provides no consistent evidence that radioactivity released during the nuclear accident has had a significant impact on the overall mortality experience of these residents."

But the study also said that "several elevations persist and certain potential dose-response relationships cannot be definitively excluded."

The study generally agreed with earlier evaluations, that the 1979 accident did not add significantly to can-

cer risk. But the researchers said their study was stronger because it covered from 1979 through the end of 1998 and that cancers that take years to develop would have done so by then.

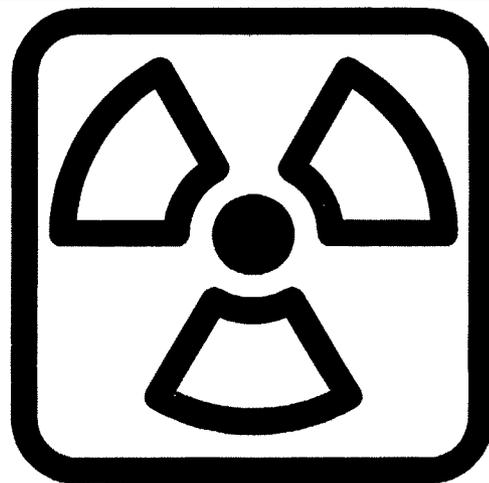
The study is to be published today on <http://ehis.niehs.nih.gov>, a Web site that is part of the National Institutes of Health. It will be published later in the institutes' journal, *Environmental Health Perspectives*.

The lead author, Dr. Evelyn O. Talbott, said in a telephone interview, "When you compare observed with expected cancer, there was virtually no difference."

But Dr. Talbott added, "We did see one blip." From 1985 to 1989, 24 women in the group died of lymphoma or hematopoietic tissue (blood-forming organs), up from 14 that were expected to contract the disease during that period.

Among men, she said, the rates of those cancers were the same as what was expected, but the cancers were more common in those whom researchers believe were exposed to more radiation from the accident than in those who are thought to have received less. (The accident exposures were calculated, not measured.) Even the largest dose from the accident, though, was "very tiny," she said.

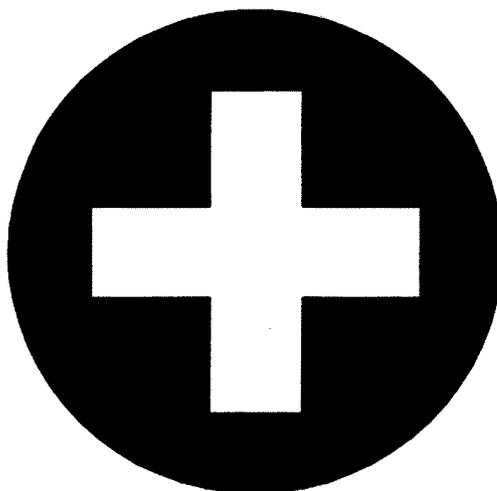
"You would expect, really by chance, when you do 20 or more



analyses, you're going to have a couple that by random chance come up," Dr. Talbott said. But she added, "You still need to report it when you see it."

The study was not thorough enough to capture other risk factors, she said. "Did we adjust for everything under the sun? No," she said. Among the questions that researchers might pursue, she said, is whether those with higher cancer rates had more exposure to medical X-rays, pesticides or other possible risk factors.

After the explosion of the Chernobyl reactor, in Ukraine, in 1986, researchers found numerous cases of thyroid cancer. But the new Three Mile Island study found only one thyroid cancer death in the area over the period.



## Science for Sale: TMI and the University of Pittsburgh

by Eric Joseph Epstein

Mr. Epstein is the Chairman of Three Mile Island Alert. He is also the Coordinator of the EFMR Monitoring group, a non-partisan community-based organization that monitors Peach Bottom and Three Mile Island nuclear generating stations. <http://efmr.enviroweb.org>

The University of Pittsburgh's most recent health study, released on Halloween 2002, is essentially a recitation of discredited protocol and disputed data. The Study actually acknowledged an increase in lymphatic and blood cancers among men. However, as in previous of University Pittsburgh Studies conducted by the same group of researchers (Evelynn Talbott et al; 2000),<sup>1</sup> this survey relied on government and nuclear industry sponsored health studies that were completed in the early 1980s. These studies were based on inaccurate dose projections, did not factor data only available in 1985 regarding the severity and conditions of the partial-core meltdown at Three Mile Island Unit-2,<sup>2</sup> and did not factor the prevailing weather conditions and wind patters in March-April, 1979.

Nor did any of these studies evaluate the health 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.<sup>3</sup>

Moreover, the University of Pittsburgh's Study relied heavily on the much maligned Pennsylvania Department of Health's seventeen year-

old survey released in September 1985. That Study's protocol was criticized by epidemiologists at Harvard (Dr. George Hutchison), and Penn State (Dr. Robert A. Hultquist) for "diluting" increases in cancer by "expanding" the population base to include people living outside of ten-mile study-zone. (October; 1985).<sup>4</sup>

A great deal of radiation was indeed released by the partial core melt at TMI. The President's Commission estimated about 15 million curies of radiation were released into the atmosphere. A review of dose assessments, conducted by Dr. Jan Beyea, (National Audubon Society; 1984)<sup>5</sup> estimated that from 276 to 63,000 person-rem were delivered to the general population within 50 miles of TMI. More recently, David Lochbaum of the Union of Concern Scientists, estimated between 40 million curies and 100 million curies escaped during the accident.

For 11 days in June-July, 1980, Met Ed illegally vented 43,000 curies of radioactive Krypton-85 (beta and gamma; 10 year half life) and other radioactive gasses into the environment without having scrubbers in place.<sup>6</sup> And by 1993, TMI-2 evaporated 2.3 million gallons of accident-generated radioactive water, including tritium, a radioactive form of hydrogen (half life; 12. 5 years) into the atmosphere despite legal objec-

tions from community-based organizations.<sup>7</sup>

The plant's owners, co-defendants, and insurers have paid over \$80 million in health, economic, and evacuation claims, including a \$1.1 million settlement for a baby born with Down Syndrome.<sup>8</sup> In June 2000, the United States Supreme Court remanded 1,990 unsettled health suits from the TMI-accident back to Federal Court. (*GPU v. Abrams, Dolan v. GPU.*)<sup>9</sup>

In August 1996, a study by the University of North Carolina-Chapel Hill, authored by Dr. Steven Wing, reviewed the Susser-Hatch study (Columbia University; 1991). Dr. Wing reported that "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 radionuclide contamination could differentially impact lung cancers, which show a clear dose-related increase."<sup>10</sup>

Today, TMI-2 remains a high level radioactive waste dump in the middle of the Susquehanna River. There was no decommissioning fund established for TMI at the time of the

(Continued on page 5)

*(Continued from page 4)*

accident. The site of the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident has not been decontaminated or decommissioned. There has not been a human entry in the basement of the reactor building since March 1979.

**End Notes**

1. Environment Health Perspectives, June 2000.
2. On November 6, 1984, research conducted by the Department of Energy on reactor damage during the accident indicates temperatures may have reached in excess of 4,800 degrees.
3. On April 11, 1984, William Pennsylv settled out-of-court two days before an administrative law judge was scheduled to hear his case relating to GPU's refusal to allow Pennsylv to wear a respirator during cleanup activities.  
  
By 1986, TMI-2 defueling work force peaks at 2,000, but by 1989, after ten years of defueling activities, 5,000 TMI workers have received "measurable doses" of radiation exposure.
4. Frank Lynch, *State's TMI study clouded by survey method doubts*, SUNDAY PATRIOT-NEWS (Harrisburg, PA), October 6, 1985, at 1A.
5. Study available from the TMI Public Health Fund, 16223 Locust Street, Philadelphia, PA 19103, #215-875-3926.
6. In November, 1980, the United States Court of Appeals for the District of Columbia ruled that the krypton venting (June-July, 1980) was illegal.
7. In 1980, the Susquehanna Valley Alliance, based in Lancaster, successfully

prevented GPU/Met Ed from dumping 700,000 gallons of radioactive water into the Susquehanna River. Ten years later, in December 1990, despite legal objections by TMI-Alert and the Susquehanna Valley Alliance, GPU began evaporating 2.3 million gallons of accident-generated radioactive water (AGW). By August 1993, evaporation of 2.3 million gallons of AGW was completed over six months behind schedule. The evaporator was disassembled and removed from the site. According to the Pennsylvania Department of Environmental Resources, the total activity during evaporation was 658 curies of tritium or 1 to 1.3 MR dose to the public.

8. By 1985, TMI had paid at least \$14 million for out-of-court settlements of personal injury lawsuits. Most of the cases were "sealed," and only those cases involving "minors" are published as prescribed by the rules and regulations of Pennsylvania's Orphan's Court.

9. On June 12, 2000, the United States Supreme Court rejected an appeal by GPU to throw out 1,990 health suits. On May 2, 2001, the Third Circuit Court of Appeals ruled that "new theories" to support medical claims against Three Mile Island will not be allowed.

10. Researchers at University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill have published, in the journal *Environmental Health Perspectives* (February 24, 1997), a reevaluation of the health effects near Three Mile Island. They have found chromosomal damage and higher cancer rates than previously reported, suggesting radiation levels were higher than official estimates. Copies of the study may be requested by calling 919-541-3345. ¶

**Inadvertent Computer Keystroke Sets Off Three Mile Island Sirens**

*from a December 13, 2002, NEPA News article*

URL = [http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=6383831&BRD=2212&PAG=461&dept\\_id=465812&rfi=6](http://www.zwire.com/site/news.cfm?newsid=6383831&BRD=2212&PAG=461&dept_id=465812&rfi=6)

The sirens sounded for three minutes Thursday morning after the worker in the Cumberland County emergency management center "hit the spacebar on a computer keyboard while the siren activation window screen for Dauphin County was open," according to a statement from AmerGen Energy Co., the joint venture between Exelon and British Energy that owns the plant.

The workers were installing another computer next to the computer used to activate the sirens and, in the process, inadvertently hit the spacebar, said Ralph DeSantis, an Exelon spokesman.

As a result, 28 sirens sounded, all of them in neighboring Dauphin County, officials said.

The computer's software was supposed to activate the sirens only under commands made by the computer's mouse. AmerGen has notified the software company of the glitch, and advised emergency management centers in five surrounding counties to remove keyboards from the computers that allow each of the counties to sound the sirens.

**Peach Bottom Mishandled Leak**

*from a November 27, 2002, Intelligencer Journal (Lancaster, PA) article*

Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station will receive additional inspections next year for mishandling a carbon dioxide gas leak at the plant on June 2, federal nuclear officials announced November 26. The Nuclear Regulatory Commission issued the violation notice after investigating the incident and holding hearings with officials from Exelon Nuclear, which operates the plant.

At 12:31 a.m. on June 2, a fire-extinguishing system began leaking life-threatening gas into a generator room. The shift manager did not declare an "alert," -- which requires notifying local emergency officials -- until 1:02 a.m.

When emergency situations arise, NRC regulations require plant operators to declare an alert within 15 minutes. Although the delay in June did not compromise public health, NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said Exelon made a prioritizing error. "The shift manager, instead of focusing on the alert, took time to call a corporate duty officer," Sheehan said. "It appears to us that time should have been used to focus on the plant."

Sheehan said nuclear regulators will conduct additional inspections in that area of the plant for each of the next four quarters. The NRC will bill Exelon for those inspections.

Also in Tuesday's announcement, the NRC said it is lowering the severity of a second violation, this one

for inadequately critiquing a February emergency drill. At a Feb. 14 exercise, NRC inspectors observed that engineers operating a simulated reactor, which was nearing meltdown, did not communicate well with their on-site superiors. Exelon downplayed the problems in its self-evaluation.

Preliminary NRC investigations showed both the gas leak and drill incidents merited "white" violations, meaning the problems were of low to moderate safety significance.

Exelon requested hearings hoping to have both violations reduced from a "white" designation to "green," which is of low safety significance. The NRC upheld the carbon dioxide incident as a white violation, but dropped the drill critique to green.

"We wanted both issues to be reduced," Exelon spokesman Dave Simon said. "We're pleased that the one was dropped from the white to the green. In both cases, we've taken care of business on our end . . . . The basic point is to get this stuff fixed, to do the repairs and make sure the plant is safe."

Regulators are evaluating whether Exelon should be granted licenses to continue operating the two Peach Bottom reactors into the 2030s. The company's license to operate the Unit 2 reactor expires in 2013; its Unit 3 license expires in 2014. The Unit 1 reactor was permanently shut down in 1974.

**NRC OKs Peach Bottom Power Output Plan**

*from a November 23, 2002, Intelligencer Journal (Lancaster, PA.) article*

On November 22, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission said it will permit Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station to produce 1.6 percent more power than its license allows. The power uprate at the plant will increase the generating capacity of both units from 1093 megawatts electric to 1110.

Fran Reining, a spokeswoman for Exelon Nuclear, which operates the power station, said the reactors may have been exceeding their licensed output for some time.

The company recently installed new transducers, machines that distribute power generated by the reactors. The new, more sensitive equipment registered a higher megawatt output. "We're probably producing the same amount of electricity," Reining said, "but now we have a more accurate measurement." Together, both units produce enough electricity to power about 2 million homes, Reining said.

"There have been a number of requests across the industry for power uprates," NRC spokesman Neil Sheehan said. "In some cases like this one, it is as simple as an instrument upgrade."

**Nuclear Regulatory Commission Inspector Unclear on Three Mile Island Protocol**

*from a November 22, 2002, York Daily Record article*

On October 17, 2001 -- the same day the Nuclear Regulatory Commission assured the public that clear lines of communication had been established between the agency, nuclear plant operators and Pennsylvania emergency officials -- an NRC inspector complained of a lack of direction when responding to a possible terrorist threat against Three Mile Island.

A two paragraph e-mail sent by Joseph Furia to a former NRC manager and a commission specialist states, "Having me come in after a full day of conducting an outage inspection, (then) sit around for several hours, served none of us well."

The York Daily Record obtained the e-mail regarding an Oct. 17, 2001, threat through a Freedom of Information Act request. Furia's e-mail stated that if NRC officials call people to the Incident Response Center (IRC) for future events, they should:

- Be ready to forward NRC staff on to the event site;
- Be ready to forward NRC staff on to a hotel near the event site, where a staff member can relieve someone the following morning; or
- Have an active position for NRC staff member to fill in the IRC.

When asked about the content of the e-mail, Furia referred all questions to the NRC's public affairs office. Diane Screnci, a spokeswoman

for the NRC, would not comment whether any of the suggestions have been put into action. The nature of the possible threat has never been made public.

In an Oct. 18, 2001, news release regarding the possible threat, NRC Chairman Richard A. Meserve declared that "clear lines of communication among the state, the NRC and licensees have been established."

Although the intelligence community eventually deemed the threat not to be credible, about 150 pages of documents -- including a chronology of events, handwritten logs and lesson learned reports -- sought by the Daily Record were withheld by the NRC. However, some new information released by the commission points to the inner workings of the Incident Response Center and how it operated the night of Oct. 17, 2001.

Each NRC regional office, including the Region 1 bureau in King of Prussia that monitors the Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station and TMI Unit 1, has an incident response center. Filled with computers, telephones and workstations, the center operates as a place where NRC staff can gather and monitor an event, Screnci said.

Immediately following Sept. 11, 2001, the Region 1 center, which covers nuclear power plants in states from Maine to Washington, D.C., was manned by two or three

NRC staff members around the clock in readiness for an attack or emergency, she said.

On the evening of Oct. 17, an additional 23 NRC staff members, including Furia, were called into the center to address the possible terrorist threat. Military jets patrolled the skies within a 20-mile radius of TMI while plant security was notched up to respond to what the commission then termed a "potential terrorist threat." The Federal Aviation Administration halted flights from Harrisburg International Airport and Lancaster Airport for about four hours while officials alerted the state Emergency Management Agency and other state and federal authorities.

NRC reactor safety inspectors, public affairs officials, state liaisons and protective measure authorities were called to the Incident Response Center in response to the threat. Furia, a radiation specialist who completes nuclear reactor inspections, was called to the center in case it would become necessary to send relief staff to TMI.

One month after the noncredible threat, the commission began to staff its incident response centers on an event basis rather than at all times. "Our system is designed to call in extra people so we can handle an event, but the need for those extra people never materialized that night," Screnci said.

## Chicago, British Co-Owners Consider Selling Three Mile Island Nuclear Plant

from a September 10, 2002, Lancaster New Era (Lancaster, PA) article by Ad Crable

The British co-owner of the Three Mile Island nuclear plant is teetering on the edge of bankruptcy and says it is considering selling its share of the plant. Last week, Chicago-based Exelon Energy, the plant's co-owner and its operator, announced it also is considering selling its 50-percent ownership.

An Exelon official at the plant said today the financial problems of British Energy currently pose no threat to continued operation of TMI. "There has been no financial impact to the current operation," said Ralph DeSantis, an Exelon spokesman.

However, British Energy's money troubles have prompted the Canadian Nuclear Safety Commission to ask the utility for a guarantee that it has the finances to continue operating an Ontario nuclear plant. If British Energy ceases operations, the CNSC wants assurances that there is enough money to ensure a safe shutdown over six months, according to Reuters, the British news agency.

British Energy, whose 1999 purchase of TMI made it the first partially foreign-owned nuclear plant in the United States, is seeking a financial bailout from the British government to stay afloat. "The board has concluded that we had no alternative other than to seek government support," Robin Jeffrey, BE executive chairman, is quoted as saying in *Restructuring Today*, a Washington,

D.C.-based daily publication covering utility and communications markets.

British Energy, the United Kingdom's largest nuclear generator, on Monday received a \$637 million loan from the British government to keep its reactors going until later this month.

Shares in British Energy, which supplies 20 percent of the United Kingdom's power, plummeted by 65 percent and analysts said the whole nuclear industry may have to be restructured. The crisis took another twist Monday when it was revealed that Enron, the collapsed U.S. energy trader, was a creditor of British Energy. British Energy is seeking various reliefs from the U.K. government. If they are not granted, the company said, it may be unable to meet financial obligations.

The sale of TMI may be appealing to British Energy because it is expected to bring a handsome profit for the utility and for Exelon. The plant was purchased for \$100 million in 1999 when nuclear plants were far from hot investments. Industry analysts have estimated the plant could bring \$340 million to \$600 million now. Analysts have named several American utilities as possible buyers, including Dominion Virginia Power, Entergy of New Orleans and Florida Power & Light.

## BP Bowing Out of ANWR Lobbying Group

from a November 26, 2002, Anchorage Daily News article by Liz Ruskin

As the lobbying group Arctic Power gears up for yet another year of trying to persuade Congress to open the Arctic National Wildlife Refuge to drilling, Alaska's second-largest oil producer has quit the effort. BP Alaska told Arctic Power last week that it would no longer contribute money to the group and that the company's representative on the board was resigning. "It's not a message about ANWR at all," said BP Alaska spokesman Paul Laird. "It's simply a business decision that BP made that it no longer wants to be part of the debate."

The news was cheered in the Washington offices of the U.S. Public Interest Research Group. "We've been targeting BP for four years to get them to finally live up to their green logo and green image," said Athan Manual, director of U.S. PIRG's Arctic wilderness campaign. "This is a really big step."

Arctic Power gets most of its funding from the state; last year the Legislature gave it \$3.5 million. The 19 million-acre refuge in northeastern Alaska is closed to drilling, but Congress has struggled for years over whether to open 1.5 million acres on the coastal plain.

The House last year passed a bill opening ANWR, but the Democrat-controlled Senate did not. The fight will begin anew in 2003, but this time with Republicans in control of the House, the Senate, and the White House.

**Entergy Looking at Three Mile Island Unit 1**

*from an October 1, 2002, The Times-Picayune (New Orleans) article by Keith Darce*

Entergy Corp. is bidding to buy a 50 percent share of Three Mile Island Unit 1 and two other reactors from a British utility, according to a report by a British newspaper. Dianne Park, a spokeswoman for the nuclear power plant subsidiary of the New Orleans-based utility, would not confirm or deny the report, but said, "Generally, if there is a nuclear plant for sale in the United States, we certainly are interested in talking to the sellers."

Three Mile Island Unit 1, a 790-megawatt generator in Harrisburg, Pa., is the sister reactor of the notorious Three Mile Island Unit 2, which overheated March 28, 1979, causing the nation's worst nuclear power accident. No one was killed, but the disaster was a devastating blow to the industry, and the unit never reopened.

The other two plants are the Clinton power station, a 930-megawatt generator in Clinton, Ill., and the Oyster Creek power station, a 620-megawatt generator in Forked River, N.J. The three plants are part of AmerGen, a 50-50 joint venture of British Energy PLC and Exelon, the largest operator of nuclear power plants in the United States and the parent of PECO Energy in Pennsylvania and Commonwealth Edison in Illinois.

Entergy is the second-largest U.S. nuclear plant operator, with five units in the northeast and five in Arkansas, Louisiana and Mississippi.

The company is the parent of Entergy New Orleans, Entergy Louisiana and three other regulated utilities in Arkansas, Mississippi and Texas.

A purchase of British Energy's stake in the AmerGen plants would fit Entergy's recent strategy to acquire and expand clusters of nuclear power units throughout the country.

British Energy, which is fighting to stave off bankruptcy, has been looking for a buyer for its American nuclear plant shares, according to *The Business*, the British newspaper that originally reported Entergy's interest in the units.

Entergy will submit its bid this week, the newspaper reported. Rival bids could come later from Constellation Energy Group, owner of Baltimore Gas & Electric, and FPL Group Inc., owner of Florida's largest power utility and the company that aborted a merger attempt with Entergy last year.

Other recent reports have said that Exelon is considering selling its 50 percent stake in the AmerGen nuclear plants.



**'Extraterrestrial Alien' Invades Nuclear Plant**

*from a December 10, 2002, The Daily Journal article*

URL= <http://www.daily-journal.com/content/?id=17886>

A crazed Chicagoan, swearing to be an extraterrestrial alien, crashed his car through the gates of the Braidwood nuclear facility late Monday before speeding away only to be arrested for reckless driving in Wilmington minutes later.

Khalil I. Ghandor, 29, was arrested by Wilmington officer Don Thomas at 11:37 p.m. after Ghandor allegedly ran a motorist off the road then barreled across the bridge on Baltimore Street with his lights off. Wilmington police Chief James Metta said Ghandor did not appear drunk and gave no indication of being connected to a terror cell. He was also cited by Braidwood police. Will County sheriff's police cited him for trespass. No injuries resulted.

Metta said the intruder is alleged to have penetrated the parking area by crashing through closed gates, flashing past a plant checkpoint and then doing "donuts" in the parking lot.

[Ed. note: This man drove through the gates, past a check point, did "donuts" in the parking lot, and then drove out of the facility. Where was the plant's security?]

## Three Sirens Fail in Three Mile Island Control System Test; York County To Discuss Evacuation Plans for Day Care Centers

from a September 5, 2002, York Daily Record article

by Sean Adkins

After failing to sound all 79 sirens situated within a 10-mile radius of Three Mile Island on September 4, AmerGen officials responded with a second test of its new siren control system. At 9:30 a.m., AmerGen officials stationed at the 911 Communications Center at Pleasant Acres sounded 34 York County sirens that are near Three Mile Island. Emergency centers in Cumberland, Dauphin, Lancaster and Lebanon counties sounded the remaining 45 sirens.

The 10-second checks are designed to test \$250,000 siren upgrades that AmerGen installed earlier this year in an effort to better alert residents in the event of a nuclear, chemical or weather-related emergency. A faulty antenna caused three of the sirens to fail and a second test was conducted five minutes later, said Dave Simon, spokesman for Exelon Generation. The second test sounded all 79 sirens, including the 34 York County siren boxes, he said.

"Both tests were a success," Simon said. "The first siren test was a 96 percent efficiency. That is well within the 90-percent range that we need to be in."

Simon said the company is not aware which sirens failed but the antenna has undergone repairs.

Regardless of the problems that

plagued the first test, the new system will help York County Emergency Services guard against failed sirens, said Patrick McFadden, director of York County emergency services. For example, if both computers stationed at the 911 Communications Center should fail to sound York County sirens, a computer in Dauphin County can complete the task, he said. "It's a good system that is all push-button and user friendly," McFadden said.

At 1 p.m. Wednesday, Exelon Generation sounded all 27 of its York County sirens that surround Peach Bottom Atomic Power Station, Simon said. The successful test was part of a monthly plan to sound all York County sirens near the plant, he said.

### Day Care Evacuation Plans

While schools and most businesses are prepared to act in the event that sirens around both plants should sound, no federal mandate exists for the evacuation of day care centers or nursery schools.

With the help of Three Mile Island Alert, Lawrence Christian of Fairview Township has authored a petition addressing the lack of day care centers and nursery school evacuation plans.

TMI Alert is a group of activists concerned about the state and na-

tional regulation of the nuclear-power industry.

The petition, along with roughly 700 signatures, will be sent to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission for review, Christian said.

Outlined in the petition, Christian suggests that the NRC require day care centers to establish designated relocation centers, stock potassium iodide pills and provide parents with information detailing the plan.

"This is a weak point that needs to be addressed," he said. "Each day care center and nursery school needs a standardized checklist."

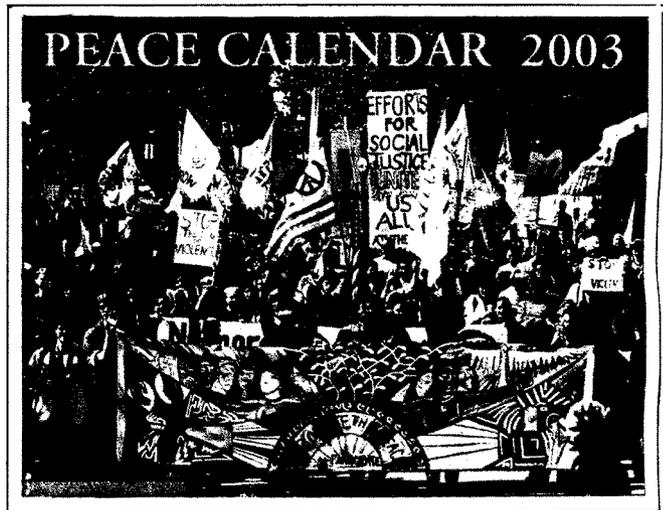
In an effort to respond to the growing concern for day care center evacuation plans, the York County Emergency Services will hold a series of meetings with the owners of the centers, McFadden said.

The agency is contacting all day care centers and nursery schools in York County concerning the meetings that will occur within the next month.

Officials need to determine the dates and locations of the meetings. The meetings will address how each school and center can create an evacuation plan and make that information known to parents, McFadden said.

### 2003 Peace Calendar

Once again, TMIA is offering the Syracuse Cultural Workers' Peace Calendar. The cover image (shown at right) is a spirited, courageous Peace March held in Washington, DC, nineteen days after the 9-11 attacks. "Our Grief Is Not a Call To War" and "Stop the Cycle of Violence" were two rallying points for this march and hundreds of others around the US and the world. Other topics include: African American church culture; justice in the Middle East; Eleanor Roosevelt; Justice for Janitors; a humorous lesbian piece; Colombia and the US "drug/oil war"; Albert Einstein as peacemaker; US consumerism; a commemoration of Ethel & Julius Rosenberg 50 years later; and a beaded art piece titled Observing the Waters by Jo Wood.



To view the calendar, visit: <http://www.syculturalworkers.org/feature/2003calendar/Cal2003.html>

The 2003 Peace Calendar costs \$10 and can be picked up at the TMIA office, 315 Peffer, Harrisburg; please call for directions or office hours (phone 233-7897). You can also order by mail; send \$10 per calendar (plus \$2.00 postage per calendar) payable to:

**Three Mile Island Alert  
315 Peffer St  
Harrisburg PA 17102**



## Please renew your TMIA membership

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Address \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

- Membership:     \$20 Regular Member             \$50 Sustaining Member
- \$25 Non-Profit Org             \$100 Patron
- \$5 Low Income/Student             \$200 Club Member             \$10 Newsletter only

Intervention Fund Contribution:     \$10             \$20             \$50             \$100

Checks of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.

**RETURN TO: TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102**

The official registration and financial information for Three Mile Island Alert may be obtained from the PA Department of State by calling toll free, within PA, 1-800-732-0999. Registration does not imply endorsement.

(Continued from page 1)

to believe that the NRC and the nuclear industry have the public's best interests at heart. An online publication would allow us to publish news, commentary, and critique as events occurred, thus encouraging discussion of and action regarding nuclear abolition and safe-energy alternatives.

Fourth, the current newsletter, by its nature, has not been effective at encouraging members to become active participants in planning TMIA's future. Although TMIA has been extremely effective over the years, most of the real work of TMIA has been accomplished by a relatively small group of people. We need to encourage the active participation of more members in the

planning of TMIA's future. An online publication would allow members to discuss the news and comment on TMIA's positions and plans, thus encouraging more people to become actively involved in TMIA.

Given these reasons, TMIA is introducing **TmiaBlog**, a web-based news and commentary forum. What is a blog? "Blog" is short for "web log," and is a frequent, chronological publication of thoughts and Web links.

TMIA plans to use TmiaBlog to notify you of news, commentary, and alerts. You can email us and let us know about items and events that you want publicized, and we can post them to TmiaBlog. It is our

hope that by moving to a web-based publication, we can save money, stay in closer and more frequent contact with our members, and reach out to new, younger members who are more likely to be familiar with obtaining news and commentary from websites.

To reach TmiaBlog, go to <http://www.tmia.com>, and follow the link to TmiaBlog. After you have visited TmiaBlog, let us know what you think.



# TMIA Alert

**TMIA**  
**315 Peffer Street**  
**Harrisburg PA 17102**

A RED **X** Indicates That Your Dues  
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