

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 2 No. 6

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

September 1980

THANKS FOR YOUR HELP

Dear TMIA Supporter,

Over the past several months, you have contributed money and frequently your time to the continuing struggle that we in Harrisburg find ourselves up against: the ongoing accident at Three Mile Island and the subsequent clean-up. The situation has been complicated by an insensitive Governor, NRC, and federal administration. The situation has been ironic, in the sense that a great deal of our money has been going to support Met-Ed via us as ratepayers and us as taxpayers. The battle will be won by those with the greatest resources. For now, the other side appears to have our money; however, you are beginning to turn that trend, by lending your financial support to TMIAAlert. Your money goes directly to the legal intervention that we are involved in, and also to efforts to keep getting the truth out to the public in this area about the travesty of justice that has been inflicted on the people of Central Pa. The struggle promises to be long and difficult, but with people like yourself sacrificing your hard-earned money toward the fight, we will overcome TMI.

Thank you letters rarely express feelings better than words; our thanks to you can only be done for now through this method. But, the appreciation we feel remains real. Together, we will get this monster out of our lives, and insure that

others do not suffer the same that we have. Thank you.

Joel Roth
TMIA Chair

WHO'S DOING WHAT

By Al Miranda

Out of necessity, common cause and purpose, local anti-nuclear organizations have joined together to insure the safe and rapid decontamination of TMI and to promote regional conversion to safe energy alternatives. The groups involved since the beginning of 1980 are TMIA Alert (TMIA), Environmental Coalition on Nuclear Power (ECNP) of State College, Anti-Nuclear Group Representing York (ANGRY), Susquehanna Valley Alliance (SVA) of Lancaster, Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee of Newberrytown, and People Against Nuclear Energy (PANE) of Middletown.

Two boards have been established under the fiscal sponsorship of the Youth Project. The Boards are the Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center (TMIPIRC) and Three Mile Island Legal Fund (TMILF). PIRC's function is to gather and disseminate reliable information and conduct scientific and technical analysis. Other activities include media, community organizing, and fund-raising. TMILF allocates funds in support of a variety of legal cases resulting from the TMI situation. To date, TMIA has received \$6,000 from TMILF for the last three months with allocations of \$2,000 per month.

As the hearings grow near (October) so do our financial needs. We will be turning to the Legal Fund for monies in order to obtain: witnesses, cross

cont.

examination, subpoena and other related legal obligations. It is important to note that the Legal Fund is not going to meet all of our needs. It is still essential for TMIA to continue an aggressive fund-raising effort.

Presently PIRC is seeking funds, submitting proposals to national funders in order to sustain both boards. A national direc-mail campaign has been operating for many weeks; however, it will be a full year before we will be able to benefit.

A representative from each group sits on each board and works with acting project director and research coordinator Steve Sholly. An administrative assistant has been hired. Additional staff will be hired, as funding permits, for media and community organizing.

Soon the NRC staff will issue its Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) on clean-up of Unit 2. One of the major tasks will be to analyze the EIS and print PIRC's findings. Steve Sholly has researched and written several fact sheets concerning the issues of krypton, radiation monitoring, and "Nuclear Accident and Recovery at TMI."

Recently Steve has researched Dr. Baratta and Dr. Garcia of Penn State University and their application to National Science Foundation for a grant to operate a "Public Citizen Science Center" (PCSC) at Penn State. Information indicates that Penn State is an inappropriate choice as a location for the proposed PCSC project. Penn State has trained nuclear reactor operators employed by Met-Ed and other utilities, including some involved in the TMI-2 accident. It is common knowledge that the president of Penn State, Dr. John Oswald, was appointed to the board of directors of Met-Ed's parent firm, GPU, after the TMI accident. It appears Penn State has a special interest and a built-in bias. This is clearly one of the movements to counter the anti-nuclear effort.

There is much to be done to demonstrate our sanity over the insanity of nuclear. We never thought it would be easy, but we have done much together and we must continue to renew our commitment together.

*FIND OUT THE TRUE STORY--
READ THE ALERT*

STAFFER RESIGNS.

On June 26, 1980, Chris Sayer resigned his position as Staff Coordinator of TMIAAlert. The best expression of how the members felt about this can be seen through a letter sent to Chris by Mike Jones on behalf of the Planning Council:

Dear Chris,

Your recent resignation as Staff Coordinator of TMIA was announced at the Planning Council meeting, Tuesday, July 2, 1980.

As a group and as individuals we would like to express our deep felt appreciation for the time, effort and care you put into the TMIA organization.

The expertise you have displayed in the many facets of nuclear energy and related issues has been an asset to us and the anti-nuclear movement as a whole.

We value your friendship and the fact that you have always tried to be available when we have had organizational or personal needs.

We remain your anti-nuke friends,

The TMIA Planning
Council

For those unaware, Chris was an instrumental part of the growth of TMIA in the days following the accident. His sense of humor, warmth toward people he met and worked with, and his profound understanding of the issues regarding TMI, will make Chris sorely missed. All of us at TMIAAlert are grateful for his contributions to the organization. We wish you the best, Chris.

LEGAL UPDATE

By John Murdoch

While cleanup of TMI Unit 2 proceeds in fits and starts, the legal wheels grind slowly but inexorably toward the eventual start of hearings on whether or not Unit 1 should be allowed to reopen.

These hearings have been tentatively scheduled to begin 100 days from July 1, in early October. At that time, the three-member Atomic Safety and Licensing Board will open

what promises to be a lengthy proceeding, with a parade of witnesses and introduction of volumes of evidence, leading to eventual decision by the NRC itself on the question of permitting Met-Ed again to operate Unit 1. It is reported that those hearings will be held in the Harrisburg area.

Meanwhile, more than a score of TMIA volunteers (Their names will appear in a later issue of TMI ALERT) have been quietly at work at the laborious and unglamorous job of researching reams of records to unearth the facts regarding Unit 1 that will help support the basis of TMIA's case against restart. In the spartan setting of Met Ed's "Discovery Room" at the old Crawford (coal-fired) electric generating plant (now out of service) near the Harrisburg International Airport, they have been reading through the files that record Unit 1's day-to-day history. Other volunteers are working at compiling and typing the information found. A total of 590 hours has been devoted to this task.

A source close to the firm of Widoff, Reager, Selkowitz & Adler, retained by TMIA to represent its interests as an intervenor in the case, while unwilling to make a public statement prior to the hearing, did call the information unearthed to date "extremely interesting" and said it ought to help document TMIA's contentions as to how Unit 1 operations were conducted.

Dennis Bonetti, of the same legal firm, and John Murdoch, who stepped in to enlist and organize the volunteers, have been in charge of the "Discovery Room" work.

"Discovery," it is explained, is a legal process aimed at providing parties to a legal proceeding with evidence to support their case, and requires litigants to supply one another with files and similar information in their possession, on specific request. The objective is to prevent "courtroom surprises" -- Perry Mason to the contrary notwithstanding!

TMIA is one of several intervenors in the upcoming case; all are intent on keeping Unit 1 closed. Others include: PANE, ANGRY, the Union

of Concerned Scientists, Newberry Township, the Chesapeake Energy Alliance, the Environmental Coalition, and three individuals (Sholly, Aamodt, and Lewis). Each is concentrating on a different aspect of the situation. TMIA has chosen to devote major attention to the questions of Met-Ed's financial and managerial capabilities to operate Unit 1.

That the TMI case will mark a landmark in the history of nuclear regulation and in administration law seems like a foregone conclusion. Those who are supporting the battle with their dollars, as well as the volunteers who are helping with the legal preparation can know that they are helping shape a chapter in that history.

CONSERVATION TIP

Hot water heaters can be more efficient. As well as the insulation, lowered water temperature and other conservation tips that are widely publicized, there is a way of turning off your electric hot water heater, except for the times of day you need it. The timer you can have attached is inexpensive and saves both money and energy.

A regular hot water heater keeps water at a usable, HOT temperature 24 hours a day. I know very few people who use hot water while they sleep! The timer can be set for any time you use most of your water (mornings--6:00am to 8:00am for showers and dishes) and some can be set to turn the heater on twice a day (morning and evening or any other time you choose). The insulation built into your heater (as well as the kind you can install) will keep the water hot after the heater is turned off and unless you drain all that water before the heater comes on again--you should never notice that you're conserving! It will save a bundle of money since hot water heaters make up a huge percentage of your home's electric bill!

Call a plumber now! Our timer cost us approximately \$40 installed and is called "The Little Grey Box." We have yet to run out of hot water.

Cathie Musser

ELECTION CAMPAIGN

By Ed Nielsen

TMIA will be starting a Fall '80 Campaign on the Elections, that will be extremely critical to the efforts to keep TMI shut. Several Community Group Reps and others have put together a plan for September thru late November '80. Though plans are tentative, it appears that this campaign will be initiated immediately.

The plan will be action-oriented, with the focus on placing the following issues in the public eye:

1. intervenor funding for all facets of the continuing accident at TMI
2. public meetings for all phases of the cleanup
3. establish a citizen advisory panel that truly represents the interests of the people of the Central Pa. area
4. continuing problem of waste disposal from TMI

The plan must work. TMIA is at a crossroads and must rely on the commitment and active involvement of all members in order to keep TMI permanently shut. The plan includes these actions: several press conferences designed to place TMIA in the media's focus, as well as in the public's eye; continuing fund-raising efforts, including phone follow-ups to the letter campaign, and a legal update and appeal from our lawyers in the NRC intervention; an action designed to have the people of this area confront those in power (legislators) with anger and demands for a responsible end to our nuclear nightmare at TMI - this will occur in Harrisburg and then in Washington, D.C. in early October; attendance at the NRC public meetings that have already begun; and Election Day demonstrations at as many polling areas as possible.

The only way that any of this can occur is for all of the members to become actively involved in these strategies. We are about to have the nuclear industry (including the NRC and the White House) try to ram more of their ideas down our throats under the guise of democratic process. ARE YOU GOING TO LET THIS RIP-OFF HAPPEN TO US? 4

ARE YOU GOING TO SIT BACK AND LET SOME-ONE ELSE DO THE WORK? ARE YOU GOING TO CONTINUE TO LIVE WITH THE FANTASY THAT EVERYTHING WILL BE TAKEN CARE OF BY THE TMIA OFFICE?

YOUR'RE DEAD WRONG..ONLY EACH OF YOU, THROUGH ACTIVE WORK WILL BE ABLE TO MAKE TMIA WORK.PERIOD...NOBODY ELSE BUT YOU.

CALL THE OFFICE AT 233-7897, OR ED NIELSEN AT 236-0521. OR BETTER YET, CALL YOUR COMMUNITY GROUP REPS AND GET INVOLVED!

THANKS!!

A very big THANK YOU to all who made our raffle of a wood/coal stove a success. Donated by Jerry DuBois of Schrader Stoves of Pa., the stove demonstrates an alternative source of energy and burns wood or coal. The raffle was for the benefit of TMIA and raised approximately \$1200. The winner was Rich Plona of Houston, Texas, who was passing through and bought a ticket "for the heck of it." In a most charitable gesture, Rich gave the stove back to TMIA as an additional contribution.

STEERING COMM. REPORT

By Joel Roth, Chair

"Going to sleep counting millirems instead of sheep - just one of the 'hazards' of being a member of TMIA." Anonymous TMIA member.

The Steering Committee has been incredibly busy during the past twelve months. We have been charged with the day-to-day operation of the organization and the implementation of the goals and strategy as determined by the Planning Council.

We meet three or four times a month as a committee and the following items could be found on our agenda: PUC hearings; restart hearings; a legal update from our attorneys; budget; cleanup operations and the need for a citizen's advisory panel on the cleanup of Unit 2.

A considerable amount of time has been spent on getting this panel appointed. We have recommended that this panel have complete access to all documents, technical assistance, and input into the decision-making process. We

want to avoid a duplication of the sort of decision-making that occurred during the krypton venting.

Word has been received, unofficially, the citizen's panel will be appointed in the near future.

The seven-person committee, as elected by the Planning Council, includes Cathie Musser, Ed Nielsen, John Murdoch (Secretary), Will Rogers (Treasurer), Al Mirando (Vice Chair), and Joel Roth (Chair).

Our philosophy is anchored in optimism. It must be, for optimism brings with it hope and purpose, and therefore, a will to fight for a safe cleanup and a permanent shutdown of the Island as a nuclear plant.

At times we do fall back and become discouraged, but it is not that we are making no progress, simply resolution of issues that in turn create other issues.

A sense of humor is a must: appreciating the absurd and helping to maintain a perspective of ourselves. After all when you are dealing with the "Twin Sisters" of arrogance (Met-Ed and NRC) or otherwise known as the "Evil of the Two Lessers," humor helps keep your sanity.

The Steering Committee is a microcosm of the organization. What I have written about the Committee applies to all of our members.

We do not have a monopoly on the work being done - nor should we. Our organization is strong and will become stronger because of the commitment of all the members.

The national elections coming up in November will be a springboard for action. We will put pressure on the candidates. No politician can sit on a hot issue if we make it hot enough.

OFFICE REPORT

Most members of TMIA have never visited the office at 315 Peffer Street in Harrisburg and until I started working there on a regular basis--I didn't know what happens there--or at least is supposed to happen.

First, there's the phones. TMIA is listed in the phone book and a varying amount of calls come in every day. Most calls are from concerned local individuals, but the media call for opinions or statements and other

groups and individuals from all over this country and others call to be kept up to date on what's happening here. Unfortunately, there are calls going unanswered these days.

Secondly, the mail: Newsletters come from all over the world; requests for information from individuals, scientists, grant foundations; Technical Reports from the NRC, other scientific organizations and private citizens. Right after the accident, there were also a large number of new memberships and contributions. The direct mail fundraising has been initiated again (and is in need of help), but almost no contributions are coming in. However, the bills keep coming regularly.

There's also mail that should be going out. With this issue, we'll be returning to two newsletters being mailed each month: THE ALERT, and ISLAND UPDATES (keeping other groups "updated" as to our progress), Planning Council announcements and minutes, membership renewal letters, announcements of coming events, all need to be processed. These all add up, although a mailing is a simple thing--IF you have the supplies for it, which brings me to the next point.

An organization of this size (approximately 700) requires large amounts of paper, envelopes, tablets, stamps and someone to order and inventory them. We also need to keep track of all the T-shirts, books, bumper stickers, buttons and pamphlets--very necessary items if we're going to educate our neighbors.*
*Most work done in and for the office is uncomplicated, requires little time if done routinely and absolutely necessary if TMIA is going to survive and (more importantly) be effective! If all the key people use their time keeping up with the necessities--there's no energy or time left for the programs everyone wants us to be providing.

I didn't intend this to be a depressing report, but until we can afford to hire the staff person to fit the job description designed by the personnel committee, we are responsible for the day-to-day operation of TMIA.

Several members spent two consecutive weekends improving the physical appearance of our humble home, so those who visited several months ago and were unimpressed by the decor, should give it another try.

There needs to be some individuals who can spend part of one day a week answering the phone and possibly handling one small aspect of the day-to-day routines. After one or two visits to the office, you'll become acquainted with the types of calls received. Until then, someone will arrange to be there with you. The key here is that time required of one individual is directly related to how many individuals are involved. Being involved with the office has taught me new skills and expanded my horizons tremendously. There are benefits to everything!

So--I am offering my services as a job counselor for TMIA. I'm sure there are many of you that want to help, but don't know where you'll fit in. Believe me, there's a function to suit every skill and amount of time you have to spend. Just call me (652-8651) at home or leave a message with whoever answers TMIA's phone (we have call forwarding). I will get back to you and we'll discuss it--NO STRINGS ATTACHED.

Cathie Musser

ACCEPT THE CHALLENGE- WE NEED YOU

The nominating committee to elect new members of TMIA Steering Committee is gearing up under the direction of Debbie Tulli, assisted by Karen Helvin and Nancy Orłowski. They will need your suggestions and help to put together a good slate for the October elections. You may call in to the TMIA office or call Debbie at 232-9104. It is extremely important to our efforts to continue with good leadership. We owe our present Steering Committee a debt of gratitude for working so hard under such difficult conditions and doing a great job. If you are committed, NOW is the time to accept the challenge.

RATE BOYCOTT

People all over the country are fighting against rate hikes and the nuclear power that causes them by participating in a rate boycott of their electric company. Here's how it works: Each month when you pay your utility bill, withhold a portion of the bill. Met-Ed customers should withhold 25% as this represents the nuclear portion of their budget. PP&L customers should withhold 10%, which is the national average of electricity generated by nuclear reactors. Adams Electric Cooperative customers should withhold 10% since they buy some of their power through nuclear companies.

Write out two checks--one for the utility and the other for the boycotted amount. Open a special savings account in which to deposit the boycotted amount. By depositing your withholding you are demonstrating "good faith" and showing that you are not just trying to avoid payment of your utility.

Don't be concerned that your electricity will be shut off. In Pa., you must be given ten days notice and an opportunity to file a complaint with the PUC. At that point, you may choose to pay up and begin the boycott again with the next month's bill. You will have the money readily available in the savings account with accrued interest that would help offset any service charge the utility may require.

For additional information on the rate boycott campaign, contact Jack Knake at 800-932-0701 or 528-8265.

*****UPCOMING EVENTS*****

October 1 "Nuclear Nightmares: Wars That Must Never Happen" on WITF/Channel 33 at 8:00 p.m., Wednesday, Oct. 1. The 90-minute documentary, narrated by Peter Ustinov, depicts four "nightmares" acted by Ustinov that imagine circumstances leading to nuclear conflict.

October 4 Rally at Berwick Plant, sponsored by Susquehanna Valley Alliance on Oct. 4, 12-3 p.m. Contact Bob Witkowski at 829-5788 for additional information.

COMMUNITY REPORT

Fall is coming! We've plugged through the humidity long enough. With the cool air of autumn will begin the fresh vibrations of new beginnings within Three Mile Island Alert. The Mechanicsburg TMIA community group had a successful Jubilee Day, selling raffle tickets, buttons, T-shirts, and books from First Edition Book Store. We netted 25 new names of interested people and \$130. We wish to thank Cese Viti, Helena Dietz, Nancy Kohlstrak, Pam Hamilton, Kim Scott, Keith Bentz, Chris Thorpe, Wendy Lathram, Sharon Umholtz, Ruth Gentle, Frank Davis, Ed & Mary Ann Charles, Winifred Najdek, Tim & Peg Lyng, Barb Smith and especially Mike Jones for making it all happen. Most people were concerned about what will happen in the future--decontamination and waste materials. Other citizens were neutral rather than negative in regard to nuclear energy.

During the summer months, several members from Carlisle, New Cumberland and Mechanicsburg met and discussed the Cumberland County evacuation plan. We came up with many problem areas and wrote a list of questions. We assumed the next step was to talk with Mr. Tom Blosser, Office of Emergency Preparedness for Cumberland County. Mr. Blosser was polite and nonchalant, but could not begin to answer any of our specific questions. We will now meet with the Pennsylvania Emergency Management Agency to get some satisfactory answers.

Frank Davis, on behalf of Mechanicsburg TMIA has written to the WHP station manager expressing our anger concerning the recent advertisements in support of nuclear power. WHP said we would be given time to air our views, but specific arrangements are forthcoming. A letter was also sent to Ms. Susan Shanaman, Chairwoman of the Public Utility Commission, concerning the publication and distribution of a propaganda report entitled "Three Mile Island--One Year Later." This report was enclosed with the West Shore Shopper, which is delivered throughout the entire West Shore area. Another letter went to the Shopper asking pertinent questions about Met-

Ed's financial arrangement with the Shopper. We will share all responses in the next Alert.

In May, we approached the Lower Allen Township Commissioners requesting them to make a statement concerning nuclear energy. They agreed to take a survey of 5000 residents via the township's monthly newsletter. The survey question: "Are you in favor of the permanent shutdown of TMI as a nuclear facility?" The survey results showed 58% were opposed to TMI, 41% not opposed, 1% undecided. Last year, in the Borough of Mechanicsburg, the results were 56% opposed to 43%, and 1% undecided. We are making progress and judging from the comments on the surveys, people are becoming more knowledgeable and still have very strong feelings on the subject. One comment was, "I'd like to tell Harold Denton and his boys to kiss my grits!" We won't be satisfied until the commissioners make a public statement on Three Mile Island.

Mary Hartnett

Let us tell you a very ugly fact about every nuclear power plant... a fact that your utilities do not tell you...a fact that the United States Department of Energy has not told you.

*After approximately 30 years of operation, each nuclear power plant will no longer be operable. The plant will be so radioactive that it will have to be sealed and guarded for centuries.

*After approximately 30 years of operation, each plant is so thoroughly poisoned with very high levels of radiation that each plant must be considered a permanent hazard to the public health for centuries.

The process of radioactive poisoning begins from the moment that the first atomic fuel core is inserted into a plant. The radiation levels in the plant structure rise steadily week after week, month after month, year after year as a succession of atomic fuel cores are inserted into a plant, used in the generation of electricity, and are extracted from the plant.

TELL ME A HORROR STORY MOMMY

By Doris Jean (Simmons) Clayton

Listen little children don't you cry
while I tell you the story of TMI;
Like the big bad wolf, radiation
came to town,
causing all the people to cuss
and frown:
Now like the three little pigs,
all the people were filled with fear,
for where could they run with death
in the air:
They decided they would stay and
fight,
entertainers came to join their plight:
Linda Ronstadt sang Home on the Range,
Pete Seeger said things gotta change;
Dick Gregory said above the crowd,
in a deep seeded voice strong and
loud:

Not only are we free at last,
but nuclear power will be in the past:
Children you are here today,
because in the past someone else
had to pay:
Long ago the Indians took a stand,
they fought and they died for love
of their land.
The Blackman was brought here, bound
and tied,
robbed of his dignity, stripped of
this pride:
Now it took TMI's accident to make
us see,
if we support nuclear power, we will
never be FREE:

Staff This Issue

Sue Olmstead, Ed.	Cathie Musser
Joel Roth	Mary Hartnett
Al Mirando	Mary Rosenkrans
Ed Nielsen	Doug West
John Murdoch	Sue Shetrom
Terry Roth	

DEADLINE FOR NEXT ISSUE: Sept. 19

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U.S. POSTAGE

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