

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

Vol. 2, No. 10

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT

February 1981

ADVISORY COMMITTEE'S FINAL MEETINGS

The Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI Unit 2 will hold a series of working meetings to draw up a set of recommendations on the cleanup of Unit 2. The meetings will be held on February 4, 11, and 19 at the Forum Building, Commonwealth Avenue and Walnut Street, Harrisburg. The meetings will begin at 7:00 p.m.

The panel, formed as a result of Congressional concern, is empowered by the NRC to provide citizen recommendations on the cleanup and the PEIS. Previous meetings have dealt with the questions of the waste problem, water dumping, and other cleanup activities.

Joel Roth, former TMIA chairman and a member of the panel, said, "We have all been disappointed by the lack of citizen input to date. Since the first meeting in November, very few area residents have taken the time to attend these important meetings."

While the 4th and 11th meetings are important, the 19th should become a major effort for people to express their concerns and their fears about the cleanup.

A TMIA effort is underway to insure a large turnout for that meeting. Louise Bradford, acting chairperson of TMIA, said, "People all over the area are questioning whether anti-nuclear sentiment in this area is dead. This is our chance to show that we still feel strongly not only about the safe cleanup, but about the restart of Unit 1."

The lack of citizen input seems to indicate that not even TMIA members are responding. These meetings are an opportunity for you to speak to someone about your concerns - someone who is there for the specific purpose of listening to you.

Anyone interested in helping to develop a major push to get people to the meeting on the 19th, contact Chris Sayer at the TMIA office, phone: 233-7897.

-Chris Sayer

PROJECT WOODEN NICKEL

It is not often that someone is generous enough to donate something of substantial value. But Jerry Dubois of Schraeder Stoves of Pa. has donated a Schraeder wood/coal stove to us to be used in a raffle to raise funds for the local anti-nuclear movement.

Here is an opportunity for all local groups to pull together, reach out, raise funds, and say there is an alternative to nuclear energy.

CAN WE AFFORD TO LET THIS GIFT GO UNANSWERED?

Enclosed with this newsletter, you received five raffle tickets to sell or take a chance yourself. Please give this your immediate attention and don't let the tickets sit unsold. We need 100% response to be successful. So do your part, sell the tickets, and then return the stubs and money to TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, Pa. 17102. If you need more tickets, call or write the TMIA office.

Let's turn our wooden nickels into paper dollars. THANKS FOR YOUR HELP!

-Al Mirando

STEERING COMMITTEE REPORT

The Steering Committee has accepted with regret the resignation, for personal reasons, of Mary Hartnett as chair and colleague. Mary's dedicated leadership will be greatly missed and we hope that she will be able to rejoin us in the future.

There are now two vacant positions on the Steering Committee, and we expect to present candidates for them to the TMIA membership, via this publication, next month. If you would like to serve on the committee, or nominate someone else to serve, please call the office at 717-233-7897 as soon as possible.

In other news, the Steering Committee has named Kay Pickering as Staff Coordinator of TMIA. This action means that Kay will be able to take greater initiative and will have more authority to make decisions and speak for the organization than she has had as Office Volunteer.

Finally, the Steering Committee has retained Theodore R. Kobrin, CPA, to perform an audit of TMIA's books. The audit will cover the years 1979 and 1980 and is required of TMIA as a non-profit organization. Mr. Kobrin will also help us apply for federal tax-exempt status, which, if the IRS grants it to us, should make it somewhat less difficult to raise money. Assisting Mr. Kobrin in his work will be Ruth Gentle, Paul Makurath, and Kay Pickering.

-Paul Makurath

TMI UNIT I RESTART HEARINGS

TMIA, now without enough funds to retain legal counsel or to present expert witnesses, intends to continue as an active intervenor in the TMI Unit 1 restart hearings underway in Harrisburg.

The decision to press ahead with TMIA's contentions of Met-Ed's management shortcomings and financial inadequacies has been made by the Steering Committee and the Planning Council.

Louise Bradford, Vice-Chairperson of the Steering Committee, aided by a number of TMIA volunteers, will represent TMIA at the hearings before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board. Volunteers are needed to help in the work of reviewing and indexing hearing transcripts, in reading correspondence, etc. They should call 233-7897 and leave a message for Louise Bradford.

Recent hearing sessions have concentrated on on-site and off-site emergency planning, major interests of Newberry Twp. Steve Sholly's contentions deal largely with control room design safety. UCS (Union of Concerned Scientists) has now withdrawn a number of its remaining contentions as not being paramount to the central issues of the hearings.

Whatever the ultimate outcome of the hearings in the way of a report and recommendations to the NRC Commissioners from the Board, intervenors with strong cases (and the resources to do so) will have the option of pursuing legal remedies through the courts.

-John Murdoch

TMI LEGAL FUND

The purpose of the TMI Legal Fund (TMILF) is to raise and distribute funds to various anti-nuclear organizations for legal actions concerning the Three Mile Island plant.

The TMILF Board met last month to consider further allocations. Facing the Board was the difficult task of developing standards for setting priorities for further disbursements. Funds, as you all know, are exceedingly low.

All Board members, with the assistance of Judy Johnsrud, worked hard to develop these standards. The

overriding concern of all was whether funds exist for completion of projects proposed by any group.

The Board must be careful not to pump a lot of money into projects and litigation if it appears that insufficient funds exist for completion, or that the project has little or no chance of success.

That's the hard reality. None of us in this movement can be happy with the situation, especially since the utility never seems to have problems coming up with money to pay their attorneys and experts.

Funds are fairly low now. As a result, the TMILF will not be considering any major allotments. Proposals were presented, however, by A.N.G.R.Y., Newberry Twp. Steering committee, TMIA, and PANE. The Board, at the next meeting, will consider which, if any, of these groups should receive funds for use in February.

-Sam Milkes

PROJECT DAVID RATEPAYERS STRIKE

TMIA has initiated a ratepayers strike for the month of March, the second anniversary of the TMI Unit 2 accident. As a protest to Met-Ed and PP&L (Susquehanna Nuclear Power Plant to go on line in 1982), all utility customers are encouraged to send a letter similar to the statement below indicating their objection to rate increases to finance nuclear power plants.

"I cannot, in good conscience, lend approval and financial support to the use of nuclear power plants which threaten the lives and health of myself, my family, and my fellow citizens. In addition, the decision by MetEd to use nuclear power plants has resulted in significantly higher costs for my electric service. Therefore, I am withholding payment of my bill which I received in the month of March from Metropolitan Edison until such time that they decide to keep TMI closed forever as a nuclear generating facility."

Cooperating in this area-wide strike is the community of Newberry



Township, represented by the Newberry Township TMI Steering Committee. Of the more than 3,740 households, 1% made a commitment at the public meeting on January 17 to withhold their utility payment to Met-Ed for the month of March. The overall goal is positive identification and participation of 5% or more of the households.

Those who participate in Project David are asked to make a copy of the top portion of the bill and then bring the top tear-off to the Capitol Steps on March 28. At some point during the rally, all the bills will be burned and then the ashes will be delivered to Met-Ed.

Call or write the TMIA office for additional information and a one-page flyer, "Your Rights as a Met-Ed Customer."

MORE TO COME IN THE MARCH NEWS-LETTER!

FOR YOUR INFORMATION...

Watch for these two programs coming up on your local public television station...

NUCLEAR STRATEGIES is about decisions and decision-makers in the nuclear armament field.

THINKING TWICE: LIVING IN THE NUCLEAR AGE is the story of one family's adjustment to the realities of existence in the nuclear age.

Keeping reading The Alert for further information.

LIMITED APPEARANCE STATEMENTS & LETTER-WRITING EFFORTS

The rules and regulation of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission make provision for two types of participation by the general public in NRC licensing hearings. The first type of participation is intervention, which involves formal participation in the hearing process.

The second type of participation is by making a limited appearance statement. According to the NRC's Rules of Practice, members of the public may, at the discretion of the presiding officer (the Chairman of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board), make an oral or written statement of their position on any issues in the hearing at any session of the hearing.

A coordinated effort by all area groups is underway for a mass Limited Appearance Statement, scheduled for Thursday, March 5 (Snow Date - Wed., March 11) at the William Penn Museum in Harrisburg, beginning at 7:15 p.m. We are asking the Board to come hear our statements at the session we have set up. This will be the only evening session during the entire hearing and the only time for presentations.

For those who have written requests to the Board, please advise TMIA or TMI-PIRC. Please show up and be prepared, even though the Board does not officially notify you of the date and time.

Remember, the statements may be written or verbal.

Another way to make your voice heard is by writing letters to key individuals. Information from many sources reveals that the NRC is getting huge volumes of mail from stockholders, GPU employees, and other local citizens to restart TMI Unit 1.

Two or three times a month, send letters or postcards to:

1. Congressman Allen Ertel, Longworth House Office Building, Washington, D.C. 20510 - Ask him to send a copy to the NRC commissioners.

2. Governor Richard Thornburgh, Main Capitol Building, Harrisburg, PA 4

17120 - Ask him to send a copy to Congressman Ertel and Senator Arlen Specter.

3. Ivan Smith, Chairman, Atomic Safety and Licensing Board Panel, TMI-1 Restart Proceeding, U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Washington, D.C. 20555.

WRITE NOW!

LABOR COMMITTEE MEETINGS

The effect of nuclear power on jobs and health was discussed at meetings of the Labor Committee for Safe Energy and Full Employment on January 17 and 18 in Harrisburg.

Plans were made to sponsor a rally in Harrisburg on March 28, the second anniversary of the accident at TMI.

The safe energy education event brought together representatives of more than 25 labor unions and numerous anti-nuclear groups, from a number of states.

The message was clear, and best described by economist Charles Komanoff, who urged that the country get off nuclear and substitute coal for oil for the interim period until alternative energy is ready to carry the load.

Speakers included national coordinator Jerry Gordon; nuclear physicist Michio Kaku; Tom Twomey of the Mine Workers; Ed Clinch of the Machinists Union; Robert Pollard of the Union of Concerned Scientists; Judy Johnsrud of ECNP; farmer Jane Lee; Mark Widoff, former consumer advocate; and Chauncey Kepford, ECNP.

Jane Perkins of the Pennsylvania Social Services Union braved possible expulsion from the Central Pennsylvania Building and Trades Council in organizing the Greater Harrisburg segment of the conference.

In four workshops, leaders told of the high cost of nuclear construction, the impact on jobs, the risks to human and animal health, and the Big Oil corporation control of our energy choices.

Slides and movies showed radiation victims, damaged fuel cores, bomb testing casualties, and a nuclear debate.

CLEAN-UP PROBLEMS

A recent article in Science, entitled "Debate Over Waste Imperils Three Mile Island Cleanup," discusses the amount of radioactive material currently present at TMI, and continually being created by the clean-up effort. The author concludes that the lack of disposal sites capable of accepting this material has created a serious problem.

The accident itself generated quantities of radioactive wastes of all levels. In addition to severe damage to the core, one million gallons of water, the containment building and all the equipment in it, were heavily contaminated.

Now the clean-up is increasing this load of radioactive debris. A report by the Bechtel Power Company estimates the materials that will be contaminated by the clean-up. The thousands of decontamination workers will be outfitted with one million pairs of plastic coveralls, boots, and gloves, and thousands of breathing masks and oxygen tanks. In addition, an estimated 10,000 sponge mops, 10,000 concrete blocks, 12,000 sq. ft. of lead sheeting and as much as 350,000 gallons of decontamination solution will be required.

All these materials will have to be securely disposed of. However, a shortage of disposal sites for low and intermediate waste may leave the stuff sitting on Three Mile Island. Currently there are three U.S. sites capable of accepting TMI wastes. However, the Beatty, Nev. site may have its license revoked by the governor, and the Barnwell, SC site will not accept TMI wastes. Prior to the November election, wastes were being trucked to the Hanford, Washington site. A statewide referendum indicated 60% of Washington citizens favored restricting the site to in-state use. If legal and jurisdictional issues are resolved in the citizens' favor, this site too will be closed to TMI wastes.

If on-site storage becomes the only option, the issue is sure to become a controversial one. As the author observes, "In the past, the disposal of radioactive waste has been

a problem that policy-makers have put off until tomorrow. But the Three Mile Island cleanup is here today, and, should there be a failure to cope with the waste that it generates, the whole nuclear enterprise may suffer."

Another article, entitled "Three Mile Island Cleanup - Problems, Problems, Problems," reaches similar conclusions. The author reviews the NRC's Draft Environmental Impact Statement on the clean-up and discusses the radioactive exposure of clean-up workers. Although the NRC limits regular workers to 3 rems of whole body radiation annually, TMI decontamination workers can be exposed to 3 rems per quarter.

The author further discusses the lack of sites for the huge quantities of waste and concludes that radioactive waste disposal may become the new "state's rights" issue of the 80s. She concludes, "Pennsylvania may find it has no friends when the disposal of radioactive waste is concerned."

Copies of both of these articles are available at the TMIA office.

ALTERNATIVE ENERGY SOURCES

By Georgianna Nyce

We all know by now that there are many alternate sources of energy. Nuclear power is not necessary. We are on the verge of permanently destroying our environment and jeopardizing any future our children might have. It's that simple.

I'd like to share with you a number of alternate energy projects about which you may not have heard.

Sweden's Scaniainventor Company claims the ability to make pollution-free and economical fuel from coal. It is called Carbogel and has the consistency of fuel oil, yielding almost as much energy as coal when burned, according to available information. It is transportable in conventional oil-distribution systems.

A Heat Cell made by Texxor Corporation, 9910 N. 48th Street, Omaha, Nebraska 68152, absorbs heat when placed in a sunny area. It absorbs the heat at 81 degrees F. and

Continued

releases it for hours when the temperature drops. This can be used for solar-heat storage and waste-heat recovery.

The use of undersea turbines is possible. The constant motion of the gulf stream and other areas could be used to supply energy. The mechanism of the ocean turbine is a two-stage axial-flow turbine, consisting of a pair of counterrotating rotors, which are driven by the ocean current. In large units, the turbine blade tips are mounted to stiff circular rims which turn the friction wheels. The wheels drive electrical generators. Research into the effects on currents, land, people, animals, and fish is on-going. It was found that small, less expensive units appear most cost-effective rather than large units. Some funding from the U.S. Solar Energy Research Institute is expected. The name of the system is the Coriolis System.

A geothermal power plant in California's Imperial Valley uses a new kind of heat exchange called "direct contact," inside a tall steel tower. Hot brine pumped from the earth supplies heat involved in producing electricity. A project now operating in Klamath Falls, Oregon, is one of 25 planned to demonstrate that geothermal heating is technically and economically feasible. According to DOE, the potential for geothermal space heat is great because 35 million people in the U.S. live within 50 miles of a source of geothermal energy.

Invented by Sir Christopher Cockerell, the Hovercraft, a three-section hinged raft operating hydraulic motor driving an alternator is in an experimental stage. The project is being funded by the British Dept. of Energy.

Solchem (begun in 1973) is a thermochemical solar-energy transport and storage system. Solchem was developed at the Naval Research Lab and is in place in White Sands, N.M. In this system, a gaseous working fluid changes its chemical form and absorbs and transports solar energy. Individual solar concentrators and receiver converters produce a gas which is energy-rich. Energy-storage boiler tanks store the heat. Heat is used

to produce steam to drive turbines to generate electricity. According to people at the Naval Research Lab, the Navy's entire demand for energy could be met by using this system on less than 25% of the real estate at the weapons center in the Mojave Desert. By deliberate design, the materials used to construct Solchem are abundant in the U.S. and are inexpensive. It was originally predicted that this source wouldn't reach the hardware stage until the year 2015, but it is now at the small demonstration stage, to be followed by the large demonstration project and released to the utilities.

Photovoltaic cells use sunlight somewhat like plants do. They convert sunlight directly into electricity. The use of photovoltaic shingles is a possibility. In an article in the June, 1980 issue of Atlantic Monthly, the author mentions that a reputable scientist with a friend at one of the national labs was told that they had found a way to purify silicon cheaper than any way yet devised. This process was being kept secret by the government, says the article, because of "patent" considerations. Keep in mind the history of DOE. The Atomic Energy Commission became the Energy Research and Development Administration which then joined up with the Federal Energy Administration and became DOE.

The Morton Hearth Furnace is a device you can put in your fireplace to increase the efficiency of the fireplace. It works.

The Martin-Marietta Company reportedly will design, build, and operate the world's largest solar photovoltaic power plant under a \$16.5 million contract with DOE's Solar Energy Research Institute. Where will it be built? In America? In an underdeveloped country? Sorry. The answer is in Saudi Arabia, sitting on the world's richest oil fields. The plant is to be completed by July, 1981.

*****CALENDAR OF EVENTS*****

FEB. 4, 11, & 19 - Citizens Advisory Panel Meetings, Forum Building, Commonwealth and Walnut Sts., Harrisburg, 7:00 p.m.

FEB. 2 & 16 - Adams County Community Group Meeting.

FEB. 17 - TMIA Planning Council Meeting.

FEB. 20 & 21 - East Shore Area Bake Sale, Colonial Park Plaza, All day and evening.

PUBLICATIONS CORNER

Here are some more paperback books available on loan from the TMIA office, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg:

1. Nuclear Madness: What You Can Do! Dr. Helen Caldicott 120pp.

2. Poisoned Power. The Case Against Nuclear Power Plants Before and After Three Mile Island John Gofman & Arthur Tamplin 353pp.

3. Shut Down. Nuclear Power On Trial (Testimony of Experts in Federal Court) 191pp.

4. The Accident Hazards of Nuclear Power Plants Richard E. Webb 228pp.

5. The Shape of Events to Come Gopi Krishna 201pp.

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Return to: TMIA
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania 17102



IT COULD BE A NIGHTMARE!!!

What if you had to depend on the Harrisburg area print and broadcast media as the only sources of information on the anti-nuclear movement? It would be like sitting in the dark! IT COULD BE A NIGHTMARE! And it could happen to you if you don't renew your TMIA membership. We cannot afford to keep sending THE ALERT to readers whose memberships have lapsed. If the date above your name and address falls in 1980 or January of 1981, please cut out all of this information and return with your check so that we may keep you on the mailing list. THANK YOU.

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