

# ALERT

MAY 1982

vol.4, no. 5

## GPU MANAGEMENT BLAMED for CHEATING

In a startling decision, NRC Administrative Judge Gary L. Milhollin concluded that at least ten individuals at TMI were involved in cheating or other misconduct, including TMI Unit I Manager of Operations, Mike Ross, and other management personnel. In addition, Milhollin concluded that although GPU upper management did not specifically encourage or participate in cheating, it permitted an attitude to develop which caused cheating to occur, and was responsible for creating conditions which allowed operators to cooperate on exams. Milhollin found that the "overall integrity of the operations staff was shown to be inadequate," and that the company's training program was not adequate to meet the NRC's conditions for restart.

The report, issued after four weeks of intensive hearings before Milhollin, now goes to the NRC's Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) for review. The ASLB will make the final restart decision. TMIA was one of two citizen intervenors who participated in the hearing, and was represented by Louise Bradford, assisted by Joanne Doroshow.

"We are extremely gratified," remarked Bradford. "We suspected from the beginning that Judge Milhollin was a very fair and honest judge. We saw that as the testimony developed, much of which was obviously untruthful, Milhollin became more and more appalled by the company's actions. He saw what we were trying to prove and he adopted many of our own findings in his report."

( Continued, Page 3. )

### Vote NO

"DO YOU FAVOR THE REOPENING OF TMI UNIT I, WHICH WAS NOT INVOLVED IN THE ACCIDENT ON MARCH 28, 1979?" On May 18, Primary Election Day, this question will appear on the ballot in Dauphin, Cumberland, and Lebanon counties. ALL VOTERS, including those registered as Independent or Nonpartisan, can vote on this referendum. Although it is non-binding, the NRC Chairman, Nunzio Palladino, stated that the results of the vote cannot be ignored.

VOTE NO!! And urge your friends and neighbors to vote. Offering a ride to the polls or free babysitting services may encourage a voter to exercise his/her right & responsibility to voice opposition to the restart of TMI. We need a strong NO vote.

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# WHIP CWIP

CWIP is an acronym which promises to become as infamous as TMI. Short for "Construction Work In Progress," CWIP is a scheme being advanced by electric utilities for charging customers for much of the enormous cost of building new (nuclear) generating facilities while the work is still underway. This means that rate-payers could be paying for generating facilities years before the plants become "used and useful," the current criteria for inclusion in the rate base.

The idea recently surfaced in Pennsylvania, as the Philadelphia Electric Co. wants the PUC to approve a plan to charge customers, through CWIP, nearly a third of its pending \$344 million higher electric rate request. PE, watching the cost of its Limerick nuke station in western Montgomery County skyrocket to \$4.2 billion, hopes to saddle rate-payers with a hefty chunk of that cost, about half a billion dollars.

Pennsylvania's increasing resentment of CWIP is the loud echo of a national concern over utilities' plans to use CWIP to circumvent the tightening money market for the billions now needed if nuke plants are to be built -- funds that Wall Street is increasingly unwilling to advance in light of the rising tide of nuke plant cancellations and postponements. The electric power industry has had to contend with citizen organizations at hearings to consider whether the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission should relax its rules and, in effect, give the utilities the power to impose CWIP, with no strings attached.

Customers aren't alone in saying "no" to the controversial idea. Both houses of Pennsylvania's General Assembly passed unanimous resolutions stating that the PUC has no authority to establish guidelines for CWIP. However, the resolutions are "toothless tigers" because they lack the force of law.

Attention is now focused on Senator Clarence D. Bell's Protection & Professional Licensure Committee, which scheduled two days of hearings (April 28 and May 5) on SB 1366. If passed, this bill would bar CWIP from charges the utility could assess until the facility is "presently providing actual utility service to customers." TMIA and a number of consumer interest groups are scheduled to testify. TMIA's testimony was drafted to present to the Planning Council for approval before presentation.

On March 12, TMIA members were among 50 protestors who marched to the PUC wearing blue and white paper hats with the bold legend "NO CWIP" to vent their displeasure with the idea, at a final PUC administrative law judge hearing on PE's rate request.

TMIA's concerns center on the likelihood that, if CWIP is adopted by the PUC, GPU Nuclear could charge customers for approximately \$24 million estimated as the cost of repair or replacement of the 8,000 - 10,000 admittedly defective steam generator tubes at TMI Unit I, as well as for other costs of readying Unit I for restart.

# HOT (WATER) NEWS

"WATER, WATER EVERYWHERE..."

The "50-gallon water leak" outside TMI UNIT II's reactor building in January turned out to be more like a 2,000-gallon leak, GPU now admits.

When a borated water storage tank heater broke down and allowed the pipes to freeze, they cracked and leaked -- just like the pipes in any household basement!

This leaking water, 1/3 of it accident-generated, was discovered only when someone saw a wet spot in the snow! Even then all the cracks were not spotted, and water continued to leak.

Figuring backward from the amount of radioactivity found in the soil which had to be dug up and disposed of, the NRC insisted that GPU investigate further. The investigation resulted in the discovery of additional cracks, which are now reportedly plugged, and the acknowledgement of a possible loss of more than 2,000 gallons of radioactive water.

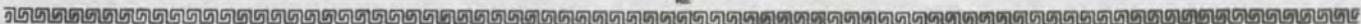
According to their estimates, it will take this water 7 years (GPU) to 20 years (NRC) to migrate to the river. Even if all 1.1 million picocuries of tritium should reach the river, Lake Barrett of NRC says, it will only add the equivalent of 10 glow-in-the-dark watches.

\* \* \* \* \*

Recent experiments in fancy plastic stripping, high pressure wash-down, and chemical systems to remove radioactivity from TMI UNIT II's reactor building walls turned out to be only "moderately successful," according to Bernie Snyder, NRC Program Office Director.

NRC's status report for April 3 indicated that the recent experiments removed loose radioactive particles, but did not eliminate the source of gamma rays.

Snyder says this may mean a mop-and-bucket brigade will be needed to accomplish vital clean-up operations.



There's only 25,000 gallons of radioactive water left in TMI UNIT II's reactor basement, but it contains 2/3 of all the radioactivity that was in the original 625,000 gallons. (This information was part of the reports presented to the NRC Advisory Panel on April 22.)

A new pump which will suck out the remaining water is expected to be used soon, but there is still debate as to whether the water should be left there to provide a shield for radioactive debris which may be lying on the floor of the pump.

About a dozen liners which hold the filtered-out radioactivity sit in the fuel pool in the fuel storage reactor building (temporarily) and contain up to 60,000 curies per liner.

\* \* \* \* \*

Up to 100,000 gallons of radioactive water lying in TMI UNIT II's reactor coolant system will begin to be cleaned on May 15. GPU expects to recycle all this water and to filter out the radioactivity.

However, the filtering is more like the installation of an automatic kidney machine that a final clean-up, because the reactor coolant constantly flows against the core. Because the water does not instantly absorb the radioactivity, the radiation will be reduced, permitting more prolonged work time in the containment building.

\* \* \* \* \*

The waste from the submerged demineralizer system which has been filtering out TMI UNIT II's reactor building water is scheduled to be shipped off Three Mile Island by December 1982.

And the cask which will be used to ship those liners has finally been built and licensed, according to NRC's Lake Barrett. The cask itself has never been tested, but is based on a design of a "father" cask, which underwent extensive testing. The "father" cask was smashed into an unyielding surface at 60 miles per hour, set on fire and dropped 30 feet into a pool of water.

## CHEATING DECISION ( Continued )

Milhollin, a law Professor at the University of Wisconsin, also found that the GPU's response to cheating was inadequate, that its testimony at the hearings only tended to show "the absence of cooperation" and therefore was very poor, and that the company's failure to disclose to the NRC a cheating incident in 1979 was "deliberate, improper, and resulted in a false statement to the NRC." Milhollin further concluded that a number of company witnesses were not credible, including GPU Nuclear President, Robert C. Arnold, and Gary Miller, who was Emergency Director during the TMI Unit II accident.

ARE YOU, LIKE I WAS, A PASSIVE NEWSLETTER READER?  
WERE YOU AMAZED AT THE RECENT CLEAN-UP FUNDING CONTROVERSY?  
DO YOU WONDER HOW TMIA DECISIONS ARE MADE? DO YOU WANT THESE  
DECISIONS TO REFLECT YOUR OWN OPINION?

It's time to take an active interest in this organization, to assure its effective pursuit of our common goals. We each have our own ideas about how TMIA should work towards KEEPING TMI CLOSED FOREVER and encouraging SAFE AND SWIFT CLEAN-UP OF UNIT II.

It is our obligation as members of TMIA to be ALERT towards ever-changing issues and to be ACTIVE in our protest of our unwelcome nuclear neighbors. The drain caused by the enduring and uncertain nature of both the problems and solutions, as well as the strain caused by the difficulty of trying to consolidate divergent ideas about the best methods to achieve our common goals, have left many of us exhausted, frustrated, confused, and inactive.

This describes fairly well my own condition before I recently volunteered to edit this newsletter. Although recently involved in door-knocking for Project David, my anti-nuclear activism was primarily devoted to personal communication with friends and acquaintances, and my TMIA participation was largely limited to newsletter reading, subsequent to the meeting at which Bill Vastine's position was replaced by a committee and prior to the March Membership Meeting at which the clean-up funding proposal was rescinded.

The conflict over the funding plan stirred deep feelings among TMIA members. It left some people hurt and discouraged, others angered and indignant, and many aroused and energized. There are many unresolved aspects of the controversy. The future of the Economic Planning Committee rests on decisions we need to make regarding such questions as: Do we want to develop an alternative plan which does not involve rate-payer moneys or do we think such action is inappropriate for our organization? Do we want to develop principles or guidelines for an acceptable clean-up budget? Do we want to research community ownership in the event of bankruptcy? And who will serve on the committee, to work towards the goals and directions we formulate?

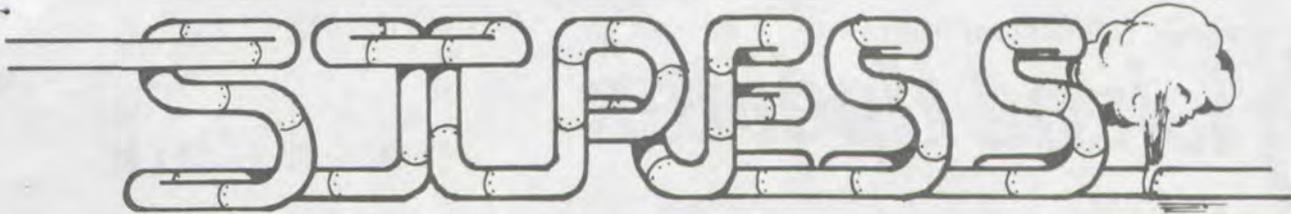
These and other issues will be discussed in the TMIA Membership Meeting in June. This is the time to renew YOUR participation and to rededicate YOUR energies towards KEEPING TMI CLOSED FOREVER. After the referendum, new goals must be adopted and implemented, new strategies and ideas are needed.

It is my obligation as editor to inform you, to stimulate your interest, and to encourage your participation in TMIA affairs. It is my aim to present the issues to you in an unbiased manner, as I believe that together, as a group, we can debate and decide wisely only when we respect everyone's opinion and share our ideas openly. It is my hope you will utilize this newsletter to achieve these goals. I welcome any contributions or criticism, and am grateful for the assistance and advice offered by newsletter workers who are willing to work with me. Help us to make this a viable channel of communication for TMIA.

*Susan*

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Scientists making a preliminary study of psychological stress in the TMI area admitted at a Newberry Township Residents Meeting on April 14 that they expect to have their report ready by June as to the need for the NRC to do a more comprehensive, in-depth study of stress.

NRC staff members and their consultants, including social scientists, sociologists and attorneys from Oak Ridge, Mountain West Research, and the National Institute of Health, faced a three-hour barrage of questions and comments from aroused citizens venting frustrations, fears, and pent-up anger over the possible restart of TMI UNIT I.

A number of individuals in a 5-mile radius have already been subjected to searching psychological inquiries by teams of stress investigators operating under NRC orders. The process is NRC's response to Federal Court orders barring any TMI UNIT I restart decision by the NRC until the extent and nature of stress among area residents is evaluated.

In attendance at the April 14 meeting, arranged by the Newberry Township Steering Committee, were some members of TMIA. The following evening the research team was scheduled to meet with the group known as "Friends and Family of TMI."

## NEW NRC RULES

The NRC recently issued a rule which entirely eliminates financial qualification reviews for utilities applying for construction permits or operating licenses. Joanne Doroshov, on behalf of TMIA, along with 98 private citizens, 27 public interest groups, and various government organizations, submitted comments strenuously objecting to this rule change. The NRC ignored all health and safety issues raised by these commentators, once again succumbing to the pressures from the utilities.

TMIA, asserting that GPU is financially incapable of making needed safety improvements to TMI Unit I, challenged the NRC's removal of consideration of the company's finances by the TMI-I Restart Licensing Board. TMIA was ordered by the court to present its case at a later date -- if and when restart is ordered. This new rule makes TMIA's challenge much more difficult.

Included in the rule change is the requirement that utilities obtain on-site property damage insurance, which only protects the utilities in case of an accident, and which will of course be paid for with ratepayer money.

The TMI Litigation Team is working hard to gather names of individuals to participate in a lawsuit against the NRC for venting krypton in June and July of 1980. (See April's TMIA ALERT.) If you wish to participate, call the TMIA office, or send your name to the TMI Litigation Team, 315 Peffer St., Harrisburg, PA 17102 as soon as possible.

Yes, I want to join TMIA and others in this lawsuit against the NRC. When the NRC denied a hearing before venting the radioactive gas from the Unit-2 reactor:

- I suffered physical, mental and/or emotional distress.
- I or members of my family left town, incurring expenses of \$ \_\_\_\_\_.
- I suffered other injuries. Specify: \_\_\_\_\_

I know someone who moved from the area because of the venting.

Please send me more information about this lawsuit.

Enclosed is a contribution of \$ \_\_\_\_\_ to help defray your costs.

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ CITY \_\_\_\_\_ STATE \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_



Three Mile Island Alert

# Island Updates

TMIA Island Updates, a news clipping service which carries pertinent stories from TMI area papers and sends them to schools, libraries, and other interested parties as far away as Germany, was given approval to charge \$5.00 annually for the 12 monthly issues at the TMIA Planning Council Meeting on April 27, 1982. Formerly funded by grants and donations, the service will now become self-sufficient. Update editors Cathie Musser and Kathy Manfred presented cost estimates based on monthly, bi-monthly and quarterly costs, as well as various letters of appreciation and endorsement. Planning Council members agreed that the service's effectiveness would be reduced if the news were not distributed on a monthly basis.

## U.N. SPECIAL

The United Nations' Second Special Session for Disarmament will be held in June, 1982. After the 1978 U.N. Special Session on Disarmament, the General Assembly concluded that "we must halt the arms race and proceed to disarm or face annihilation." Several events are scheduled to show support for this position.

The World Peace March, which was recently in the TMI area, will arrive in New York on June 7. An International Religious Conference and Convocation will be held in New York June 8-11.

On June 12, a demonstration and rally will be held at the U.N., focused on the need to stop the arms race and to transfer military funds to meet human needs. Bus tickets may still be available for this event.

On June 14, nonviolent civil disobedience action will be held at the U.N. Required training is available through 212-777-4737.

### STEERING COMMITTEE UP-DATE

During the April 27 TMIA Planning Council Meeting, three new members were elected to temporarily fill vacancies on the Steering Committee. Gary Mitchell, Randy Smedley, and Paul Lujanac were unanimously approved to fill the positions until elections can be held at the June General Membership Meeting. The Steering Committee presently consists of these new members in addition to Sandra Choma, Mitch Turnauer, Georgiana Nyce, and Bob Shaw.

## news - bits

### Free List!

Charts...

Studies.....

Reports....

...graphs, maps, transcripts and more, are available to you through the Nuclear Information and Resource Service. NIRS collects the latest key resources on nuclear issues and distributes them at low cost (even cheaper if you're a NIRS member).

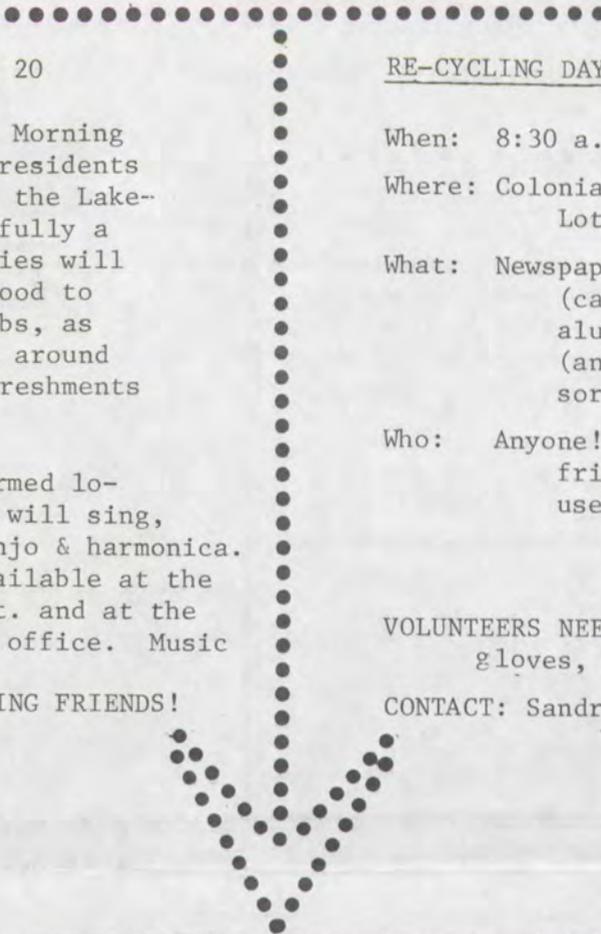
To get your **free** copy of our Publications Distribution List (over 200 items listed), send a SASE to NIRS, 1536 16th Street NW, Washington DC 20036.

CHRIS SAYER, former staff member of TMIA, is now living and working in New York City. Chris put in long hours as a volunteer working on various aspects of the TMIA struggle, and will be remembered for applying his considerable writing skills in drafting several of TMIA's original-position papers.



Project David coordinators were pleased to announce that Met-Ed's delinquency rate for March was a record 15.8%. Ratepayers are encouraged to continue withholding their payments, to protest having to pay for the clean-up of the TMI Unit II accident. Door-knocking in Lebanon will be conducted on May 15, to solicit support for the project and to encourage voters to VOTE NO in the May Primary Election.

# Fun and Fund Raising



## REFERENDUM CELEBRATION, MAY 20

Court Dorsey, of the Bright Morning Star, will entertain local residents and activists on May 20, at the Lakeside Lutheran Church. Hopefully a victory party, the festivities will begin at 7:30 p.m. Bring food to share and raffle ticket stubs, as the drawing will take place around 8:30 p.m. Nonalcoholic refreshments will be provided.

Court Dorsey, who has performed locally on several occasions, will sing, and play the piano, sax, banjo & harmonica. Tickets, ONLY \$2.00, are available at the TMIA office at 315 Peffer St. and at the Bipartisan VOTE NO committee office. Music begins at 9:00 p.m.  
JOIN US -- MAY 20 -- AND BRING FRIENDS!

## RE-CYCLING DAY --- JULY 17, 1982

When: 8:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.  
Where: Colonial Park Plaza Parking Lot, southwest corner  
What: Newspapers, cardboard, steel (cans, wheels, etc.), & aluminum items, glass (any color, need not be sorted)  
Who: Anyone! Tell your family & friends to drop their useless recyclables off.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED. Wear goggles, gloves, long-sleeved shirt.

CONTACT: Sandra Choma 233-2788.

## MEMBERSHIP FORM

NAME \_\_\_\_\_

ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_

TELEPHONE \_\_\_\_\_

### CHECK MEMBERSHIP DESIRED:

- |  |  |
|--|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 low income and student             | <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 50 sustaining member |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$15 regular membership                 | <input type="checkbox"/> \$100 patron            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$25 non-profit organization            | <input type="checkbox"/> \$200 club member       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> \$ 5 non-member newsletter subscription |  |

RETURN TO: TMIA  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102

REFERENDUM WORKERS NEEDED

If you have any spare time between now and May 18, please volunteer to help the Bipartisan VOTE NO Committee. VOTE NO!!



TMIA GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING

There will be a General Membership Meeting on Thursday, June 10, 1982, in the basement of Our Lady of the Blessed Sacrament church, at Third and Woodbine in Harrisburg, 7:30 p.m.

The agenda will include: The future of the Economic Planning Committee; the recent billings for environmental consultant fees related to previous legal actions; the proposed TMIA By-Laws; and other vital issues.

Please plan on attending. Bring your very best ideas about what TMIA should do to KEEP TMIA CLOSED FOREVER!!

# MAY DATES

- May 11 -- Planning Council Meeting
- May 18 -- ELECTION DAY--VOTE NO!
- May 20 -- Party at Lakeside Lutheran Church: Court Dorsey performs.

LOOK AT YOUR RENEWAL NUMBER...IT TELLS YOU THE MONTH AND YEAR YOU SHOULD RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP. WAS IT LAST MAY? IF YOUR NUMBER IS COMING DUE OR PAST DUE, PLEASE RENEW.

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT  
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