

ALERT

CHEATING DECISION APPEALED

The Atomic Safety and Licensing Board's decision not to prosecute TMI operators who cheated on NRC examinations is only one example of the points on which it differed from the findings of Administrative Judge Gary Milhollin. The board stated that it could not prove "a deterring effect upon those still employed at TMI...over and above...the fact that 'O' and 'W' were separated from their employment in disgrace." This does not explain why "G" and "H", who cheated on NRC exams over an extended period of time, were merely suspended for two weeks without pay. Although Milhollin suggested sanctions such as loss of license for cheating on the exams, "G" and "H" were given the choice of two week suspension or individual licensing action would be taken.

The board rejects Mulhollin's conclusion that TMI's training program reflects an inadequate response to the 8/79 NRC order to upgrade their training program. While admitting that the program has serious problems, they justify their decision by stating that it was upgraded, thereby meeting the requirements of the NRC order.

"The document is filled with internal contradictions," according to Louise Bradford, TMIA intervenor who has written around 200 exceptions to the ASLB decision. She said they seem more interested in supporting the company than in examining the issues. Assisted by Joanne Doroshow, Louise is preparing the arguments to be sent to the Licensing Appeal Board. She feels that one very disturbing aspect is the mild recommendation that an investigation be conducted related to GPU management personnel making material false statements to a government agency. "We worked hard to get it on the record" in the Milhollin hearings, she stated, adding that an investigation is not needed, just a sentence for the admitted crime.

(continued on page 4)

Elected PUC?

PUC Commissioner Michael Johnson criticized his colleagues for their alignment with special interest groups and utility lobbyists at the expense of the ratepaying, taxpaying public. Johnson urged that PUC commissioners be elected to four year terms and be responsible for only one area of regulation. He indicated that utility rates increased drastically over the past three years, and that large increases are being granted with no apparent justification.

Democratic gubernatorial candidate Allen Ertel also proposed PUC changes, urging their ten year term be reduced to five years and practices related to passing utility taxes on to customers be modified.

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NO MORE FUNDS FOR CRBR 2

The Clinch River Breeder Reactor is in need of \$252 Million additional funds to meet the tremendous cost overruns of the project, originally estimated to cost only \$400 Million. Present estimates run from \$3-6 Billion. YOU must write your national legislators and tell them to vote against further funding for this inefficient, unsafe project. Three good reasons you can cite in your letter are:

- 1) Liquid Metal Fast Breeder Reactors have a history of problems with their steam generators. The General Accounting office reported that the DOE "is not minimizing risks in its steam generator testing program", and the project's prime contractor indicated that DOE tests are inadequate concerning structural integrity and the ability to withstand temperature changes or vibrations.
- 2) The project will not be cost effective until the price of uranium, presently selling @\$23.00/Lb, reaches \$130.00/Lb. The CRBR was developed because it was believed that the U.S. would be running out of nuclear fuel by the year 2000, but the slow growth of the nuclear industry and the low price of uranium have undermined the rationale for the project. Predictions indicate that we presently have enough fuel to last until 2020 and that the CRBR will not be cost effective until 2050.
- 3) The recently requested allocation of \$252 million is more than half the original projected cost. President Reagan is asking Congress to pass these funds at a time when unemployment benefits, disability benefits, and alternative energy programs are being cut or defunded. We cannot afford to pay \$6 billion for an unnecessary and unsafe technological project such as the CRBR.

Pa. Rep. Allen Ertel and others serving on the committee on Science and Technology voted last year to discontinue funding, but it was included in the 1981 Omnibus Reconciliation Act which Reagan backed. Ertel recently sent a letter to his constituents affirming his continued efforts to discontinue funding for CRBR, and offering his assistance in supplying additional information on the project.

WRITE TO YOUR LEGISLATORS. TELL THEM HOW YOU FEEL. TELL THEM:

NO MORE \$\$\$ FOR CRBR!!!

BLOOD DISEASE Near Nuke Plant

The Savannah River Plant, operating since 1953, produces weapons-grade plutonium and tritium for the Department of Energy. It may also be responsible for an alarming increase of a rare blood disease, polycythemia vera, among local residents. The disease normally occurs only once in every 250,000 Americans, but of the 700,000 people living within a 60 mile radius 25 cases have been diagnosed in the last 25 years, roughly eight times the average rate.

Dr. Robert Winslow of Atlanta's Center for Disease Control said it is "reasonable to assume" a link between Polycythemia vera and radiation, which "damages the DNA of the blood cells, leading to mutations" (emphasis added), although he said there was no proof that radiation was causing the disease. He further stated that he believes "a very dangerous situation" might well exist near the Savannah River Plant—referring to the blood disease, not the nuclear production operations. Polycythemia vera sometimes leads to leukemia, heart disease and stroke. The Plant is operated by E.I. du Pont de Nemours & Co.

Berwick Blues

Pennsylvania Power and Light Co. is seeking a 20% rate increase to begin recovering the \$3.85 million invested in the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station near Berwick, Pa. Arguing that in six years PP&L customers will be paying less than if the plant had never been built, company spokesman John Saeger cited the long-term benefits to the customers. As of Monday, August 2nd, about 1/3 of the 764 uranium fuel bundles had been loaded into the Unit I reactor; the fuel rods contain approximately 11 million uranium pellets. Saeger admitted the company is "doing a lot of things for the first time...We expect to find minor problems."

The NRC and Pennsylvania Power and Light are conducting investigations resulting from allegations that certain criteria were not followed in the design and installation of some joints in the small-bore piping at the Susquehanna Steam Electric Station under construction near Berwick. The letter containing the allegations was received by the NRC in May, and was written by an engineer for the Bechtel Power Corp., the Plant's main construction contractor.

RESTART IS A REAL POSSIBILITY IN THE NEAR FUTURE!

NOVEMBER ELECTIONS ARE APPROACHING, AND WE NEED TO CONTACT CANDIDATES & CAMPAIGN FOR THOSE WHO SUPPORT THE PRINCIPLES OF TMIA.

OUR ORGANIZATION IS REORGANIZING AND IN NEED OF VOLUNTEERS TO SERVE IN DECISION-MAKING, PLANNING AND ACTUALIZING OUR IDEALS.

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R

There's three good reasons to become more involved in TMIA.

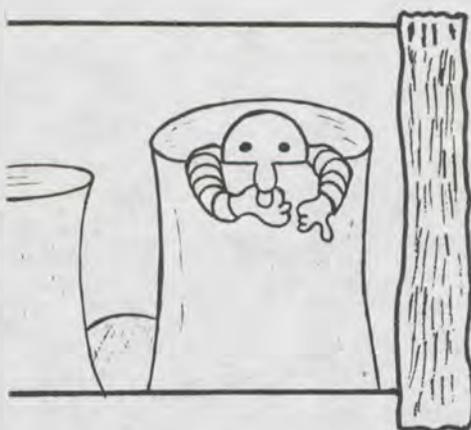
You can begin by coming to the August 29 GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC. There'll be fun activities and shared food. New members will be welcomed with FREE HATS. But, more importantly, you will be able to participate in the election of the Planning Council members who will shape our organization's immediate future. You can volunteer or nominate someone who you think will get the job done. We really need a broad base of members to be active at least in the quarterly general membership meetings. Planning Council meetings are held twice a month, on the second and fourth Tuesday of each month; committees meet every month, sometimes several times a month. Surely you can make four meetings a year. Come on and get active. If the decision is made to restart Unit I, we are going to be swamped with work, and we need to start increasing the number of workers NOW!

Another ideas we need to hear from you about is a recent proposal that TMIA take over the responsibility for the monthly RECYCLING collection at the Colonial Park Plaza. It would mean a lot of work, but it would also mean a steady, outside source of funds; a chance to increase the public awareness of our organization and to emphasize the need for a safe, clean environment; the opportunity for a large number of people (members and others) to do something to make the planet a little nicer or SAVE THE EARTH's resources for the future generations. BUT, we need help to do it. We need to know if and when YOU can help. We are going to have to collect names and get commitments for assistance before we can even decide if this is a feasible project. Interested? Let us know.

Thanks to all those who sent in donations as a result of our green request cards. It's good to know that members are willing to give a little more than the minimal fee, especially when some of us donate our time and energy to keep TMIA going. Thanks again.

To Set The Record Straight : a message from

Mr. Gee Pee-You



After careful video analysis of the RUBBLE discovered in UNIT II, technicians confirmed that the CORE suffered a compound-complex fracture and will be CRIPPLED for several years.....

G.U.L.P. Nuclear Ink.



Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

TMIA Island Updates is reorganizing as a subscription-based publication. Update editors, Cathie Musser and Kathy Manfred, are meeting in August to determine how this reorganization will effect the process of preparing, publishing and distributing the Island Updates. They may soon be requesting volunteers to assist with specific tasks.



Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center

PIRC has formed an as hoc committee to meet with all member organizations to discuss: needs of member organizations which PIRC may help fulfill; methods of funding PIRC; and overall future goals/directions for the local anti-nuclear movement. They hope to complete these meeting before their Sept. 15 meeting.



MARCH 28th COALITION is considering conducting a worker safety campaign which would involve leafleting at TMI during shift changes. Several leaflets would be prepared and distributed every few weeks. Anyone interested in helping with this effort should contact Randy King or Keith Bentz @ 233-2207.

TMIA extends a hearty "thanks" to JOHN MURDOCH, who is retiring from active participation to attend to personal business that has been neglected due to his extensive anti-nuclear activities over the past several years. The TMIA newsletter has benefitted from his research and writing assistance. He also served on the Steering Committee and Planning Council, and presented testimony at legal hearings on such issues as CWIP and nominations for the PUC. In addition, John did public speaking and private work related to nuclear issues, including instigating further hearings on Cumberland County's evacuation plans. Many thanks for all your pleasant assistance, John, and may the best of luck bless your future.



HELP WANTED

TMIA is in need of office volunteers. IMMEDIATE OPENINGS for anyone willing to file, type, answer telephones or address newsletters, Updates, and correspondence. Also, we need someone who will make current membership cards. PLEASE HELP!! Contact Georgiana Nyce by leaving a message for her at the TMIA office (233-7897) or home (564-0966). If you can help with addressing, contact Sandra Choma (233-2788).

(from page 1)

A

Another very disturbing element is their rejection of Milhollin's conclusions regarding Michael Ross' role in the cheating, because Milhollin based his decision on Ross' demeanor on the witness stand. This overrides the "very crux of our legal system, Bradford maintains, as all juries and judges rely on the personal evidence of witness testimony and credibility, as well as on material evidence. She sees this as the board's unwillingness to implicate Ross, who they see as GPU's most valuable employee.

S

Milhollin's report was very helpful in this whole process, Louise believes. It verified the legitimacy of TMIA's arguments and politically forced the board to respond directly to the case. She feels we "have a good chance at this appeal."

L

The ASLB rendered severe criticism against GPU in recommending the \$100,000 fine: "negligent failure to safeguard the integrity of its examination process, failure to instill an attitude of respect for...NRC administered examinations, failure to insure the quality of training instruction, and negligence in the procedures for the certification of candidates for the NRC licensing exams. This is the same company which the ASLB recommends should be allowed"to return to the important matter of preparing the unit for restart without further distractions" (emphasis added).

B

However, local residents should beware (be aware) that the ASLB has determined that TMI Unit I should be reopened as soon as possible. Their ability to contradict themselves and to ignore the evidence of their own investigations is evident in their having "no confidence that further investigation will produce a more reliable record than that made in the hearing before Judge Milhollin" while they blatantly reject his recommendations. It seems the board is more concerned with licensing than with safety.

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Another matter for consideration is that if the NRC approves restart, an injunction will probably be filed, resulting in the need to fund professional legal assistance.

Our New By-Laws

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New By-Laws for TMIA were approved at the June 10 General Membership meeting. This is the first complete rewriting since the organization was founded, and reflects the more centralized organization which has evolved.

The Steering Committee and Planning Council will telescope into one 15 member body which will meet twice a month. Four officers, elected from the 15 members, will make day to day decisions.

Planning Council members will be elected at large and will not represent any specific neighborhood group. Each member will serve for one year, with staggered terms. Elections will be held every six months.

Duties of the new officers are detailed in the new By-Laws. The Chairperson shall preside, set the agenda, oversee office volunteers and speak for the organization. The Vice-Chairperson will be in charge of information to the public in any emergency, as well as substituting for the Chairperson as needed. The Secretary shall record all actions, receive and reply to communications, send notices, and maintain a current membership list. The treasurer will supervise receipt and disbursement of money, keep records, and prepare any financial forms. Specific duties may be delegated.

Seven standing committees are written into the By-Laws. Others can be formed or disbanded by the Planning Council. These committees are: Finance, Fund-raising, Nominating, Membership, TMIA alert, Island Updates, and Legal. Chairpersons must report to the Planning Council at least once a month, as must representatives from TMIA to other organizations.

Meeting of the total membership will be held at least four times a year. Each member will receive regular updates through the TMIA alert to other organizations.

Copies of the By-Laws may be obtained from the TMIA office at 315 Peffer St., or by contacting the members of the Committee: M'Liss Halsey, Georgianna Nyce, Mary Hartnett or Beverly Davis. Copies will also be available at the August 29 General Membership Picnic/Meeting. Any member who wishes to propose amendments or changes to the By-Laws is encouraged to do so.

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

AUGUST EVENTS

August 10 -- Planning Council Meeting

August 24 -- Planning Council Meeting

August 29 -- GENERAL MEMBERSHIP PICNIC
at Negley Park, Lemoyne
3:30 p.m. Activities
5:00 p.m. Dinner
6:30 p.m. Meeting
FREE HATS FOR NEW MEMBERS!

The Pa. Campaign for a Nuclear Weapons Freeze will hold a state-wide conference in Harrisburg on Saturday, September 11, from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. Workshops and speakers will be scheduled throughout the day, and you are invited to attend all or part of the conference. Bring a box lunch; dinner will be available for \$3.50. The conference will be held at the Salem United Church of Christ at Third and Chestnut Streets. For more information, contact: Harrisburg Nuclear Weapons Freeze office, 315 Peffer St; or call 233-3914.

The following interim leaders were chosen at the July 20th Steering Committee meeting. They will serve until the August 29th picnic/elections.

Chairperson -- Georgiana Nyce
Vice Chairperson -- Randy Smedley
Treasurer -- Paul Makurath
Secretary -- Divided among
Planning Council Members.

A cheer for those who braved the heat and humidity to help out at the RECYCLING CENTER in July. Gnats and nasty jobs were the order of the day. Your hard work was well-appreciated by Sandra Choma and all TMIA'ers. Thanks also to those who brought in items for recycling; you helped, too. TMIA will receive \$50.00 now and a percentage of the years' total as a result of your efforts. Thanks again.

thanks to:

Ken Jordan, Gary Mitchell, Eric Gerber and Bev Davis for direct assistance and Kay, M'liss, Sandra, Randy, Louise, Kathy, John & Lynn for information and advice; also our great printer, American Quick Print. *SUSAN*

The Nominating Committee is looking for volunteers to serve on the Planning Council. If you would like to volunteer, or have a nomination, contact Gary Mitchell or Kay Pickering.

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
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

RM 2 83

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