

THREE MILE ISLAND

ALERT

JUNE

1984

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

* The Three Mile Island Alert Planning Council (your decision making body) currently consists of the following individuals: Randy Smedley (Chairperson), Joe Belcastro (Vice-Chairperson), Vera Stuchinski (Secretary), Paul Lujanac (Treasurer), Bev Davis, Nan Wenger, Charles Leising and Kay Pickering (Office Coordinator). Vacancies exist on the Planning Council and members are encouraged to volunteer. Please phone one of the Planning Council members or call Kay at the office.

* DATES OF IMPORTANCE

- June 13, Wednesday Presentation by NRC staff on the progress and implications of GPU's non-nuclear testing of TMI #1 at the PSSU building, 1037 Maclay Street, Harrisburg, 7:30 PM. Public invited.
- June 14, Thursday The TMI Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of TMI #2 will meet from 7 to 10 PM in the Holiday Inn, 2nd & Chestnut Sts., Harrisburg. The public is encouraged to attend. To be discussed: methods of funding and completing cleanup at Unit 2 and plans for lifting the reactor head.
- June 21, Thursday Workshop for TMI activists on the handling of stress in their personal lives. Call the TMIA office for details (233-7897).
- June 24, Sunday TMIA will have a flea market table at the Colonial Park Mall. Please phone Kay at the office or Sandra Choma (233-3788 evenings) if you can donate items or help at the table. ALL PROFITS ARE DONATED TO THE TMIA INTERVENTION FUND.
- July 15, Sunday PICNIC FOR THE ENTIRE FAMILY
Noon till dark at Camp Reily. Tickets available at the TMIA office. See the reverse side of this newsletter for detailed info.

IMMEDIATELY WRITE THE NUCLEAR REGULATORY COMMISSION URGING FULL HEARINGS BE HELD ON THE UNRESOLVED MANAGEMENT ISSUES! Write: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary to the NRC, 1717 H St., N.W., Wash. D.C. PHONE GOVERNOR THORNBURGH at 787-2500. (See page 1 of the PIRC Report for full details.)

THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT
315 Peffer Street
Harrisburg, PA 17102

Non-Profit Org.
U.S. Postage
PAID
Harrisburg, PA
Permit No. 807

**CHECK YOUR
RENEWAL
NUMBER!**



PICNIC

Everyone Is Invited to Join
the Fun!

Sunday, July 15th
(rain or shine)

Noon till dark
at

Camp Reily

Activities Include:

- Volleyball tournament 2 p.m. (signup at 1:30 p.m.)
- Swimming all afternoon
- Greased watermelon contest
- Tennis, Hiking, Softball

LIVE MUSIC

6 p.m. to 9 p.m.

Rock, Blues and Country Rock

- Pot-luck picnic supper at the lodge - 5 p.m.
- Bring food to share - Fruit drink & beer provided
- Pitfire available for grilling - outdoor and indoor tables
- Requested donation \$4.00 per person or \$10.00 per family

A BRIEF TMIA MEMBERSHIP MEETING WILL BE HELD AT 5:00 P.M.

Directions: Camp Reily is the Hbg. YWCA day camp located just north of Harrisburg. Take Rt. 322/22(W) (which is accessible from Rt. 81 or Cameron St. or Front St., north out of Harrisburg.) Turn right on to Rt. 443 (Fort Hunter will be to the left) and go about 1/2 to 3/4 of a mile. Look for the Camp Reily sign on the right and make a **LEFT TURN** into the entrance driveway.

Sponsored by: **THREE MILE ISLAND ALERT, INC.**
315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102 Phone 233-7897

* \$ *

NAME _____ PHONE _____

ADDRESS _____

Intervention Fund Contribution: \$100 _____ \$50 _____ \$25 _____ \$15 _____ \$10 _____ \$5 _____
Monthly Pledge: \$5 _____ \$10 _____ \$15 _____ \$20 _____ \$25 _____

Membership: _____ \$15 Regular Membership _____ \$50 Sustaining Member
_____ \$25 Non-Profit Organization _____ \$100 Patron
_____ \$5 Low Income, Student _____ \$200 Club Member
_____ \$5 Non-Member Newsletter Subscription

Return to :TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Hbg., PA 17102

THE PIRC REPORT

Three Mile Island
Public Interest Resource Center
1037 Maclay Street
Harrisburg, PA 17103

June, 1984

BIZARRE NRC RULING MAY SPEED RESTART - Just a week after an NRC panel recommended further studies of GPU management practices--news which was thought to mean an additional restart delay--the Nuclear Regulatory Commission voted 3-1 in favor of an order which gives interested parties two weeks to comment on whether a restart decision should be made before the management issues are resolved. Ellyn Weiss, a lawyer for the Union of Concerned Scientists, called the order "bizarre" and speculated that the Commission did not read the appeal board decision which raised new doubts about management competence. TMIA Intervenor Joanne Doroshov says the time constraints of the order are "next to impossible" to comply with, but reports she is completing a brief outlining why a restart decision should be delayed until management issues are resolved.

Though reasons for delaying a restart decision must be obvious to everyone except GPU management and the NRC, PIRC Report readers are urged to contact the NRC immediately to urge that the restart vote be delayed until after management issues are resolved. **Write to: Samuel J. Chilk, Secretary to the NRC, 1717 H Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20555.** Cite what you've been reading about in the papers: the findings of the Appeals Board, the guilty plea, the second grand jury investigation. It is also important that Gov. Thornburgh and his administration get involved at this time. The administration sat out a number of recent battles, even though the Governor has repeatedly stated a position opposing restart. **Please call the Governor at 787-2500 or 787-5962 and urge his administration to make good on its pledge to block restart.**

51 ARRESTED AT PLANT GATE ON REFERENDUM'S 2ND ANNIVERSARY - One year's time saw an increase of more than 400 percent of the number of people willing to be arrested for their belief that Three Mile Island should not be restarted against the will of the people. The 51 arrested on the second anniversary of the May 18 referendum is a four-fold increase over the dozen arrested in 1983. Though predominantly area residents took part in the demonstration, protestors from far away joined ranks with local citizens, once again showing that TMI is more than a local issue.

Somehow, the broad support the anti-restart faction is enjoying is being touted as a sign of weakness by those in favor of restart. Letters have appeared in the **Patriot** criticizing the fact that people from outside the "10-mile radius" were among those arrested and, in a sense, stating that since only a fraction of those who voted against restart showed up to get arrested, then the rest must now favor restart. It is logic such as this that leads to conclusions in favor of restart.

At hearings on the arrests before District Justice William Heckman, Robert Pollard, a nuclear safety engineer with the Union of Concerned Scientists, testified on behalf of two Lancaster Countians that there was "legitimate reason" for the demonstrators concern that the plant poses danger to the public. Pollard argued that GPU Nuclear has not made all the modifications at Unit 1 suggested in the wake of the accident at Unit 2. Heckman said he had no question about the sincerity of the demonstrators, but suggested they lobby legislators "rather than demonstrate at the plant."

RALLY ALSO MARKS ANNIVERSARY - Concerned Mothers and Women held a rally on May 18 on the Capitol steps. 16 speakers including State Rep. Peter C. Wambach, Dauphin County Commissioner Larry Hochendoner, State Sen. John Shumaker, Rep. Bruce Smith, Harrisburg City Council members Jane Perkins and Earl Gohl, Andy Berger of Middletown Council, Lower Swatara Commissioner George Hinkernell and Robert Pollard of the Union of Concerned Scientists. Not appearing was Gov. Dick Thornburgh who was asked to come and speak out on whether GPU or the NRC has addressed his concerns regarding funding being in place for the cleanup, and whether health and safety issues have been addressed to his satisfaction?

Aware the Governor would not attend, the Mothers announced plans to deliver copies of statements made during the speak-out to his office following the rally. The Concerned Mothers were greeted at the Governor's office door by closed doors and an armed guard who was instructed to say "We are not allowed to accept anything today." Consumed with "anger and disbelief" the Mothers shoved their envelope under the Governor's door.

Since the rally the Mothers have sent the Governor a certified letter expressing their regret his office refused to accept their statements and demanding that he answer their questions.

D.T. PLEASE CALL HOME - The Concerned Mothers aren't the only ones looking to hear from Governor Thornburgh. Many of his neighbors are anxious about recent events and wondering what the administration is planning, if anything, and when they'll be making their move to, as the Governor has often said, "do whatever is necessary" to block restart until his concerns about safety and cleanup funding have been addressed.

Bob Pollard and Ellyn Weiss of the Union of Concerned Scientists spelled out why the Governor must take action now in an article they wrote for **The Philadelphia Inquirer**. They wrote:

"...the governor's failure to have his staff participate in NRC decisions leading up to the restart vote could preclude the commonwealth's right to seek legal remedies afterward. **A court may very well deny such appeals on the grounds that available administrative remedies were not exhausted...** Statements to the press and letters to the Commissioners are no longer enough."

Pollard and Weiss go on to list a half dozen specific instances when the Thornburgh administration should have been out front on the TMI issue but, strangely, remained silent. They conclude that the NRC is on a course which would allow restart of TMI even though serious doubts remain about whether the plant is safe and whether GPU Nuclear has the competence and integrity to manage it. "Unless the governor announces now that he will seek a court stay if restart is approved while these question remain, and unless he directs his officials to immediately resume an active role in the issue before the commission in this case," they write, "the NRC will surely take what it sees as the path of least political resistance and roll over the objections of local citizens."

Your calls and letters to the Governor are important. Let him know we're depending on him. After all, he promised. Try 787-2500 or 787-5962.

CONSERVATION NETWORK ASKS D.T. TO STOP RESTART - The Conservation Network of Pa., whose member organizations represent hundreds of thousands of Pennnsylvanians, called on Gov. Thornburgh to halt restart of TMI Unit 1. Member groups, including the Federation of Sportsmen's Clubs, the Sierra Club, Trout Unlimited and other groups, raised concerns centering in four areas: management competence, plant safety, public health and safety and environmental quality. Add your voice, call 787-2500 or 787-5962.

PIRC HEALTH ISSUES COMMITTEE ACTIVE, EFFECTIVE - Though they aren't making headlines, a group of activists led by Committee Chairperson Kay Pickering is quietly working with the state Department of Health, the TMI Public Health Fund, and others to increase understanding of the health effects of the accident at TMI.

Committee members met on May 3 with representatives of the state Dept. of Health and received a commitment to follow through on Committee suggestions concerning community involvement in epidemiological studies and research. Also, committee member Dr. Sandra Prince-Embury has penned a proposal now being considered by the National Cancer Institute that the TMI area be targeted as a high-risk population for cancer prevention. Finally, a workshop on the "psychosocial impacts of invisible environmental contaminants" will be held in Philadelphia on June 14. Three TMI-PIRC people--Bev Hess, Bob Colman and Prince-Embury--have been invited to attend.

The Committee also reports that Dauphin County MH/MR is developing a plan to provide services and workshops to the general public on dealing with TMI-related stress. The sorely-needed workshops should help area residents to deal with feelings of helplessness and the inability to effect change.

RESTART MEANS WINDFALL FOR GPU - The *Philadelphia Inquirer* reported that Fulton S. Homes of Morgan Stanley & Co. in New York has published a report recommending investors purchase GPU stock which, at our press time, were going for about \$8.60 per share. Holmes predicts it will rise to \$13 per share once Unit 1 is restarted. Further, if GPU is able to get the reactor restarted and operates it for 100 consecutive hours at 35 percent of capacity, they immediately net \$101 million more annually from base rate increases for its three subsidiaries. This \$101 million translates to an additional 90 cents to \$1.00 in earnings per share.

Since the company's worst year in 1981 when it lost \$15.9 million, or 26 cents a share, things have been improving. In 1982, GPU earned \$37.5 million, or 61 cents a share. Last year, the company showed profits of \$50.9 million, or 83 cents a share. During the first quarter of this year, GPU increased its earnings by 178 percent compared with the first quarter of 1983.

CLEANUP MONEY FOCUS IN WASHINGTON - NRC Reactor Chief (chief reactor?) Harold Denton characterized the cleanup funding dilemma as "a national embarrassment" in hearings before a congressional panel in late May. The hearing was called by Rep. Robert Walker (R-East Petersburg) who sought some answers as to when the electric utilities would be coming up with money for the cleanup. Rep. George Gekas (R-Harrisburg) is now said to be considering a "Chrysler-type" bailout as GPU is said to be some \$200 million short of the figure needed to do the job. Meanwhile, NRC Chairman Nunzio Palladino has directed staff attorneys to determine the agency's authority to order GPU to adhere to a schedule for the cleanup.

UTILITIES HOARDING TAX DOLLARS - The Associated Press reports that the nation's electric utilities have billed customers \$6.3 billion, about \$28 per household, in 1983 federal taxes that, through business tax breaks, won't be paid for several years. The tax deferrals, had they been passed directly on to consumers instead of into building new power plants, would have more than offset the \$5.4 billion in rate increases last year.

PERKINS' COMMITTEE SUGGESTS SUSPENSION OF GPU'S LICENSE - Harrisburg City Council's Ad Hoc Committee on the TMI Evacuation has asked the NRC to suspend GPU's license to operate TMI. The request was made, according to committee chairman Jane Perkins, because no approved plan exists to evacuate city residents should a nuclear emergency occur at the plant. A letter to NRC Reactor Chief Harold Denton asks that GPU be prevented from restarting Unit 1 until all municipalities in the counties surrounding TMI have adopted emergency plans. Currently, only 16 of 36 municipalities have such plans.

MAYBE THEY'RE BOTH RIGHT - Countering a charge from former TMI worker William Pensyl that "contamination of (TMI workers') arms, legs and bodies is commonplace," GPU spokesman Gordon Tomb said Radiation exposures to TMI workers "average less than those at normal operating plants."

BE THE "HALF-LIFE OF THE PARTY" - A bogus advertisement running on local rock station FM104 for the **TMI Cocktail** ("the official drink of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission") says the brew, made with Susquehanna River water, will make you the "half-life" of the party.

JACK ANDERSON SAYS WELDS AT TMI MAY BE UNSAFE - Unqualified welders out of a boilermakers union in Pittsburgh worked at TMI and other nuclear plants around the country, according to syndicated columnist Jack Anderson. He also reports that Nunzio Palladino has come up with a way to make it harder to bring charges of shoddy workmanship or poor design late in the nuclear plant licensing process. Such charges have been a significant factor in delaying plant licensing, Anderson reports.

U.S. FOUND NEGLIGENT IN A-TESTS - On May 10 a Federal district judge ruled the U.S. government was guilty of negligence in the way it conducted above-ground nuclear tests in the 1950s and caused nine people to die of cancer. Former Interior Secretary Stewart Udall said the decision, which marks the first time the government has been held responsible for irradiating civilians, "makes it easier for citizens to gain redress." This is also the first time a court has ruled that low-level radiation causes damage. It is expected to spur appeals from the military's "atomic veterans," many of whom have had cases denied by the Veterans Administration on the grounds that low-level radiation does not cause harm.

PRECEDENT SET IN NEW JERSEY NUKE CASE - A state appeals court dismissed a suit brought by southern New Jersey residents who claimed a nuclear power plant was responsible for local property damage. But the three-judge panel established a precedent by citing the Silkwood case to say property owners can sue in state court for damages allegedly caused during the normal operations of a nuclear reactor.

FORKED RIVER: GOING, GOING, GONE - GPU and Jersey Central Power & Light (JCP&L) will be selling off equipment for its terminated Forked River nuclear plant at an auction slated for June 19-21. The reactor pressure vessel, steam generators, pumps, motors, turbines, valves and circuit breakers will all be sold "regardless of price."

JCP&L CENTRAL TO REBATE \$20 TO RATEPAYERS - In a move designed to shift more of the burden for the TMI accident to shareholders, the New Jersey Board of Public Utilities (BPU) ordered JCP&L (a 25% owner of TMI) to rebate \$20 to each of the company's 720,000 ratepayers.

PUC BACK TO FULL STRENGTH - With the confirmation of former state representative William R. Shane and former Allentown mayor Frank Fischl, the state Public Utility Commission regained its full complement of five members. After his confirmation, Shane said he hoped to change the image of the PUC by bringing "a bit more balance in the direction of consumers."

UTILITY INVESTORS GET THE MESSAGE - The May newsletter of the American Society of Nuclear Investors urged its members to write Washington to urge restart of TMI. We'll tell you what they're telling their members: "We can't do it alone. If you've never written before -- write now. If you've written before -- write again. The length of your letter is not critical. It need only be two or three sentences, but it does register your concern." Now do you know how important your letters and calls are? Today? Please?

WE DON' HAVE SPACE to run the coupon from last issue, but funds are still needed to run the advertisement we announced. Enough people sent funds to place the ad in the Lancaster paper and you'll see it there soon. York and Harrisburg, come through with some more \$s and we'll get it in the Record and Patriot before the end of the month.

PIRC SUPPORTERS ARE BEAUTIFUL PEOPLE - THANK YOU PLEDGERS AND OTHER CONTRIBUTORS FOR MAKING IT POSSIBLE TO KEEP THE PIRC REPORT IN THE MAILS, THE PHONES IN THE OFFICE, AND THE OFFICE. WITHOUT YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT NONE OF THIS WOULD BE POSSIBLE. THANKS ALSO FOR THE KIND WORDS. YOUR CONTINUED SUPPORT IS NEEDED AND APPRECIATED. VOLUNTEERS GET LOVE TOO.

NATIONAL NUCLEAR ROUNDUP - The NRC rejected an application from the Long Island Lighting Co. (Lilco) to operate the Shoreham nuclear plant on May 16...A Library of Congress study of existing laws found that federal agencies have "no clear authority" to exercise police powers needed to hold evacuation drills around Shoreham...PP&L picked up some \$10 million worth of fuel for its Berwick reactor from the canceled Zimmer plant in Ohio... The Philadelphia Electric Co. announced the estimated cost of building Limerick 1 has jumped five percent or \$184 million...Connecticut Gov. William O'Neill signed into law a bill to prevent the state's two major utilities from passing along losses from the suspended Seabrook, N.H. power plant to customers...