

Three Mile Island Alert

Island Updates

News Watch on the Harrisburg Area

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The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, Dec. 12, 1986

TMI cleanup

GPU continues to have a credibility problem

GENERAL PUBLIC UTILITIES, the organization that made Three Mile Island a household word, spends enormous sums of money each year to polish the corporate image. And each year it manages to find one way or another to demonstrate that, despite a new name and new faces, it's the same old GPU with the same old problem — an inability to tell the whole truth and nothing but the truth.

On Dec. 4, the public relations arm of GPU Nuclear, operators of TMI, called a news conference to give an upbeat report on the pace of the cleanup operation at the damaged Unit 2 reactor. The same day the company ran a full-page advertisement in this newspaper, called "A Report to the Community," which stated in part that "the cleanup is making good progress." The ad outlined "plans for keeping TMI-2 safe, stable and secure" once cleanup is completed, which it said was expected to be in September 1988.

It turns out, however, that the most important part of the cleanup — removal of the congealed uranium fuel inside the reactor — is not progressing at all. Defueling, in fact, is at a "dead stop," according to William Travers, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission official in charge of overseeing the cleanup. Company officials acknowledge that defueling was halted on Nov. 26 when efforts to break up the hardened debris inside the reactor failed. Apparently defueling

had been halted during October and most of November, as well, because the fuel, which melted and hardened into a mass of material during the accident, could not be broken into small fragments for removal.

According to Travers, the problems with defueling cast doubt on the company's ability to meet what he describes as an "optimistic schedule" to complete the task of defueling in one year.

NO ONE thought that cleaning up the heavily damaged and highly radioactive-contaminated reactor was going to be easy. There never had been an accident on this scale before and it was taken for granted that much was going to have to be learned as the cleanup effort went along. If it was a simple task it wouldn't be costing an expected \$1 billion and be taking about nine years to complete.

What baffles us is why the information managers at GPU felt compelled to present an unsolicited upbeat assessment of the progress of cleanup when they knew at that very moment defueling was at a dead stop. Why didn't they tell us they had encountered problems? Why did the story have to come from other sources than the company itself? Why, in fact, did they shade the truth at the same time they claimed to be keeping us informed? Why, once again, is GPU not being forthright and honest with the people of central Pennsylvania.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, February 19, 1987

3 at TMI penalized for drugs

Suspensions given by firm

By Frank Lynch
Patriot-News

The operator of Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station yesterday confirmed it imposed 30-day "disciplinary suspensions" on three of its employees because of drug use.

Gordon Tomb, spokesman for GPU Nuclear Corp., said the three were suspended without pay Jan. 21 "after drug tests were administered to them for cause."

The employees work off site and are not involved in reactor operation or other safety sensitive areas, Tomb said. However, all three had access to the island on which the Unit 1 and 2 reactors are located, he said.

Tomb would not say whether drug use by the three while on the job was suspected, nor would he identify the drug. He said the employees must complete a drug rehabilitation program and will be subject to random drug testing for an indefinite time after they return to work this week.

News of the suspensions was made public yesterday in a routine U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission update on events at TMI Unit 1.

According to the report, GPU Nuclear in December informed NRC officials that the company was investigating an "allegation by an employee on drug use by other employees."

Tomb refused to say how the company came to believe the three were drug users. He added that GPU Nuclear does not typically publicize such actions.

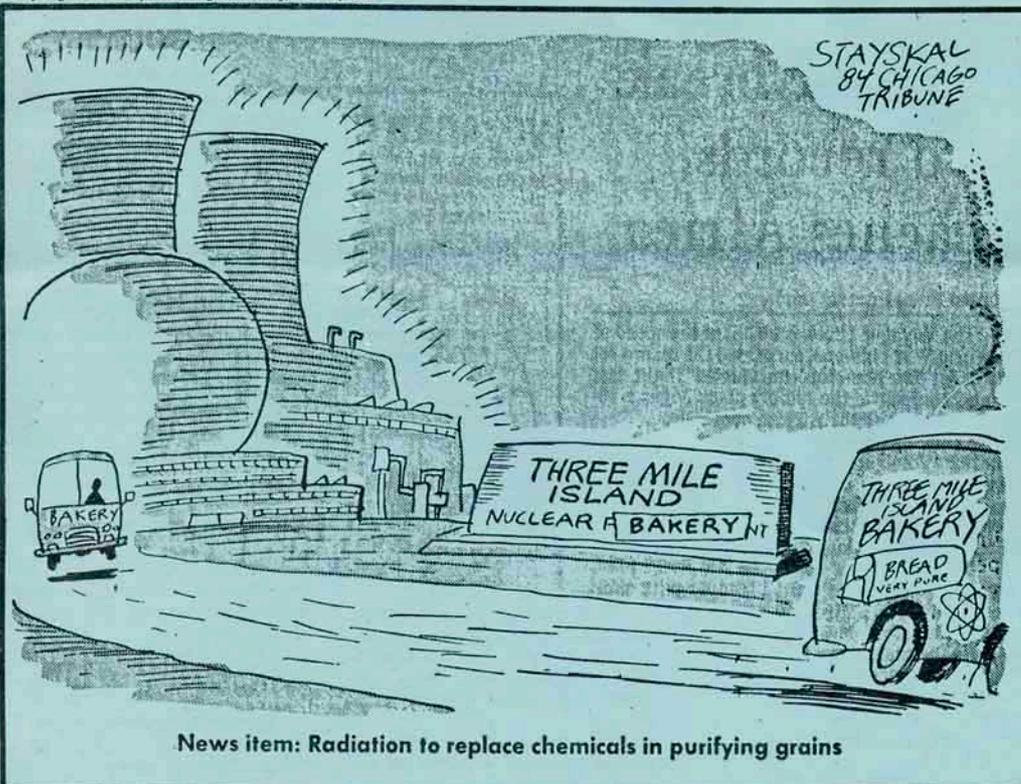
"These are personnel matters and a certain amount of confidentiality is involved," he said. "There is no safety question involved here, but it was clearly a violation of our policy."

That policy forbids GPU Nuclear employees from working while under the influence of alcohol or drugs, or possessing the substances on the job.

Last year, the company instituted a program in which managerial employees are randomly tested for drug use. Tomb said workers "we have reason to believe are using drugs or alcohol" also are subject to testing.

A company effort to randomly test its unionized employees was struck down in October by an arbitrator.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, Dec. 19, 1986



News item: Radiation to replace chemicals in purifying grains

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Citizens rain criticism on GPU's evaporation proposal

By David Stellfox
Patriot-News

LANCASTER — The specter of GPU Nuclear Corp. evaporating 2.1 million gallons of radioactive water into the central Pennsylvania air prompted a strong reaction at a public forum here last night.

The evaporation plan and a U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission study of it and its alternatives were attacked and questioned by all citizens who were permitted to speak at the packed meeting.

A Middletown woman, unable to control her emotions during her comments, broke into sobs at the thought of "2½ years" of worry during the proposed evaporation process.

Members of the Advisory Panel for the Decontamination of Three Mile Island Unit 2 agreed to cancel a scheduled meeting next month with the NRC in Washington until the proposals are studied further.

Also, the panel agreed to ask the NRC to extend by 45 days the comment period on the proposed evaporation plan and its alternatives, which would allow until mid-April to register comments with the NRC.

Of major concern to the Susquehanna Valley Alliance, whose spokeswoman addressed the panel, was the possibility of transuranic radioactive elements in the water and the absence of information on them in the NRC study.

Frances Skolnick, SVA spokeswoman, said the NRC environmental impact statement ignored these elements. The NRC study addressed only strontium-90, cesium-137, and tritium, which William

Travers of the NRC told the panel were the three main radioactive elements.

Many citizens also expressed concern about the tritium, which attaches to the water molecule and cannot be removed prior to evaporation.

A Franklin and Marshall College physics professor, Alin Bruns, told the panel he also was concerned about transuranic elements, some highly toxic, that are formed as a part of the fission process when the reactor is operating.

Unit 2 operated for more than a month before the March 1979 accident.

Bruns said the dangers of these elements in even minute quantities "bears out the request to get some definitive statement on what is the transuranic contents of the water."

Murmurs of surprise went through the audience later in the meeting when panel member Thomas M. Gerusky asked GPU Nuclear Corp. to provide the panel with a detailed list of what elements are in the water "including the sensitivities of the instrumentation and everything that's in there."

Gerusky is director of the state Department of Environmental Resources' Bureau of Radiation Protection and is the member who prompted the request for more information and more time to study it.

He said he wanted to see the documentation behind the NRC study. "We need much more information before we can even be expected to comment," Gerusky said.

Many citizens who spoke, including Eric Epstein of Three Mile Island Alert, requested an independent analysis of the water. The panel did not decide whether to seek an independent analysis.

"People in this area have been dumped on enough. We're tired of being guinea pigs," Epstein said.

"The impact of the disposal of this water on our health cannot be seen outside the context of all previous, present and future releases of radiation into our environment..." Skolnick said.

Noting the NRC refusal to seriously consider reusing the TMI water inside another nuclear power plant, Skolnick said, "We were deeply horrified and insulted when Dr. Travers... informed us that this water was not pure enough for a nuclear power plant's pipes. However, it is considered adequate for our air and water."

GPU Nuclear's preference for disposing of the water calls for solidification of the remains after evaporation into concrete for burial in a low-level solid waste dump.

However, GPU's application for an emergency allocation of space in a low-level dump is pending.

Also, Travers said, GPU will need to go through a formal license amendment process before it can carry out whatever disposal option is finally decided upon.

The NRC study examined the evaporation proposal and about a dozen other options.

Panel hears testimony on TMI-2 waste, plans forum in city

By David Stellfox
Patriot-News

LANCASTER — Three Mile Island Alert, the Susquehanna Valley Alliance and other anti-nuclear groups may testify at a special forum next month on proposals to dispose of radioactive water from TMI Unit 2.

The Advisory Panel for the Decontamination for Three Mile Island Unit 2, meeting in City Council chambers here last night, agreed to hold another meeting on the subject before making its recommendations, if any, to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The advisory panel will meet at 6 p.m. March 25 at the Holiday Inn-Center City in Harrisburg and set aside four hours for the anti-nuclear or "safe energy" groups' testimony.

At the meeting last night, the panel accepted more testimony, primarily from the same groups. Most speakers were opposed to any release of the contaminated water into the environment.

GPU Nuclear Corp., operator of the damaged Unit 2, has proposed to the NRC to dispose of the estimated 2.1 million gallons of water generated in the March 28, 1979, accident by evaporating it into the atmosphere.

The utility on Wednesday formally applied for a license amendment required in this case to dispose of the water.

A preliminary environmental impact study performed by NRC staff examined about 12 options for disposal of the water, including evaporation, dumping into the Susquehanna River and solidifica-

tion for burial.

Dr. William D. Travers, NRC's deputy program director for Unit 2, has said repeatedly that all of the options presented negligible environmental impact and none was considered preferable.

However, Travers said, several steps need to be taken. He said the NRC staff will address all comments submitted and review additional water content analysis provided by GPU, as well as conduct its own analysis and possibly hold public hearings before making a recommendation to the full commission, which will make the final decision.

Some who addressed the panel suggested keeping the water stored in tanks on the island until its radioactive elements decay further.

Other suggestions included evaporating it over the ocean, where it would be more greatly diluted and where it wouldn't fall on a land mass.

Frank Standerfer, vice president and director for TMI-2, said the water is not safe to drink but could be released under current environmental standards if it were at any other plant besides TMI.

"This is not our problem," said Frances Skolnick, of the Susquehanna Valley Alliance. "GPU created it, so why are we being asked to carry it around in our bodies. It's as if we were being asked to be human waste storage sites."

One of the major elements in the water is tritium, a radioactive isotope, which attaches to the water molecule and cannot be removed by evaporation or any other known method of disposal.

TMI evaporation plan gets almost clean bill of health

By Jim Lewis
Patriot-News

If GPU Nuclear Corp. evaporates 2.1 million gallons of radioactive water into the air from its Three Mile Island Unit 2 reactor as planned, it will not have a significant effect on the public's health, a federal official said yesterday.

Dr. William Travers, the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission's TMI cleanup director, said the water contains only small levels of radiation that would not significantly threaten anyone's health.

But an anti-nuclear citizens' group watching the cleanup of TMI wants the plant operator to store the contaminated water in the reactor instead of releasing it into the air or river, said Vera Stuchinski, chairman of the group, called Three Mile Island Alert.

"We want no additional radiation exposure to the area," Stuchinski said after Travers presented details of the evaporation plan to the group yesterday at the Friends Meetinghouse, Sixth and Herr streets.

The group will submit a written protest to the NRC, which is deciding whether it should allow GPU Nuclear to evaporate the water into the atmosphere, Stuchinski said.

The evaporation would cost from \$6 million to \$12 million, Travers said. The process would leave a residue that GPU Nuclear would ship to a low-level radioactive waste burial site in central Washington state.

GPU Nuclear hopes the NRC will allow it to begin the evaporation this summer, Gordon Tomb, a GPU spokesman, said. The process would take about 2½ years, he said.

GPU Nuclear also proposed two alternatives — dilute the wa-

ter and dump it into the Susquehanna River at a cost of about \$3 million, or solidify the water by mixing it with cement and burying the slab on Three Mile Island at a cost of about \$6 million.

Storage of the water in tanks would cost a maximum of \$1.2 million, but is not recommended, Travers said. Most of the radioactive water currently is stored in stainless-steel tanks at TMI, while the rest of it is used to clean walls and other sections of the reactor contaminated by a 1979 accident, he said.

But GPU cannot keep the water stored at TMI indefinitely because the tanks eventually will deteriorate, sending the water into the reactor and the ground.

"The NRC has had the policy, and a darn good one, that a reactor site ought not to be a long-term disposal site," Travers said. "Clearly, this storing for an indefinite period is not a good idea."

Travers said none of GPU's proposals, and other options considered by his staff, would cause large amounts of radiation to be released into the area.

"Even in the case of dumping it into the river, we just can't generate anything technically that says it's going to end with a catastrophe," he said. "None of the alternatives we looked at stand head and shoulders above the others as far as safety questions are concerned."

GPU Nuclear so far has been concerned with the public's safety while it cleans up the reactor, Travers said.

"We've had a very good experience with the way the company has done the cleanup," he said.

Stuchinski said many area residents just do not trust GPU since the accident happened.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Friday, January 9, 1987

NRC publicizes November leaks at TMI's Unit 1

By Frank Lynch
Patriot-News

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission this week reported that "minor," unmonitored amounts of radiation twice escaped from an equipment hatch in the Three Mile Island Unit 1 reactor building more than a month ago.

The NRC publicized what it called the two "non-routine" releases to the atmosphere in its biweekly status report on Unit 1 activities. The releases, which occurred on Nov. 28 and 30, weren't previously reported by the NRC or the TMI operating company, GPU Nuclear Corp.

TMI spokeswoman Lisa Robinson said the releases weren't reported because they were "minuscule."

"We do [report events] when it would have some significance. And this is well below significance," she said. "These [releases] were so low they couldn't be detected by monitors outside the building. We saw no increase at all."

She said the radiation escaped from the building through a hatch that had been taken off to allow equipment to be moved. A tarp covered the hole while it was off.

Robinson said the release "wasn't planned, but you could expect to see it happen" with the hatch off. It since has been reinstalled.

Robinson said filtered releases from the plant occur routinely.

"The only thing different about this is they went through the reactor building hatch, which is normally in place when operating," she said.

Skip Young, the NRC's senior resident inspector at Unit 1, said the release did not violate NRC regulations and the amount of radiation that escaped was within NRC prescribed limits.

"It was not a normal release, it went out through the equipment hatch," he said. "It was not a violation, we want to characterize it as non-routine."

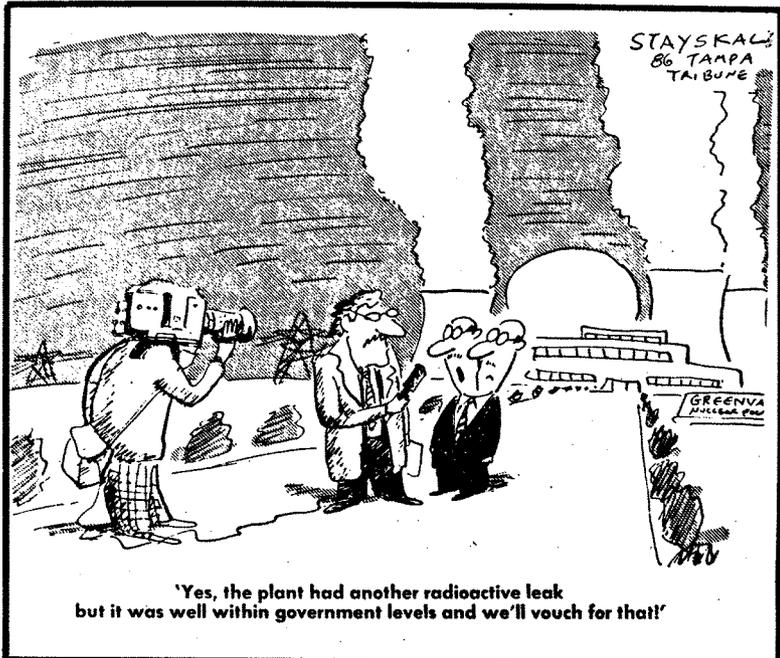
Normally, radiative releases are monitored and vented through filters, reducing the amount of radiation escaping to the environment.

According to NRC estimates, the Nov. 28 release of Iodine 131 and Cobalt 58 amounted to less than .002 thousandth of a percent of the quarterly limits. The Nov. 30 release of Iodine 131, tritium and Xenon 133 represented about .005 thousandths of a percent of those limits.

Since Oct. 31, Unit 1 has been down for a scheduled refueling outage. Among other testing procedures during the shutdown, 6,000 of the 31,000 tubes in the plant's two steam generators were tested for corrosion.

GPU Nuclear pulled from service, or plugged, 39 defective tubes. To date, 1,606 tubes have been plugged.

The plant is scheduled to restart in March.



'Yes, the plant had another radioactive leak but it was well within government levels and we'll vouch for that!'

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, Dec. 17, 1986

Man injured as rack falls in Unit 2

A 36-year-old man working inside the reactor building of Three Mile Island's damaged Unit 2 was knocked to the floor and suffered skin contamination yesterday when a rack holding a lead-filled curtain toppled over on him.

The man, whose name was withheld by company officials, was taken to Hershey Medical Center by a GPU Nuclear Corp. ambulance and crew. He was released from the medical center after being treated for bruises around the neck, a medical center spokesman said.

The worker suffered radioactive contamination to his face and left leg, despite the protective clothing and respirator he was wearing, according to Gordon Tomb, a spokesman for plant operator GPU Nuclear Corp.

"It's really not clear to me how that [contamination] occurred," Tomb said. "It sometimes can happen when the clothes are taken off."

The low level of contamination, "less than a millirem," the man sustained can be cleaned with soap and water and requires no special procedures, Tomb said.

"The trip to the hospital was made because of his injury, not because of the radiation," Tomb said.

GPU declared an "unusual event" at 9:35 a.m. yesterday when the incident occurred.

Tomb said it appeared the worker had moved the 6-foot-high, 12-foot-wide rack, making it unstable. The semicircular lead curtain on the rack was being used to shield workers from high levels of radiation coming from an enclosed stairwell leading to the basement of the containment building of the Londonderry Twp. plant.

The worker was in a second-story level of the building and was operating controls of equipment that was rinsing contaminated walls and floors in the basement, Tomb said. Co-workers helped him up after the rack and curtain fell.

The "unusual event," the lowest of four levels of emergency used in nuclear industry, was declared ended after about an hour.

The man is an employee of Catalytic Inc. of Philadelphia.

Tomb said the Nuclear Regulatory Commission was notified of the incident and an NRC inspector had been present during an internal review of the incident.

The worker was taking part in cleanup efforts resulting from the March 28, 1979, accident at TMI Unit 2. During the accident, the reactor core was severely damaged when operator errors and mechanical malfunctions combined so that the reactor core overheated and radioactive gas was released to the atmosphere.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, January 13, 1987

TMI violations reported NRC rates Unit 1 deficiencies as minor

By Frank Lynch
Patriot-News

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has issued four violation notices to GPU Nuclear for deficiencies NRC inspectors found at Three Mile Island Unit 1.

The violations, described in two inspection reports mailed to the TMI operating company in the last two weeks, involve "minor" infractions of NRC regulations and posed no threat to public safety, said Richard J. Conte, chief of reactor projects for the NRC's Region 1.

"A safety-significant issue did not result" from the described violations, Conte said. He added that three of the violations are rated as Level 4 on a 1 to 5 scale, with 1 being the most severe. The other violation carried the lowest severity ranking, 5.

GPU Nuclear will not be fined for the violations, Conte said. The company has 30 days to respond to the notices.

Plant spokeswoman Lisa Robinson said company officials were reviewing the notices and would not comment on the substance of

the violations. However, she pointed to the balance of the inspection reports which, she said, were mostly favorable.

"We have had some good inspection reports from the NRC, even with these violations identified," she said. "What that says is that we are not perfect. What we're interested in is trying to be better by giving them (the violations) the attention they need."

Conte said the violations, described in NRC inspection reports for September and October, involved failure to:

- Follow procedures during periodic testing of the reactor's primary systems, in one case resulting in a valve misalignment;

- Properly protect the reactor building equipment hatch with a missile barrier, and to properly document radiation monitor "set-points" in the reactor building;

- Properly evaluate a modification in an electrical system;

- Provide radiation dose assessments for on-site personnel following a radiation release. The utility did, as required, provide such dose assessments for individuals outside the plant boundary.

Eric Epstein, spokesman for the anti-TMI group Three Mile Island Alert, criticized the utility for the violations.

"We think that the most recent NRC report indicates a failure by GPU Nuclear to pay attention to detail, and illustrates GPU Nuclear's continuing problems with the implementation of safety and technical procedures," he said.

Meanwhile, Robinson said yesterday that Unit 1 has reached the half-way point in its refueling shutdown.

Plant workers yesterday completed a 10-day operation to refuel the reactor, replacing 76 of the 177 fuel assemblies in the reactor's core. The reactor now has enough fuel to power the plant for the next 18 months.

The plant was shut down in early November for the planned 5-month outage. The reactor is expected to be restarted in March, she said.

Maintenance, upgrading the plant's fire protection system and other repair jobs will be carried out for the remainder of the outage, she said.

Proposed change in 'TMI rule' evacuation plans rapped

By Peter Kelley
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — The Nuclear Regulatory Commission asked for it, and political heavyweights came out swinging.

Four governors and more than a dozen members of Congress yesterday lined up to blast a proposal forwarded by NRC staff members to license nuclear power plants without state and local governments first approving emergency evacuation plans.

Sen. Edward Kennedy, D-Mass., protested that using utility-written plans instead, as the staff suggested, would "weaken, not strengthen" U.S. safety standards in the wake of the Soviet nuclear disaster last year at Chernobyl.

Kennedy warned the commissioners they may be overruled by Congress or the Supreme Court. He said the court might have to decide if the federal government has authority under the Constitution to force a community to accept a massive hazard in its midst without adequate protection.

It was the first time the NRC had invited comments from elected officials before deciding whether to follow a staff recommendation and change its rules.

The regulation that would have to be changed is known as the "Three Mile Island rule," which requires a state-approved evacuation plan before a nuclear plant operating license is issued.

Congress approved that regulation a year after the Unit 2 reactor on TMI, near Middletown, Pa., overheated in March 1979 and prompted thousands of central Pennsylvania residents to flee their homes in fear.

The proposed change would allow utility-written evacuation plans as "interim" substitutes for government plans, if they are "adequate" and "there are other compelling reasons to permit plant operation," NRC Chairman Lando W. Zech Jr. said.

If approved, the change could benefit owners of the Seabrook reactor in southern New Hampshire and the Shoreham plant on Long Island, N.Y. State and local governments in those areas have refused to approve required evacuation plans, delaying issuance of the plants' operating licenses.

William C. Parler, the NRC's top attorney, called the staff plan a "limited" change of existing rules allowing utility input. He said local help with emergency plans still would be "the desired course."

Zech said the NRC would not vote for "several days" on whether to submit the change for a 60-day public comment period.

Kennedy, followed by Sen. Daniel Patrick Moynihan, D-New York, and Gov. Mario M. Cuomo of New York and Gov. Michael S. Dukakis of Massachusetts, said the hearing seemed like a reunion of past and future presidential candidates.

Dukakis said the proposed rule change would be "the nuclear equivalent of cutting the number of lifeboats for the unsinkable Titanic because it would reduce the number of passengers and make the voyage unprofitable."

Cuomo quoted from statements made in 1980 by members of Congress and the NRC, indicating that states, to ensure safety in an emergency, in some cases may block a license for a nuclear plant by refusing to sign or cooperate with evacuation plans.

Several protesters from the area around the Seabrook plant were carried away by police and NRC security guards after they spoke out during the proceedings. Public comments were not allowed.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, February 10, 1987

No short cut

NRC plan would override local input

STATE AND LOCAL opposition to proposed emergency plans has effectively blocked two completed multi-billion dollar nuclear power plants from being operated.

The Shoreham plant on Long Island and the Seabrook plant in southern New Hampshire are two of the costliest and most controversial nuclear plants ever built. In each case, long delays in construction and cost estimates that were wrong by a factor of 10 or more have placed the principal utility investors in financial jeopardy, a position which is compounded by their inability to operate the facilities.

The fact that nuclear plants costing billions of dollars stand idle and may never in fact be used for the purposes intended reflects both an unconscionable waste of resources and the insanity of the nation's nuclear policy. But none of this will be put right by a proposal drafted by the staff of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission which would permit the agency to license plants over the objections of state and local authorities.

Indeed, until quite recently it was generally assumed that the federal government had pretty much a free hand to license nuclear plants as it saw fit. State and local approval of emergency plans, to the extent that they were taken seriously, was considered a formality.

NOT UNTIL Suffolk County, on the eastern end of Long Island, decided — in the wake of the accident at Three Mile Island — to adamantly reject the ludicrous notion that the county could be evacuated in the event of an accident at Shoreham was this avenue of opposition fully exercised. The problem here was that no one — not the utility, not the NRC, not the county, not the state — really appreciated the error of siting a nuclear plant in the middle of a congested island with New York City at one end and a ferry boat at the other until after the plant was in an advanced state of construction.

The problem at Seabrook was somewhat different. Here the opposition to the plant

was loud and clear from the very beginning. But the utility, backed by the state government, decided it knew best and would build the plant even if it meant calling out the National Guard, which it did. The Achilles' heel of the plan to operate Seabrook, aside from it being a financial disaster and possibly a mechanical one as well, was that a section of the 10-mile emergency planning zone around the plant dipped down into Massachusetts, where there was decidedly less enthusiasm for it. Thus Massachusetts, having seen what Suffolk County had done to Shoreham, found it had a tool to veto the operation of its nuclear neighbor.

If this seems like a slipshod way to build nuclear plants, that's because it is. But anyone who thinks that giving the NRC the power to override local objections will put all this silliness to rest clearly hasn't been paying attention. We are in this mess precisely because the nuclear decision-making process already works from the top down rather than from the bottom up. The rules are set up so that utilities and bureaucrats, rather than the people most affected, decide whether nuclear plants are built or not.

CONSEQUENTLY, people find themselves using whatever means are at their disposal to assert control over a major technological intrusion into their lives. The NRC can eliminate state and local approval of emergency plans but that isn't going to stop the public from finding another way to be heard.

The NRC compounds its failure to respect local public opinion by following an illogical two-step licensing process, one that separates the construction of a plant from its operation. If there is any doubt about a utility's competence to operate a nuclear plant, the time to find out is before the plant is built, not after.

But then, there is nothing very logical about the entire nuclear industry, and it may well turn into a dinosaur before it finally figures out why.

NRC asked to widen zones in plans for evacuation

By David Stellfox
Patriot-News

An area anti-nuclear group has asked the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission to expand evacuation zones around nuclear plants.

In the face of increasing interest from utilities in reducing the zones, Three Mile Island Alert Inc. has urged the NRC in a letter to expand from 10 miles to a minimum of 20 miles the zones in evacuation plans that are to go into effect if an accident occurs.

TMIA claims its experience as part of the only community in the United States to be evacuated because of a nuclear plant accident qualifies the organization to speak on the issue.

"As a result of the TMI-2 accident, community residents, including TMIA members, feel strongly that evacuation planning needs to be upgraded and expanded . . ." wrote Eric Epstein, who authored the letter to NRC Secretary Samuel Chilk.

Epstein wrote that as many as 200,000 people from as far as 50 miles away are estimated to have evacuated in 1979 when then-Gov. Dick Thornburgh ordered only pregnant women residing within five miles of the Three Mile Island Nuclear Generating Station to do so.

The organization says of the TMI area:

— Evacuation plans for school-children are incomplete.

— Plans are lacking for the elderly, blind and handicapped.

— Farmers, who are permitted to stay behind as emergency workers, have no insurance and no instruction in the use of radiation monitors and potassium iodine.

— The communication chain of command, as now structured, begins with the utility and "area residents are apprehensive about [GPU Nuclear Corp.'s] ability."

— Evacuation routes may not be adequate.

— Current evacuation plans exclude the cities of Harrisburg, Lancaster and York.

GPU Nuclear Corp. has no comment on the TMIA proposal or on other proposals to expand or reduce the emergency planning zones around nuclear plants, company spokesman Gordon Tomb said.

TMI fund

Judge deals setback to local concerns

GOVERNMENT OF THE PEOPLE, by the people and for the people perished a little bit last week.

In a seemingly innocuous and minor ruling, U.S. District Judge Sylvia H. Rambo denied a petition seeking local control over the \$5 million Three Mile Island Public Health Fund. Rambo threw out the petition, calling it "deficient" because attorneys for the fund were not provided copies and because the group of local officials seeking the ruling did not designate an attorney or spokesman. Nor, the judge said, did the petition include supporting briefs as required by local federal court rules.

Local officials had asked Rambo, who oversees the fund, to order an accounting of all expenditures by the fund, the removal of David Berger, the Philadelphia lawyer who has served as the court-appointed administrator of the fund, and the expenditure of \$600,000 in new radiation monitoring equipment around the nuclear plant. These substantive issues were not addressed by the judge in rejecting the petition.

IT IS ODD that Rambo would deny the petition on technical grounds because earlier petitions filed with her by Three Mile Island Alert containing similar "deficiencies" were not rejected on those grounds, though the petitions were denied. The deficiencies could have — and probably should have — been pointed out by the clerk of the court or the judge at the time of the filing of the petition three months ago. And certainly the judge

could have asked the petitioners to correct the deficiencies without denying the petition in its entirety.

Some of the confusion over procedure in the case apparently stems from the unique nature of the public health fund, which is all the more reason why local efforts to have a say in its administration should not be quashed on technicalities. Indeed, it seems to us the court has a legal and moral obligation to bend over backwards to insure that local voices are heard and that local concerns and interests are reflected in the projects undertaken with monies from the fund.

IT IS A SAD commentary on this whole business that the court has consistently rejected every local effort to have a say in the administration of a fund that was established to benefit local people, while approving virtually everything requested by Berger, who came out of nowhere to preside over the distribution of millions of dollars that has yet to produce a single effort of distinction.

This hardly serves the interests of the people who were subjected to one of the most frightening industrial accidents in history. It surely does not instill a sense that the government is acting in their behalf, protecting their rights and doing them justice.

We applaud the determination of local officials to refile the petition until it finally receives the consideration it deserves. They, and the people they represent, are entitled to a lot better treatment than they've been getting from U.S. District Court.

39 additional tubes removed from Unit 1

GPU Nuclear Corp. has taken 39 more steam generator tubes out of service at Three Mile Island Unit 1.

Company officials announced yesterday the completion of testing of approximately 6,000 heat exchange tubes in two steam generators at Unit 1 since an Oct. 3 refueling shutdown.

The 39 additional tubes plugged and taken out of service brings the number of plugged tubes in the two generators to 1,606 of the 31,062 total tubes.

The tubes, five-eighths of an inch in diameter, carry hot radioactive water that causes non-radioactive water outside them to turn to steam. The steam powers the plant turbine to generate electricity.

The tubes must be plugged according to U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission regulations when cracks exceed 40 percent of the walls of the tubes.

"The tests showed that there is no degradation beyond what can be expected in any operating nuclear power plant," said Henry D. Hukill TMI-1 director.

"The steam generators continue to be fully operational," he said.

Earlier this year GPU Nuclear was granted a one-time variance from the NRC regulation requiring tubes to be plugged when cracks exceed 40 percent of the thickness of the walls.

In April, GPU Nuclear took 25 tubes out of service after testing, and would have had to have taken out six more without the NRC variance.

The NRC allowed GPU to leave the six tubes operating with cracks up to 50 percent of the tube walls if the crack was less than one-fifth the circumference of the tubes.

Trial holds up report on TMI health effects

By Tom Dochat
Patriot-News

A GPU Nuclear Corp. report on the health effects of the 1979 Three Mile Island accident will not be distributed until a personal injury trial concludes next year.

In a joint statement issued yesterday, lawyers for the TMI operator and some 2,000 plaintiffs seeking damages from the company said a mass mailing of the report would be deferred until the Dauphin County Court case is completed.

The plaintiffs have sued GPU Nuclear and other companies for damages involving health problems they say they have suffered as a result of the March 28, 1979, nuclear accident.

The trial of 12 test cases — six selected by the plaintiffs and six by the defendants — is scheduled to begin next October before Senior Judge William W. Lipsitt. The trial originally was scheduled to start May 4.

Yesterday's brief statement said GPU Nuclear would defer mailing the report "so that there will be no basis for challenging the jury's verdict because of the mailing, and so that the issues will not be diminished by a tangential matter."

GPU Nuclear had discussed mailing a condensed version of a 48-page report called "Radiation and Health Effects: A Report on the TMI-2 Accident and Related Health Studies." The report, released last summer, concluded there were no acute health problems from the accident, and no long-term health problems are anticipated.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs had sought a court injunction to prevent the mailing because they felt it would hamper the jury selection for the trial. They said mailing the report to people within a 10-mile radius of the Londonderry Twp. plant would create a "prejudicial atmosphere" that might require a change of venue for the trial.

They also questioned the scientific accuracy of the study.

GPU Nuclear argued that an injunction would be an unconstitutional violation of its First Amendment rights. The company also said a mailing would provide nearby residents with a fair, unbiased and informative analysis of the effects of the Three Mile Island accident.

Lawyers for GPU Nuclear also said the report would offset some stories which have appeared about the accident.

NRC rejects request to ease tube standards

By Frank Lynch
Patriot-News

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission has denied a request by GPU Nuclear to relax standards for crack penetrations on steam generator tubes at Three Mile Island Unit 1.

The NRC's decision requires that the plant's operating company continue to remove from service all tubes with cracks or pits that exceed 40 percent the thickness of the tube walls. GPU Nuclear had sought a new standard allowing cracks 40 percent to 70 percent the thickness of the walls, depending on the length of the defects.

The steam generator tubes, about as round as a pencil with walls .03 inch thick, carry hot radioactive water through secondary water that turns to steam, powering the turbines.

The NRC's plugging criteria are designed to minimize the potential leaking of radioactive water into the secondary water, which ultimately is exposed to the environment as steam. GPU Nuclear contends their request, if implemented, would have caused no safety hazard.

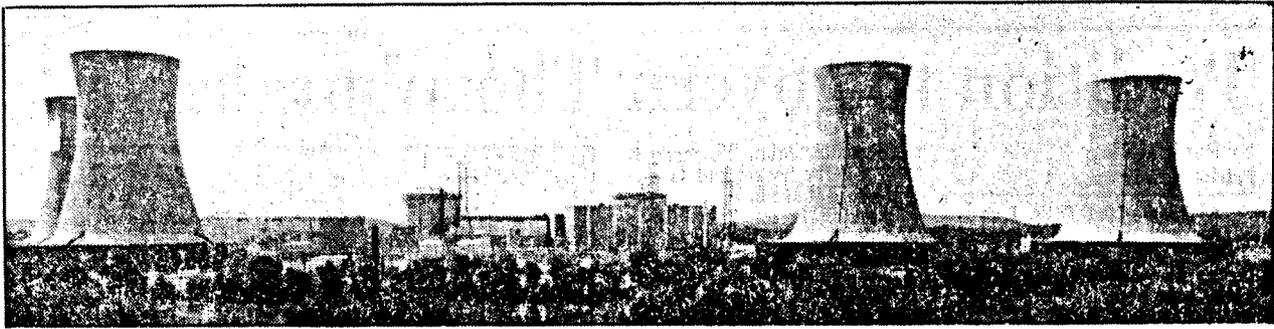
Plant spokeswoman Lisa Robinson said company officials were weighing whether to request a hearing on the denial, which is to be published in the Federal Register. A separate hearing on the matter already is scheduled for March, and Robinson said a decision hadn't been made on whether to pursue that.

The NRC's decision was "good news" for leaders of TMI Alert, a local citizens' group. The group said GPU Nuclear's request posed a safety risk.

"I think it was a wise decision on their [the NRC's] part," said Louis Bradford, who led litigation for TMIA on the steam tube issue.

GPU Nuclear began its quest to relax the standard in November 1985, in a letter asking the NRC for the 70 percent change. The company also asked that tubes with 50 percent defects remain in service pending the decision on the 70 percent request.

The NRC last April granted the company a one-time license variance to leave in service tubes with defects 50 percent through the wall. That variance ran out Nov. 1, when Unit 1 was shut down for refueling and maintenance.



From Patriot-News files

More than 2,000 suits have been filed in Dauphin County Court attributing illnesses to the Three Mile Island accident

Scientist out to gauge TMI radiation

By Frank Lynch
Patriot-News

A new study has begun to estimate how much radioactivity escaped during the 1979 Three Mile Island accident.

The study's coordinator, Dr. Jan Byea, said he hopes his findings will "narrow the debate" on radiation releases and any health problems they may have caused for area residents.

The two-year, \$474,700 study will be funded by the Three Mile Island Public Health Fund. U.S. District Judge Sylvia H. Rambo, who oversees fund activities, has approved the study.

Byea, senior energy scientist for the National Audubon Society, said there is a wide range of estimates of radiation doses received by residents because of the March 1979 accident at TMI Unit 2. A combination

of human and machine failures resulted in an overheated reactor, causing releases of radioactivity into the atmosphere.

Current health-risk estimates vary widely, he said, because radiation monitoring data are missing or unreliable.

"If we are successful, we'll eliminate much of the uncertainty that was left after the accident," Byea said.

However, he said he doubts the debate over the health effects of the accident ever will be resolved.

More than 2,000 civil suits have been filed in Dauphin County Court attributing a variety of illnesses to the accident.

Byea's study will involve 17 groups studying different areas of argument. It is a follow-up to an assessment Byea conducted in 1984. In that project, he studied hundreds of reports and computer data bases to reach

radiation dose estimates arrived at by independent researchers.

Byea's proposal is the latest of several commissioned by the TMI Public Health Fund. The fund was set up in 1981 with \$5 million paid by TMI insurers to stop litigation against the nuclear plant's owner and related companies.

Fund Secretary Jonathan Berger said it is ready to commission one additional study, on the long-term stress experienced by those living near TMI. Berger said attorneys for the insurers have objected to that study, and the matter is in the hands of an arbitrator.

To date, Rambo has approved spending \$5,903,111 on studies, publications and information programs on radiation and nuclear power. Although \$3 million actually has been spent, interest accumulated on the original \$5 million has left more than \$5.5 million in the bank.

Motions remain undecided in TMI lawsuits

By Tom Dochat
Patriot-News

A legal sparring match yesterday left unsettled disputes between lawyers representing the two sides in the more than 2,000 Three Mile Island injury claims.

Lawyers spent about an hour discussing a defense request to dismiss some of the Dauphin County Court complaints filed by people seeking damages as a result of the March 1979 TMI accident.

They spent another hour debating a request by the plaintiffs for information from the operator of the nuclear power plant.

The issues are part of legal maneuvers by both sides in the TMI suits, which allege that people suffered mental and physical ailments as a result of the nuclear accident. Twelve test cases have been set for trial in October.

Attorneys for GPU Nuclear Corp., operator of the plant, have asked Senior Judge William W. Lipsitt to grant a summary judgment dismissing some 30 complaints because they were not filed within the two-year statute of limitations. The statute argument could affect as many as 1,200

complaints, said A.H. Wilcox, attorney for the defendants.

Lawyers for the plaintiffs say GPU "lulled their clients to sleep" by assuring residents there were no harmful radiation releases at the time of the accident. This assurance prevented the plaintiffs from immediately connecting their ailments to the accident, lawyers say.

Wilcox asked Lipsitt for the summary judgment because the complaints were filed more than two years after the plaintiffs knew about their diseases.

Wilcox added that some 300 people sued the operator of the Londonderry Twp. plant in 1979 or 1980, soon after they sustained diseases but without evidence that TMI was the cause. Now, he said, others have sued the TMI operator six or seven years later, "operating on no more information than the people who sued in 1979 or 1980."

Wilcox said the plaintiffs should have exercised reasonable diligence once their diseases were detected and should not be allowed to bring suit more than two years after the ailments were discovered.

But lawyers Lee C. Swartz and Arnold Levin discounted GPU's argument, saying their clients were victimized by "fraudulent

concealment" about the amount of radiation released from TMI.

Levin argued "we're dealing with people" who believed initial statements saying that no radiation releases were made. "Don't hold this entire community hostage because they chose to listen to Mr. Wilcox's clients," who "chose to lie," Levin argued.

"GPU told them they had nothing to worry about" and now Wilcox is saying "people should have known" within a two-year time period that their diseases could have been the result of the accident, Levin said.

Levin said he felt the defendants were stonewalling efforts to obtain information needed for the test cases.

Levin said he wanted various records relating to liability, causation and credibility, including interoffice communications before the publication of news releases after the accident.

But Wilcox said the plaintiffs have "gotten file drawers and file drawers and boxes" of information.

He added he felt the plaintiffs were trying to compound the complexity of the issue the trial jury will decide.

Hundreds of claims on TMI jeopardized as 35 are dismissed

By Tom Dochat
Patriot-News

In a ruling that could affect hundreds of other claims, about 35 cases have been dismissed from Three Mile Island litigation because plaintiffs failed to seek their injury claims within the two-year statute of limitations.

TMI officials said yesterday's ruling by Dauphin County Senior Judge William W. Lipsitt could affect hundreds of other claims filed outside of the time limit by people seeking damages because of the TMI accident.

TMI officials have argued that not enough radiation was released to harm anyone.

GPU Nuclear Corp., operator of the plant, had asked Lipsitt to dismiss some plaintiffs from the litigation on grounds that they violated the statute of limitations by filing suit more than two years

after the ailments they claimed were first reported to have been detected.

Attorneys for the plaintiffs have argued the connection between the illnesses and the TMI accident could not be determined immediately because the plant operator fraudulently concealed the severity of the radiation emissions.

But Lipsitt said in his opinion there was plenty of information available about the nature and extent of the accident.

"Plaintiffs knew on March 28, 1979, that an accident had occurred at TMI," Lipsitt wrote. "They also knew or should have known that exposure to radiation could cause adverse health effects. Indeed, by their own admissions in the complaints, plaintiffs knew an accident had

occurred and that exposure to radiation could cause adverse effects."

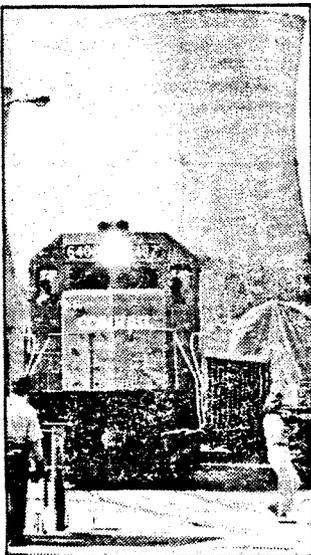
The plaintiffs said they "knew of their specific injury more than two years prior to the time they filed their complaint," Lipsitt added. "Thus, at that time they possessed the requisite knowledge to set the statutory clock running.

"Given the extent of information available to plaintiffs, their generalized allegations of concealment are insufficient ... and their claims must be dismissed as untimely filed."

Lee C. Swartz, an attorney for the plaintiffs, said Lipsitt's decision will be appealed to Superior Court. He said the decision "will not impact on a majority of the cases."

Twelve test cases — six selected by the plaintiffs and six chosen by the defendants — are scheduled for trial in October.

TMI debris shipments disturb many on route



From Patriot-News files
Damaged fuel leaves TMI by train

Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Shipments of 300,000 pounds of damaged radioactive fuel from Three Mile Island nuclear power plant are stirring debate along their 10-state rail route to an Idaho laboratory.

Two public meetings have been held to defuse tensions in a small Indiana community and two Missouri congressmen say federal authorities haven't done enough to ensure public safety and environmental protection along the route.

The Department of Energy is six months into a program to haul the radioactive fuel by train from the crippled TMI Unit 2 reactor in Middletown, Pa., to a federal laboratory in Idaho Falls.

Along the way, the fuel passes through Ohio, Indiana, Illinois, Missouri, Kansas, Nebraska, Colorado and Wyoming. At the lab, the material is analyzed by EG&G Idaho, an Energy Department contractor hoping to learn more about the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident, which occurred in 1979.

Three trips, each taking about five days, have been completed by the Conrail and Union Pacific railroads. There will be perhaps three dozen more in the next two years, according to EG&G spokesman Terry Smith.

The fuel, plus metal debris from the plant, is contained in canisters secured inside layered stainless

steel and lead casks designed to withstand accidents.

The cargo attracted special attention in the small Indiana town of Avon, on the outskirts of Indianapolis. Residents became alarmed when they learned last summer that the TMI freight would pass within several hundred yards of 3,000 students at four local schools.

"The Department of Energy made an error by just having the thing burst like a bubble on the Indianapolis area with very little explanation as to how or why," said Thomas Terry, superintendent of schools. "The public got into a little bit of an uproar."

A public meeting was held for residents to air their concerns, and another one took place this month. The department has delivered reams of explanatory literature "and it does now seem that just about every reasonable precaution is being taken," Terry said.

But as the clamor was dying down in Avon, Reps. Richard Gephardt and William Clay, both D-Mo., charged on Jan. 8 that the Energy Department failed to properly address the environmental and health implications of the shipments.

The Evening News, Harrisburg, Pa., Wednesday, December 10, 1986

Unit 2 defueling halted; drilling fails

From staff and wire reports

Defueling at the idled Three Mile Island Unit 2 nuclear plant was halted Nov. 26 when a large-scale drilling effort failed to adequately break up hardened debris inside the reactor vessel, a plant spokesman said yesterday.

Removing the once melted and now hardened core material resumed Nov. 24 after work in October and November designed to break up the material.

However, GPU Nuclear Corp. spokesman Gordon Tomb said yesterday that defueling was halted two days later because the drilling efforts did not adequately break apart the material into gravel-size fragments as expected.

The setback casts doubt on whether plant officials can maintain their one-year

defueling timetable as part of a plan to put the reactor in storage by late 1988, a federal official said.

"It's an optimistic schedule. That's particularly true in light of the more recent findings," said William Travers, who oversees the cleanup at the Londonderry Twp. nuclear facility's Unit 2 for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission. "The bottom line — do I think they're going to make it? It's not very likely."

Tomb said workers in October and November used a huge drill to bore into the crust in hopes of reducing it to easily removable pieces. After the drilling of more than 400 holes, workers on a stainless-steel platform atop the reactor began using scoops to bring up what they hoped would be the gravel-like waste.

However, after probing into the reactor, their tools came up empty or with only traces of material, Tomb said.

"What we found is that it didn't pull up like loose gravel," he said.

Officials halted the defueling process Nov. 26 and began using filters to clear the water to enable them to make a video inspection of the reactor, which was completed yesterday, Tomb said.

An initial inspection of some of the tape showed what appeared to be a rock 2 feet in diameter surrounded by compacted debris. Workers yesterday began cutting up remnants of fuel rods that were sticking out of the sides of the core. They will attempt to break up the rock and other debris this week, Tomb said.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Saturday, February 14, 1987

Job losses loom as TMI cleanup draws to close

By Peter Kelley
Washington Bureau

WASHINGTON — General Public Utilities Corp. is finishing the billion-dollar cleanup of its Unit 2 reactor at Three Mile Island near Middletown, Pa., and planning to transfer or lay off approximately 950 workers at the unit.

David Judy, president of Middletown Borough Council, is not pleased by the prospect of lost jobs.

The Londonderry Twp. plant's vast employment needs have come to dominate the economy of the nearby borough, transforming what had been an Air Force center, from 1917 to 1977, to a virtual company town for the nuclear industry.

"It's news to me," Judy said yesterday when told GPU executives were in Washington, laying the groundwork for mothballing Unit 2 and keeping on about 50 long-term employees at the unit.

"I'm sure it was expected eventually there'd be some kind of reduction, but nobody ever said how many," he said. The Unit 2 work force fluctuates around

1,000 and currently is at 1,030, including contractors' crews.

Unit 1 employs about 700 people.

Gordon Tomb, a GPU spokesman, said at the firm's annual briefing on the cleanup that a 10 percent staff reduction was made at Unit 2 last year and another would result this year "through natural attrition, people leaving, and transfers."

The first big wave of transfers or layoffs, which Tomb called a "phase down," probably will come in the second half of 1988, he said.

"We still plan to complete the cleanup program by September 1988," GPU Nuclear President Philip R. Clark told the five-member U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission.

The most vexing problem in the Unit 2 cleanup to date — clouds of tiny organisms in the reactor-water that reduced the workers' visibility by remote television to less than an inch — was solved last month by using hydrogen peroxide to kill them, and a dirt mixture to filter them out.

Crews also have wrestled with special drills to pierce an unexpectedly hard ceramic layer of melted fuel that initially kept them from reaching debris in the reactor's depths.

Clark maintained that no study has been given to Unit 2's possible reuse, and that the company assumes it will simply be guarded for at least 22 years, when Unit 1's operating license will expire and it either will be extended or the plant decommissioned.

The NRC currently is accepting public comments on what safeguards should be required once a nuclear power plant reaches the end of its useful life, a time span which itself has not been decided.

Only William D. Travers, ranking NRC staff member on the cleanup site, was willing to speculate that further unexpected delays could push the completion date back enough to jeopardize the project's \$965 million funding package.

Clark said the only hole in that package so far is a \$4 million shortfall in the \$83 million for research the Energy Department was expected to perform on the island.

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa.
Tuesday, January 20, 1987

TMI worker hurt in fall from scaffolding

Officials at Three Mile Island yesterday declared an "unusual event" at the Unit 1 reactor after a worker's ankle was broken in a fall from scaffolding in the reactor building.

The unusual event, the lowest of four emergency classifications, was declared shortly after the 11:30 a.m. accident and was lifted at 1 p.m., plant spokeswoman Lisa Robinson said.

She said nuclear plant officials are required to make such an emergency declaration when an injured worker, who may have been exposed to radiation contamination, is taken off the site for treatment.

Robinson said the worker was tested at the plant for contamination, but none was detected. He then was taken to Harrisburg Hospital for treatment.

The worker, identified by a hospital spokeswoman as Ricky Peebles, 33, of Mechanicsburg, had a fracture and dislocated left ankle. Further tests at the hospital showed no signs of contamination, the spokeswoman said.

Peebles was listed in good condition yesterday and was expected to stay in the hospital overnight, she said.

Robinson said Peebles, employed by TMI contractor Catalytic Inc., fell about four feet from scaffolding he was building on the second floor of the reactor building.

TMI-1, shut down for refueling and maintenance, is scheduled to restart in March.

"ISLAND UPDATES"

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From: Updates Editor

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TMIA will publish future Updates as money allows. TMIA continues to operate a full-time office and work on the following issues: radiological monitoring; Unit 2 clean-up as well as Unit 1 (court case still pending); health concerns; emergency planning; and public information and education.

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the FORUM

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Tuesday, Dec. 16, 1986

TMI is boring

EDITOR:

DON'T YOU THINK it possible to lay off TMI? It really is of interest only to timid souls, to little old ladies in tennis shoes and hysterical college professors.

For those who are so avidly concerned with human life, substitute coal mines as a subject for lachrymose discussion where hundreds are killed regularly. Add acid rain which is a greater threat than nuclear power.

These subjects I suggest are infinitely more appropriate if you must provide reading material for your sob-sister segment. After all, TMI long ago reached a point where a discussion of that subject was just plain boring.

F. E. Masland Jr.,
Carlisle

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, January 1, 1987

TMI coverage

EDITOR:

Frank Masland claims that the Patriot's continuing coverage of TMI is boring and he urges the editor to stop reporting or editorializing on the subject.

Masland's letters to the editor over past years make it clear that he should be regarded as an ideological brother to Lyndon LaRouche. Muzzling a vigilant and free press in the name of

non-boring news or a blatant profit motivation is a real threat to the best aspects of America. No fat-cat capitalist who lives and works a safe distance away from TMI has any right to call for censorship of the press.

Without the thoughtful reporting by the Patriot/Evening News, area residents and those whose jobs require them to work in the TMI area would have only the slick public relations claims by GPU to use as a basis for decisions affecting their health and safety. It was our misplaced trust and lack of concern prior to March, 1979 that allowed abuses by Met-Ed and others to disrupt our lives. I'm sure that the displaced and health-endangered residents and workers from the Chernobyl area would find Masland's arrogant elitism very similar to the pronouncements of Soviet technocrats.

--Gene Albright
Arendtsville

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa., Thursday, January 8, 1987

TMI statistics

EDITOR:

I feel the residents surrounding Three Mile Island should be awakened to the facts.

The death records for a seven-year period prior to the year 1979 should be reviewed. Then the death records from 1979 to the present should be studied.

These records which note the cause of death are kept on file in the Department of Vital Statistics.

In reviewing the comparison causes of deaths for these two

periods, I believe the latter period will indicate an increase is caused by some type of cancer.

Jan Byea, senior energy scientist for the National Audubon Society, presently is conducting an investigation to determine how much radiation was released seven years ago.

Cancer is an insidious disease. It isn't until the victim's disease has so advanced that symptoms indicate a serious problem. Then, in so many cases, it is too late to be cured.

Instead of thinking of the economical ways of producing power and energy, let's stick to the conventional old ways and discard nuclear power.

Let's save lives, not money. You know the old saying, "You can't take it with you."

--Ms. Lois Summers,
New Cumberland

The Patriot, Harrisburg, Pa.,

Wednesday, Dec. 31, 1986

GPU credibility

EDITOR:

The detailed explanation by Mr. Kinter of General Public Utilities detailed explanations on the stalled cleanup of TMI Unit II (My View, Dec. 26) isn't the biggest hurdle confronting GPU. First they have to figure out how to operate a nuclear reactor efficiently and safely.

In "my view" and the view of many others, GPU has never had any credibility in the operation of Unit I or Unit II. The Patriot is/was correct the first time.
www.laka.org
Digitized by Jane Lee, Etters