

# THREE MILE ISLAND

# ALERT

NOVEMBER  
1987

315 Peffer Street; Harrisburg, PA 17102

TELEPHONE: 717-233-3072

**SUPPORT URGED FOR HOFMANN'S PUC NOMINATION** - Senate hearings continue on Gov. Robert Casey's nominee to the Public Utility Commission, Otto Hofmann of Harrisburg. Hofmann is the director of the Pennsylvania Utility Law Project that represents low-income clients on utility and energy issues. He is a consumer-oriented attorney with extensive experience in utility problems facing the elderly, small businesses, the poor, and the average ratepayer. There is some heavy lobbying against the nomination from groups that believe Hofmann's pro-consumer attitudes will lead him to oppose completion of the Limerick II nuclear power plant. They vow to fight the nomination unless Hofmann pledges to support Limerick II.

Readers are urged to call or write the following Senators before Thanksgiving and urge support for the Hofmann nomination: Shumaker\* (Dauphin) 652-1567; Moore (Perry) 582-4600; Hopper (Cumberland) 761-0923; Armstrong (Lancaster) 393-2765; and Hess (York) 225-5045. \*Thanks to Sen. Shumaker for support Mr. Hofmann. Write:

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_  
Senate of Pennsylvania  
Main Capitol Building  
Harrisburg, PA 17120.

**HOUSE PASSES TAINTED PRICE-ANDERSON, SENATE CLEANUP URGED** - The U.S. Senate is in the midst of a hot dispute over passage of the Price-Anderson Act, legislation to provide citizens with a nuclear accident insurance policy. The House has already approved legislation that is inadequate, providing protection for the nuclear industry at the public's expense. The House version limits the nuclear utilities' liability to \$7 billion (even though the government estimates damages from a major accident could cost from \$15 to \$150 billion). Taxpayers would have to foot the rest of the bill. Also, the House allows Department of Energy contractors (nuclear weapons, research and waste) to remain exempt from liability for damages to the public.

What you can do: Write or call Senators Heinz and Specter and urge them to support legislation that will:

- o provide full victim compensation with no cap on industry liability;
- o protect taxpayers against assuming the costs of an accident; and
- o provide accountability for the nuclear industry and its contractors.

The Honorable H. John Heinz  
277 Russell Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202/224-6324

The Honorable Arlen Specter  
331 Hart Senate Office Bldg.  
Washington, D.C. 20510  
Phone: 202/224-4254

A RED X INDICATES  
YOUR DUES PAYMENT  
IS REQUESTED

**Three Mile Island Alert**  
315 Peffer Street  
Harrisburg, PA 17102



**OPEN  
IMMEDIATELY**

MEMBERSHIP MEETING  
November 17

**SVA SEEKS HEARINGS ON EVAPORATION** - On October 28, intervenor Frances Skolnick (representing both TMIA and SVA) filed a petition for hearing with the NRC concerning GPU's plans to evaporate 2.3 million gallons of radioactive waste water from the Unit 2 cleanup.

TMIA and SVA are requesting a public hearing on the evaporation proposal based on the following contentions:

1. The evaporation plan is not in keeping with the NRC's "ALARA" (as low as reasonably achievable) principle concerning radiation releases to the public.
2. The NRC did not conduct a risk/benefit analysis of the "no-action alternative" (i.e.: on-site, monitored, retrievable storage). The staff states only that any adverse impacts from evaporation (such as health risks) are outweighed by benefits.
3. Sufficient evidence has not been presented to demonstrate that the evaporation can be completed safely without releasing additional radioactive substances. There is no evidence that necessary oversight, monitoring, and safety systems will be in place.
4. That the NRC has not considered the cumulative effects of radiation exposure to the public.
5. The NRC has underestimated the effects of tritium and other radioactive elements in the water.
6. Due consideration was not given to methods that involve no environmental release of the water (i.e.: evaporation in a closed cycle or on-side monitored storage).

Ms. Skolnick will make a report on the evaporation issue at TMIA's membership meeting on November 17 in Harrisburg.

**SUPPORT FOR EVAPORATION HEARINGS BEING ORGANIZED** - Support for TMIA's and SVA's efforts in the proposed evaporation hearings is being organized in the following ways:

- o House meetings can be held utilizing the resources of TMIA (invitations, literature and speakers). Call Kay at the TMIA office (233-7897) if you would be willing to host or co-host a gathering in your home.
- o SVA has printed a new T-shirt -- "Please say no to evaporation" -- which is available at \$7.00 at the TMIA office. Medium and large sizes come in green, blue and tan.
- o Fundraisers include the sale of the 1988 Peace Calendars, "Carry It On," by the Syracuse Cultural Workers for \$8.95. Purchase your Christmas gifts from TMIA.

**THANK YOU** - to the volunteers who helped at the TMIA literature table October 23 and 24 during the East Mall Community Days: Debbie Baker, Deb Davenport, Charles Leising, Dan Welliver, Kay Pickering, Sandra Choma, Paul Lujanac, Bill Cologie, Vera Stuchinski, Luanne Baker, Laura Whitcomb and Tom Bailey.

-----  
**PLEASE RENEW YOUR MEMBERSHIP, THEN GIVE MORE TO SUPPORT TMIA ACTIVITIES**

NAME \_\_\_\_\_ PHONE \_\_\_\_\_  
ADDRESS \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_

Intervention Fund Contribution:  \$10  \$20  \$50  \$100  \$MORE (Checks in the amount of \$50 or more can be made payable to the TMI Legal Fund for tax deduction purposes.)

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

PLEASE COMPLETE AND RETURN TO TMIA, 315 Peffer St., Hbg. PA 17102

(Editor's note: Lauren Taylor toured France for 12 days in early October at the invitation of several French groups, while Joanne Doroshow attended anti-nuclear conferences in Hiroshima and Nagasaki. Both will speak on their trips at the TMIA membership meeting November 17.)

### **Nuclear Generated Electricity - A Leading French Export**

by Lauren Taylor

A study in contrasts--travelling through France you can look to the left and see acres of vineyards growing grapes to be exported in the form of some of the world's finest wine. Look to the right and one of France's 44 "centrailes" - nuclear power plants - exporting 40 percent of the electricity produced. Tight-fisted government control, over-production, and unresolvable waste issues plague opponents of the French nuclear power system.

I met and talked with concerned citizens in about ten French towns in the region of Brittany, the proposed site of another unnecessary nuke. Although previously unperturbed by far-away stories of nuclear dangers and lulled by promises of inexpensive future power, most French people felt that Chernobyl came too close and many are reassessing their view of nuclear power. During and after the accident at Chernobyl, the French government kept everyone, including the media, totally uninformed of the situation. Sound familiar? They were later "reassured" that all radioactive materials stopped at the French-German border and there was no need for concern.

The growing lack of confidence in government and industry means and motives is unifying more French citizens in their desire to organize and work for change. The clearest point on the status of the movement in France was best put by a man who had his electric meter removed after Chernobyl and now generates what little electricity he uses with a wind mill. He said, "So often here in the 'no-nukes' movement the people are just intellectualizing about the horrific aspects of something that should now be past the intellectualizing side of things. It's a cover-up for action."

To be honest, although I agree with his view of the situation, I can't join him in his criticism. Here in central Pennsylvania, I live in the land of glass houses and can't afford to heave a single stone.

### **Japanese Consumers Union Proposes Exchange**

by Joanne Doroshow

Gensuikin is one of two major peace/anti-nuclear organizations in Japan. Each year Gensuikin holds conferences in Hiroshima and Nagasaki on the respective anniversaries of the atomic bombings of those cities. In addition, this year Gensuikin hosted the Asian-Pacific Radiation Victims Conference in Nagasaki--a precursor to the Global Radiation Victims Conference held in New York in September.

I was fortunate to have been invited to attend these conferences this year, along with many other foreign delegates representing 11 different countries. In Hiroshima, I presented a ten minute overview of the history of activity in the TMI area since the accident. In Nagasaki, I co-chaired the Radiation Victims conference and gave one speech covering the legal actions arising from the TMI accident. I was also one of two honorary foreign chairpersons for the opening and closing ceremonies, attended by several thousand people.

The Japanese people were extremely gracious, and the conference was well-organized. We were shown around each city and given some time to explore on our own, which we all did.

Later, while in Tokyo, I met with a number of consumer activists at the Consumers Union office. I have since received a proposal to establish an exchange program between the U.S. and Japan, whereby activists from one country would live one year in the other and get to know the people, the political system and activist techniques. Anyone interested in this program should let me know through the TMIA office.

**IMPORTANT MEMBERSHIP MEETING SET FOR NOVEMBER 17** - On Tuesday, November 17, TMIA will host a pot-luck supper at 6:00 p.m. followed by the monthly membership meeting at the Harrisburg Friends Meetinghouse, 6th and Herr Streets, Harrisburg.

The program includes:

- \* Frances Skolnick - TMIA and SVA intervenor in the NRC/ASLB evaporation hearings
- \* Lauren Taylor - on her 12-day trip to northern France
- \* Joanne Doroshow - on the highlights of her trip to Japan and the proposal of the Japanese Consumer Union
- \* Planning Council Elections

Joanne and Lauren will bring an international view to share with TMIA members, as well as photos and stories. Frances will provide an up-date on the water-evaporation case.

Elections for Planning Council will be held. Call the office prior to the 17th with a nomination. Volunteer to help with the business of the TMIA organization.

**SEABROOK DEFAULT MAY HURT UTILITY BOND RATINGS** - The board of directors of Public Service Co. of New Hampshire decided recently to default on a \$37 million debt payment for the troubled Seabrook nuclear power plant. This is the first default of a major private utility since the depression. Seabrook was originally scheduled to go on line in 1979 at a price of \$1 billion, and Public Service's investment is just over \$2 billion. While Public Service's announcement was not a surprise, it is likely to further erode the investment climate for utilities.

Bond ratings for utilities have steadily decreased since the Bonneville Power Administration's (BPA) economic boondoggle in the late 1970s. BPA engaged in a massive nuclear power program, known as WPPS, that envisioned the construction and licensing of five nuclear power plants in Oregon and Washington. Only one plant came on line; the others were either mothballed or cancelled.

After the accident at TMI, bond ratings for utilities continued to plummet and nuclear power plant orders came to an abrupt standstill. However, in the last few years the utilities began to rebound. Public Service's decision to default, coupled with the NRC's decision to shutdown the troubled Peach Bottom plant, has once again dampened the investment climate for utilities.

-by Eric Epstein

**CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR--CALENDAR**

**November 9** - 7:30 PM - TMIA Planning Council meets at the Harrisburg Friends Meeting House, 6th and Herr Streets.

**November 17** - 6:00 PM - Pot-luck supper followed by 7:15 PM TMIA Membership Meeting, Harrisburg Friends Meeting House.

**Mid-December** - Pre-hearing conference held by the NRC Atomic Safety and Licensing Board on the GPUN water-evaporation license amendment.

**Have a Happy Thanksgiving!**