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Three Mile Island Resources

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PANE

A citizens' public interest organization
of the Middletown area

THREE MILE ISLAND

Clean it. Close it.

FALL 1988

PANE - Well we got another newsletter together. Remember when we used to do one every month. We did that for 4 years. Then we slipped to 6 times a year and then 4 times. And now it is every once in a while. We all still care alot about what's going on but just don't seem to publish as much lately. We urge you to support TMIA and SVA in their active efforts to get Unit 2 cleaned-up properly and the water from the accident dealt with safely.

MOTHBALLING TMI 2 - GPU wants to mothball Unit 2 for 20 years leaving certain areas of the reactor highly radioactive. Radioactive materials are unevenly dispersed throughout the reactor. TMIA says GPU could complete the clean-up at a cost of \$170 - 240 million dollars in 3 to 4 years. TMIA says if the clean-up is delayed a new workforce will have to be assembled and trained and the clean-up package would be more expensive. If you wish to learn more, telephone Tom Smithgall at 717-291-1041 or write to him at 2111 Marietta Avenue, Lancaster, PA 17603. He is on the Advisory Panel for TMI 2 and very sensitive to this issue and its effect on us and the future of TMI 2. The basement of Unit 2 would remain highly radioactive if Unit 2 is mothballed. SVA reports water will continue to leak into the system and have to be disposed of in some manner. At least 5,000 gallons of this radioactive water will be generated each year. Also Unit 2 will have to be purged of built-up radioactivity occasionally. TMIA, 315 Peffer Street, Harrisburg, PA 17102.

FRANCES SKOLNICK OF SVA is lining up a variety of experts to appear at hearings on what to do with the accident generated water in Unit 2. GPU has purchased for \$800,000 a water evaporator system while the NRC has decided to hold hearings. Once again GPU displays tremendous arrogance and lack of respect for the public. SVA needs your financial assistance --- Susquehanna Valley Alliance, P.O. Box 1012, Lancaster, PA 17604.

EPA - The March 23, 1988 Middletown Press and Journal reported two former EPA employees, Bill Kirk and Tom Woolley who used to staff the TMI field station, will be operating a firm in Hershey. They will provide mail order radon measurement devices.

GPU says in its second quarter 1988 report that the cost of removing radioactive materials from Unit 1 and Oyster Creek is approximately \$200 - \$300 million.

JCP & L will install oil fired combustion turbines adjacent to Oyster Creek for \$38 million to provide 99 megawatts of power.

BERNIE SNYDER WHERE ARE YOU? We noticed on the distribution list for the Advisory Panel for the decon of Unit 2 a Dr. B.J. Snyder, EMC² and a non-business address. Doesn't Bernie Snyder work for the NRC anymore? Dr. Snyder was in charge of the TMI 2 decon work for NRC for a period of time---He made a lot of decisions that have affected our lives.

DOES NUCLEAR POWER SAVE OIL? No!!! 96% of all oil consumed in the U.S. goes to transportation, industrial and residential/commercial sectors. Only 4% goes for electrical generation. Since nuclear power provides only electricity, it cannot substantially reduce U.S. dependence on foreign oil. Another interesting fact, 40% (two-fifths) of the oil used for the above stated 4% is imported. For more information, write to SECC, 1717 Massachusetts Avenue, N.W., Suite LL215, Washington, DC 20036/telephone 202-483-8491.

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To Evaporate Or Not To Evaporate?

Atomic Licensing Board Sets Hearings On Plan To Evaporate 2 Million Gallons Of Radioactive Water At TMI

A U. S. Atomic Safety and Licensing Board (ASLB) panel is scheduled to begin hearings in late October into a plan for evaporating more than 2 million gallons of radioactive water now stored at Three Mile Island.

In disclosing that the ASLB has agreed to hold public hearings into the evaporation plan, Attorney Stephen Lewis, a

spokesman for the U. S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said the hearings were decided upon because of "the need" to explore some specific issues related to the evaporation plan.

The ASLB said the hearings will consider issues raised by Three Mile Island Alert of Harrisburg and the Susquehanna Valley Alliance (SVA), two citi-

zens' group which have opposed the evaporation plan proposed in mid-1986 by GPU Nuclear Corp., which operates the TMI generating station.

Kay Pickering of TMI Alert said on Monday she believes the first of the scheduled public hearings will be held near the end of October. She said the hearings will continue into November to

allow adequate time for opponents to air their specific objections to GPU's plans to evaporate approximately 2.1 million gallons of radioactive water. However, Pickering said TMI Alert has received no word to date as to where the first hearing will be held.

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Although GPU officials have persisted in arguing that the water that would be evaporated contains only "low levels" of radiation, the hearings will take testimony from opponents who contend that tritium which would be released during the evaporation process could seriously impact on the health of nearby residents.

Frances Skolnick, a spokesperson for SVA, said last week she feels positive the hearings will produce evidence that evaporation of the contaminated water will produce radioactive vapor that

could affect the health of Central Pennsylvania residents.

GPU officials contend that evaporation of the radioactive water, currently stored at the TMI plant in special holding tanks, will not present any risk to public health.

Most of the contaminated water came from the cooling system of TMI's Unit-II reactor, which was heavily damaged in March, 1979, during the worst nuclear power plant accident in U. S. history.

In its original proposal for evaporating

the radioactive water, GPU officials indicated that some of the water had also been used in the subsequent cleanup of the damaged reactor. They maintain the evaporation plan represented the safest method for disposing of the nearly 8,000 tons of radioactive water.

SVA and TMI Alert representatives have steadfastly opposed GPU's evaporation plan and have argued that the contaminated water should be kept in "permanent storage" at the generating station unless a safer method can be found for disposing of it.

INTERESTING - In 1987 Met-Ed served 403,398 customers with a peak load of 1745 MW and installed capacity of 1691 MW at a cost of 8 cents per kilowatt hour.

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