

917. Adelia St.
Middletown, Pa.
Sept. 4 1979

Mr. Denton & all N.R.C. Members.

I cannot believe that the N.R.C. or any Government Agency would let Mr. Ed release any more radiation. Please for God's sake think of us as your family. Our little ones cannot take any more radiation. We are put in the same category as people living 50 miles away. You know ~~we~~ we received much more than they did. Our minds have reached the breaking point. We have 2 grand children here, 2 years & 7 months. Their parents have undergone such a traumatic time & is still going thru it. These young people with children have taken all they can mentally. We don't know when we will have to evacuate. Mr. Earl Abraham has assured me that if they do release any radiation we will have time to take the children away, that is the one most important thing that we get the children away. Please hear us & don't let any thing be released. I hope that you will hear the thousands of people within a 5 mile area & not let the big business rule your mind. We must trust that you will do the decent thing for our good. No amount of money can bring back the security we had before the ~~the~~ 28 March accident. I beg each of you

to do the human thing + give us back our
security + our peace of mind although we will always
have first on our mind, did we get too much? We
all knew that no amount of radiation is good for us.
We all wonder when will cancer strike us + our
little ones. Please help us.

Mrs. George Manfred

Reed Asks Suit to Stop TMI Release of Gases & Water; Cites "Incredible" Record of Met Ed in Previous Uncontrolled Plant Releases

State Rep. Stephen R. Reed, citing just released Federal reports that show uncontrolled releases of high level radiation happened at another nuclear plant operated by Met Ed and General Public Utilities, has asked Gov. Dick Thornburgh and the State Justice Dept. to institute suit to prevent any release of radioactive gases and contaminated water from Three Mile Island.

Reed said: "On May 14, 1970, radiation so high it exceeded the maximum measuring limit of radiation detectors, occurred at the Saxton Nuclear Experimental Corp. in Bedford County, PA. The public and Civil Defense were not notified. Three additional uncontrolled radiation releases occurred. The Leukemia rate in that area is now five times the national average.

"On March 28 through 30, 1979, uncontrolled releases of radiation happened at Three Mile Island. Radiation levels exceeded the maximum measuring limit on all eight on-site radiation detectors and we have yet to learn what the off-site radiation detectors picked up those first three days of TMI. No one, in fact, knows how much radiation exposure there was or will be from TMI. To suggest the release of additional radioactive gases and contaminated water is absolutely unthinkable. It must be prevented," Reed told Thornburgh.

"I note that Met Ed and GPE operated the Saxton plant and TMI. Their record is unreal...just incredible. TMI was, in fact, not the first uncontrolled release of radiation to the

outside atmosphere for these companies.

In the 1970 and 1971 releases, no public notice was given. In 1979, public notice was delayed for hours while radiation beyond maximum measuring limits was escaping. This conduct is entirely inexcusable," Reed stated.

Reed asked Thornburgh to instruct the State Justice Dept. to file for permanent injunction or civil suit to prevent any radioactive gases or contaminated water from being released from TMI. He also urged that no radioactive wastes, including low-level wastes, be dumped in Pennsylvania, noting that the Dept. of Environmental Resources' advisory committee on nuclear wastes has agreed to this recommendation.

Reed said the post-TMI issues such as release of radiation "is a real test of government and public officials to see whether the public's interests or private, special interests will be served. The increasing evidence from all quarters showing correlation between major health risks and even low-level radiation exposure clearly makes it mandatory that government prevent any additional radiation release from TMI."

"By just as important, the arrogance and total lack of concern for the public shown by the TMI operators, who also ran the Saxton plant, gives us absolutely no confidence in their ability to protect public health, safety and other interests. Clearly we must prevent further jeopardy of the people living in the TMI area," Reed told the governor.

Evacuation

State Still Can't Handle One

THE DEEPER the state House Select Committee on Three Mile Island looks into the monumental problems and complexities associated with a mass evacuation, the greater the realization of how fortunate this area was that it never came to that during the accident last spring. The picture is one of almost total unpreparedness in retrospect and of near futility in bringing together all of the diverse components of an evacuation and attempting to anticipate the demands of a future nuclear accident.

After listening to witnesses for weeks, a member of the select committee, Rep. Ivan Itkin, D-Pittsburgh, expressed the view that the state is no more capable of putting an evacuation plan into effect now than it was on the day of the Three Mile Island accident. We suspect he is correct, because preparing for a nuclear accident is as difficult as trying to prepare for a major earthquake — no one can predict where it will occur, when it will occur or its degree of severity.

One aspect of the problem came into focus last week, when a question arose over the availability of the National Guard in the event of a nuclear accident. The Guard was not called up during the TMI accident, but a document was prepared (though not distributed) advising troops they would not be "exposed to dangerous levels of radiation or fallout." Inexplicably, Governor Thornburgh was unaware of the widely publicized National Guard notice when he appeared in Washington before the President's Commission on Three Mile Island, a few of whose members appeared to be less than pleased with the portent of the adjutant general's memo to his troops.

On the same day in Harrisburg, however, State Police

Commissioner Daniel F. Dunn was telling the House Select Committee essentially the same thing. He would not, he said, order his men into a contaminated area without appropriate protective gear. Oddly, Dunn's statement has not caused a brouhaha.

The presidential commission chairman, John G. Kemeny, was reported to have said of the Guard memo that "it did not do much for morale in Middletown," though, in fact, it is doubtful it had any effect at all. The people of Middletown are less concerned about who will be around to assist them in the next evacuation than they are in avoiding having to endure another evacuation.

Nevertheless, if nuclear plants are going to continue to operate, the prospect of future nuclear accidents and evacuations has to be faced. And no one really should expect the Guard or state police to go into an area with dangerous levels of radiation without protective gear any more than one would expect a fireman to enter a collapsing building.

IF THE GUARD and state police are expected to play a role in nuclear accidents, the real question is this: Who is going to pay for the necessary gear, equipment and training? Is it going to be the Department of Defense, the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, the state, the utility, or who?

You, that's who. The taxpayer, or the ratepayer, will bear another burden to keep nuclear power from expiring under the weight of its own fatal flaws. Yet the Guard and state police involvement in a nuclear accident represents only a very small component of a massive problem. To expect that ideas on paper can anticipate and respond to the most serious of nuclear accidents is to expect far too much.