

Washington, D.C.
January 17, 1959

Commissioner John D. Williams
Federal Regulatory Commission
Washington, D.C. 20535

Dear Commissioner Williams:

I am a writer of Central Pennsylvania upon some 16 miles
from Tiffin Hill School and a meeting in a very busy school
zone. I am presently aware of a recent newspaper article
in the Harrisburg Patriot-News that states that approximately 100
and there is many other copies of this book. I truly wish
this evidence of CP and that I'd beyond belief and joint
sincerity of having their business revealed.

I would write someone into all the reading I receive
and upon all the letters and articles I've received. However,
to put it simply, I respectfully request that you and the
other will be someone present the way of of them will
welcome them I and for I am.

Thank you for your attention to this matter.

Sincerely,
John D. Williams
(John Russell Williams)

Timetable for Unit 1

By MARY O. BRADLEY
Staff Writer

U. S. Rep. Allen E. Ertel, D-Montoursville, has chastised the owners of Three Mile Island for planning to reopen the undamaged Unit 1 reactor by late August.

And, Ertel asserted, "without substantial improvements" in the training, operation and technical capability at TMI, Metropolitan-Edison Co. "should not again operate these plants."

Ertel said he will raise the issue of revoking Met-Ed's license with the NRC.

In a letter to Herman Dieckamp, president of General Public Utilities Corp., Ertel said he was "angered and alarmed" by reports GPU has accelerated its projected reopening. A copy of his letter was released today.

GPU told the state Public Utility Commission May 31 that its replacement-power bill would be substantially reduced if Unit 1 were back in service. Earlier GPU had estimated it would take until January to meet the Nuclear Regulatory Commission requirements before starting up the reactor — a sister of the unit damaged in the March 28 accident.

Ertel said he had been "assured...most vigorously" by Dieckamp and Walter M. Creitz, Met-Ed president, that Unit 1 "would not be reopened until all of the causes of the accident at Unit 2 had been discovered, analyzed and corrections, if needed, made to Unit 1."

Noting that investigations of the TMI accident are ongoing, Ertel said "Met-Ed and GPU would be guilty of deliberate deception at worst, dishonesty at best, if Unit 1 resumes operation while completion of the work of these investigatory panels is pending."

Ertel further said, "I would also note, despite the controversy that has arisen over this issue, that the valves to the auxiliary feedwater system were closed, in direct violation of NRC regulations," Ertel said.

"These facts, together with Met-Ed's failure to demonstrate the requisite competence for handling the accident and its aftermath, suggest to me that, without substantial improvements, Met-Ed should not again operate these plants."

"It is unconscionable to me that you would consider proceeding with returning Unit 1 to operating status under the same management while such doubts about the company's competence to handle this task persist."

A copy of Ertel's letter was sent to Harold Denton, director of the NRC's Office of Reactor Safety. Ertel said he would raise the possibility of revoking Met-Ed's operating license with Denton.

Noting that residents near TMI have been through "the most harrowing, psychologically devastating experience of their lives," Ertel said it would "tax their psychological well-being" for them to see the

The Evening News

Published by The Patriot-News Co., Ninth and Market Sts., Harrisburg, Pa.

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GPU jumps gun

FROM the way the folks at General Public Utilities are so matter-of-factly going about the process of getting Reactor Unit No. 1 at Three Mile Island back in business, you would not suspect that well over a million Central Pennsylvanians were put in fear of their lives, health and safety by the breakdown of Unit 2 less than three months ago.

With an attitude of business as usual, GPU president Hermin Dieckamp announced two weeks ago the company plans to step up efforts to get the No. 1 unit back on line by late August. Never mind that neither GPU nor the corps of experts from the Nuclear Regulatory Commission had even reached first base in assessing the cause and effect of the near-disaster at Unit 1's sister reactor.

This week, Rep. Allen Ertel let Dieckamp and GPU know in no uncertain terms that he and his constituency were not about to sit still and be twice stung by the utility company's callous attitude.

In a three-page letter to the utility president, the Montoursville congressman pointed out that he had been assured on two separate occasions that Unit 1 would not be reopened before at least next January, and not until the cause of the Unit 2 breakdown had been analyzed and corrections made. On more than one occasion he had passed these assurances along in response to anxious inquiries from constituents.

If Representative Ertel feels hoodwinked, we feel he has every right to feel that

way. The utility company has had a difficult time talking straight to the public and their elected representatives since this whole thing began in late March.

Despite the utility's plea of impending fiscal disaster and the area's electric power requirements, there is no justification whatever for putting Unit 1 back in operation, even though it was not damaged or affected by the problem at Unit 2. There still are many unanswered questions about the basic design of the Babcock and Wilcox reactor units, and the NRC has imposed a moratorium of its own on further development of reactor units of this type of additional study.

BUT ASIDE from the technicalities, there is the matter of wholesale trauma suffered by the people living in the area surrounding Three Mile Island. We deserve better than such cavalier treatment by General Public Utilities, and in his strongly worded message to the GPU chief, Representative Ertel strongly emphasized this human factor.

No amount of glib assurances from GPU and Metropolitan Edison Co. can erase the fear that descended on this area last March and April. It is an experience none of us are anxious to relive. The utility can protest all it wants about the need to get nuclear-generated power back on line at TMI by August or whenever, but for most of us, it is something we would just as soon do without for a long, long time.