

Sept. 12, 1979

To Whom It May Concern:

I am a newly arrived resident of the Three Mile Island area, having accepted a teaching position at Franklin and Marshall College, in Lancaster, PA. I find the proposed cleanup plan of TMI reactor II terrifying, and the fact that it is being seriously considered by Met Ed and the NRC is a disgusting commentary on the value system of the officials in charge. The residents of this area have already suffered enough damage, both psychologically and, how much it remains to be seen, physically. Jack Herbein has admitted to inquiring nuclear physicists that there is no way to know just how much radiation leakage there was in the early stages of the accident.

The generating capacity of this plant is not crucial to our area—both TMI reactors have been off-line for some time now, and life has not been disrupted. You must be aware of the fact that attempting to clean out the damaged core could possibly precipitate a complete meltdown, a catastrophe which we were lucky enough to have been spared once. There are many people in this area, including myself, who will not drink the water here now, due to the radioactive waste already dumped into the river. And now you propose to dump more via the Epicor II system? And you will again emit radioactive gas into the air we breathe? Surely you're aware that government specified "safe" levels of radioactivity are little better than guesses - guesses which have been constantly revised downward over the years, and which probably will be lowered again after long-term study of the medical consequences of the cleanup on us TMI guinea pigs?

There are a lot of people who are very angry over this, and the number is growing as more people become aware of what really is going on here. Our health and lives are being staked against the investment of General Public Utilities Corp. Stop making us pay for their mistakes. Keep TMI shut down! At the very least, if the cleanup must proceed, do it in a way which spares our water and air - even though it's more expensive. How, in a case like this, can you measure dollars against the lives of so many people?

If you release the gas, I will not stay here during that period, and I will probably lose an academic position which I've worked eight years to attain. I will also advise my students to leave.

For once, show that the welfare of the American citizen counts for something when it comes into conflict with big money interests. If this is not shown soon, this country will not long survive in its present form.

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