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Thomas J. Fischer
P.O. Box 17
Wellsville, Pennsylvania 17365

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Chairman Ivan Smith
Atomic Safety and Licensing Board
TMI-1 (Docket 50-289)
U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission
Washington, D. C. 20555



Chairman Smith,

I understand there is to be a hearing of public opinion regarding startup of TMI-1, Thursday March 5.

Please do not allow TMI-1 to be restarted until TMI-2 has been cleansed and recertified by NRC specialists.

The "York Dispatch" today reported the finding of rodent droppings that are radioactive. The droppings were found in a building next to Unit 2. Amusing, yes, however, I think these are the wrong kind of pellets to be using for generation of electricity. Maybe you could provide some guidance when you visit Thursday.

All kidding aside, I won't go into the serious ramifications of the rodent droppings since a person of your position would be familiar with consequences should harmful radioactive particles be introduced into our environment.

In addition to my opinion about not starting TMI-1 I would also like to provide you with a few thoughts of mine and others concerning the matter at hand:

Residents of the immediate area of TMI were led to believe there wouldn't, couldn't be any sort of nuclear incident due to safety systems at the plant, hence the mistrust of local residents, fearing the startup of TMI-1 will mask the goings-on at TMI-2.

Met-Ed consumers' electricity bills are unduly increasing because Met-Ed must buy replacement power. Met-Ed/GPU are constantly petitioning the PUC for increases. It appears the corporate laws do not have the consumers welfare under consideration when Met-Ed is allowed to pass-on the cost of replacement power from GPU to consumers.

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Public Utilities are, for the most part, one of the best investments a person can put money into. In Met-Ed's situation, however, investors may have to take a loss. There are two other utility companies that serve the immediate area which provide less expensive electricity now and prior to the incident at TMI-2. Why the higher rates? Couldn't Met-Ed be absorbed by the other companies? Sure, the laws wouldn't allow that; the investors would take a beating, but isn't there some risk involved in any investment? Neighbors are referring to the situation as the GPU syndrome, acquired from big oil and auto industries; Scene: Dinner at my house-

"Please pass the bread Joe"

Joe says "OK" and hands bread to Mother who tells me "I'll pass you the bread, but you'll have to give me your hamburger if you want it."

Sounds like something for Saturday Night Live; maybe salaries and wages at Met-Ed should be scrutinized; I recently read of a Chrysler auto worker who was laid-off, was making \$18.00 per hour plus benefits, and now the Federal government is helping support him and the company; no wonder cars cost so much; try and keep us from that situation.

I also read of a meeting at Newberrytown (local vill) where those at the meeting were cautioned about laws on civil unrest. Right now we have a calm atmosphere: petitioning, picketing, bill money in escrow, trying to handle the situation in a legal and civil manner. Unwarranted fears concerning atomic power could surface thus creating an even worse situation. Please consider the fears of local residents before deciding to start TMI-1 at this time, the wound has not healed so to speak, and may not until TMI-2 has been cleaned up. Maybe if electric bills were lowered when TMI-1 starts this would ease the situation. All the public sees is Met-Ed/GPU asking the PUC for X amount of dollars, the PUC lawyers say that Met-Ed doesn't need that much, so it appears GPU is simply playing a legal price gouging game, but who suffers? Is there a management problem at Met-Ed/GPU? Perhaps that area could be investigated. How do these other two utilities provide less expensive power? Could Met-Ed be overcharging? We pay taxes on the power we use, yet Met-Ed gets tax breaks, why isn't that given back to consumers?

People still feel someone wasn't doing their job which caused the accident. Maybe a few heads should roll. If there was improper management, why should consumers have to pay for that?

I can't provide you with any answers to this complex situation since the majority of consumers are sheltered from the many aspects involved. First things first, clean up TMI-2; even if Met-Ed is dissolved, sold out or whatever; then let us consider startup of TMI-1.

Please make your decision our decision.

Thanks for reading.

Radioactive Rats

Exterminator Summoned to TMI Building

MIDDLETOWN, Pa.
(UPI) — Three Mile Island officials have hired an exterminator to eliminate rodents that have left radioactive droppings in the basement of a building adjoining the contaminated Unit 2 nuclear reactor.

"We haven't seen any rodents. We've just seen the droppings," plant spokesman Doug Bedell said.

Bedell said "we made a sweep Thursday night through the control and services building and we found more instances of the droppings. We had an exterminator in Friday who baited the whole control center and service building."

The basement of the crippled reactor remains flooded with 80,000 gallons of radioactive water that spilled during the March 1979 accident at the plant.