

# Three Mile Island Public Interest Resource Center

1037 Maclay Street

Harrisburg, Pa. 17103

717-233-4241

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Nunzio Palladino, Chairman  
and other NRC Commissioners  
Nuclear Regulatory Commission  
1717 H Street, NW  
Washington, DC

DOCKET NUMBER  
PROD. & UTIL. FAC... 50-289

Dear Chairman Palladino:

We are citizens of Central Pennsylvania who have opposed the restart of TMI Unit 1 since 1979. We would like to protest actions of the Atomic Safety and Licensing Board during its determination of whether GPU Nuclear should be granted a license to operate Unit 1 again. We have submitted similar documents to the Appeals Board earlier today.

Throughout the last three years, very solid evidence has been presented regarding management incompetence, operator cheating and failure to pass tests based on "TMI lessons learned", flaws in emergency plans, and - most importantly - major safety problems. Despite concurrence on some of these key issues by your own staff and even the ASLB, the Board has recommended for restart.

We have not been permitted to argue other important issues, such as GPU's financial qualifications to run a plant while it is in the process of cleaning up Unit 2, the lack of hydrogen control hardware, and psychological stress, which we will be arguing before the Supreme Court. As you know, we feel that these were very important issues to be considered as well.

Let us remind you that throughout the past three years, we have participated in these licensing proceedings as volunteers. We have been forced to take time away from our families, friends and businesses to become technical and legal experts so that we could argue our points in the licensing process. We have incurred thousands upon thousands of dollars of debts because we needed expert legal assistance. Who knows how these licensing proceedings would have differed had there been available to us the kind of money and full-time staff that GPU has utilized at ratepayer expense.

Our experience, simply put, has been that the entire process is weighted in favor of GPU's corporate survival rather than the safety and health of the people and businesses surrounding Three Mile Island.

We would like to draw your attention to the results of the May 18th referendum in which voters of three counties near the plant were asked their opinion about Unit 1 restart. The results were very clear: the people of Central Pennsylvania, including Metropolitan Edison ratepayers, do not want the plant to reopen. The will of the people who have to live each day with Three Mile Island should be the final decision on TMI 1 restart. The NRC should heed the will of TMI's neighbors

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and direct GPU to cease all activities to reopen Unit 1.

After three years, we believe that GPU is no more competent to operate Three Mile Island than it was in March, 1979. The plant is less safe than it was at that time. Therefore, we urge you to:

- 1) Begin making plans for a public meeting in Central Pennsylvania to meet with the people who live next to Three Mile Island.  
(See earlier PIRC letter for additional details on this invitation.)
- 2) Meet with the County Commissioners who placed the referendum on the ballot, to discuss the results.
- 3) As you review the licensing record, note the many flaws in the process as exemplified in the attached list of "concerns."
- 4) Change the licensing process to permit equal participation by intervenors with the licensees.

As you know, since May 18th, we are no longer a small group, we are part of a strong majority of people who oppose the restart at Three Mile Island. Despite our grave concerns about the licensing process, we will continue to participate to the very end. We will oppose efforts to restart TMI Unit 1 by whatever means necessary.

*Randy King*  
On Behalf of the delegation.