

U.S. nuclear restart at TMI

Unit 1 came out from the non-binding referendum...the NRC has to take that referendum into consideration."

Last May, Dauphin County citizens voted on a non-binding

exams; and a U.S. Appeals Court order, now being considered by the Supreme Court, that requires the NRC to assess psychological stress to area residents.

In addition, the group said the federal NRC staff approved the repairs without a public hearing. Earlier this year, an internal NRC memorandum said the repairs would require an amendment to the plant's license and would be subject to public hearings.

GPU officials say the technique has been used safely at other plants, namely Salem Units 1 and 2 and the Clinch River Breeder Reactor Project, but they say it has never been used on so large a scale at a plant that was in service for five years.

Doug Badell reported that, "these repairs began over 3 weeks ago and are expected to be completed by the end of January." Altogether, it may cost 25 million dollars.

The second issue that will inhibit the immediate restart of Unit 1 is cheating by TMI personnel on their licensing exams.

This issue currently stands before the Atomic Safety and Licensing Appeals Board (ASLAB), who will make an analysis and report to the NRC for final consideration.

As of now, there is no defined date, when the ASLAB will finish their analysis and it has not been determined what effect that will have on the restart of Unit 1.

The last and most complicated restart issue stands before the United States Supreme Court.

The case is entitled, The United States NRC and The United States Government vs PANE.

In deliberating the case, the Supreme Court must decide whether possible psychological harm to nearby residents must be considered before Unit 1 is allowed to restart.

In the lower court opinion, "We cannot believe that the psychological aftermath of the March 1979 accident falls out of the National Environmental Policy Act."

Reagan administration lawyers say that the lower court ruling could unduly delay the licensing of other nuclear power plants as well.

GPU's Doug Badell agreed: "If psychological stress is taken into consideration it will greatly complicate licensing techniques," he said, adding:

"If the Supreme Court upholds the lower court's decision, it will raise all sorts of problems and considerations on all sorts of federal bodies."

PANE's Treasurer, James Hurst, explained that it's a matter of defining the word "health."

"They (NRC) have always considered physical health and defined health as—if you can't kill them—we do not have to contend with the issue of psychological ill harm."

Giving some background on PANE's legal battle to fight for this issue, Hurst said, "we had no idea at the time that it would turn into a three-and-a-half year battle that would go to the Supreme Court."

Hurst estimates that the Supreme Court will make their decision by mid-83, and that it will cost PANE another \$25,000 before this thing is finished."

Taking all these factors into consideration, GPU's Doug Badell believes that Unit 1 will be capable and authorized to go into operation near that time as well—mid 83.

This week's decision, however, is the first roadblock that GPU must conquer if Unit 1 is ever to restart.

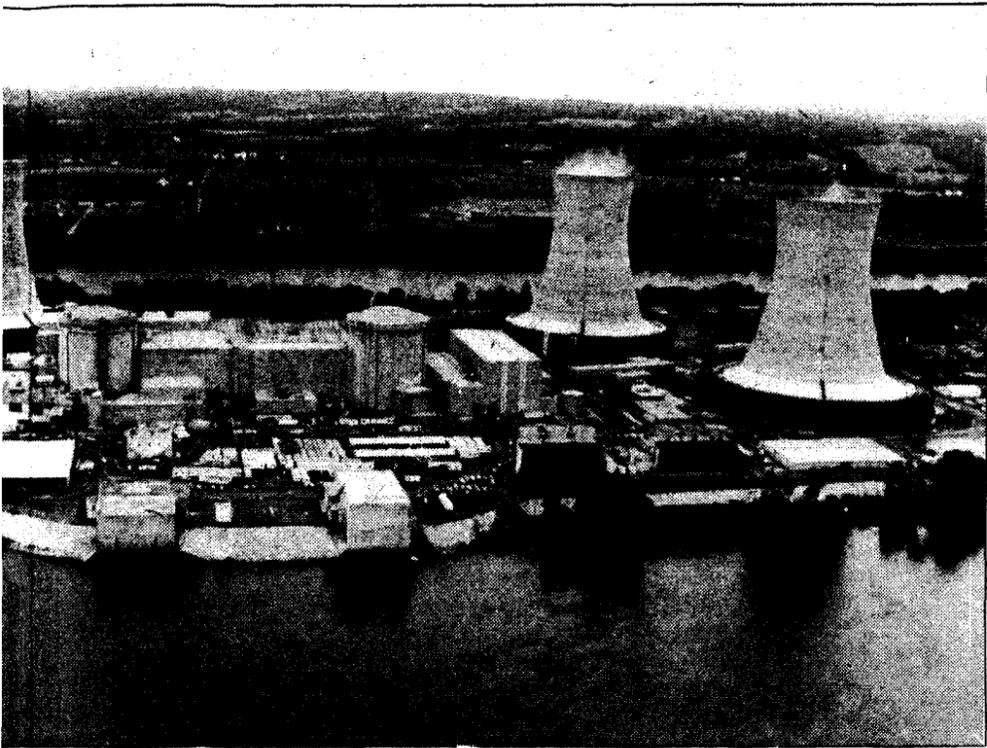


Photo courtesy Press And Journal

referendum on whether to restart Unit 1. The result was a two-to-one vote against restart.

Finally, Hurst said, "They (NRC) are going to have to put health and safety factors ahead of money to regain the people's trust. If the NRC operates their decision in concurrence with the law, their decision will be 'NO!'"

Even if the NRC lifts the 1979 shut down orders, GPU must contend with several other problems before it can be authorized to reopen Unit 1.

Among those problems are leaks in the steam generator tubes in the Unit 1 reactor; cheating on operator licensing

GPU is currently contending with repairing the first of these problems—leaks in Unit 1's two steam generators. The repair technique has also brought about controversy. The technique is known as kinetic expansion and is designed to repair the 31,000 tubes in the two steam generators of Unit 1 that were damaged when the plant was shut down.

The expansion technique uses a controlled explosive charge inside each tube.

An anti-restart organization, Three Mile Island Alert believes that the controlled explosive technique has not been proven safe or effective.

repairing at TMI

TMI tube repair to begin

NRC to Hear 'Balanced' Testimony

From 29 on Restart of TMI Unit

TMI mishap called avoidable

From 134 Applicants

The appeals court challenged by Metro

The citizens group TMI shutdown energy

By RON JURY Staff Writer

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission today will hear from 29 people and groups selected to testify on the restart of Three Mile Island Unit 1.

The selection of speakers among 134 who originally applied was necessary to insure that the NRC came here. He continued that the selections might not satisfy everyone, "but they'll have to trust my integrity." He said.

MIDDLETOWN

TMI Repair Technique Questioned

An anti-nuclear group has asked Gov. Dick Thornburgh to investigate a proposed repair process for cracked steam generating tubes at Three Mile Island Unit 1.

light data was available, lawyer...