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MONDAY, April 16, 1979

Page 16

TRAILER CITY NEWS

PLANT STATUS

The Nuclear Regulatory Commission reported over the weekend that primary coolant temperatures had stabilized at about 250 degrees Fahrenheit.

FUEL DAMAGE

NRC also reported several periods of significant core uncovering during the first 15 hours of the transient. There were time periods during which portions of the fuel elements were cooled by steam rather than pressurized water which is the normal cooling method.

"It was during these periods of deficient cooling that extensive damage to the fuel elements occurred. This damage occurred primarily by oxidation of the fuel cladding and other zirconium alloy components which were embrittled and lost structural integrity in some regions of the core", the NRC reported.

NRC's report continued, "The analyses indicated that significant cladding oxidation occurred in the upper regions of the core and most fuel rods have some damage".

Later in the NRC report, the commission noted that "previous samples of radiochemical analyses of primary coolant samples support the conclusion of little or no fuel melting".

LEVELS DETECTED

Low levels of radioactive iodine were detected during the weekend from several samples taken near the plant boundary. Although the cause of this increase in radioactivity in certain environmental samples is not known and is under investigation, it is possible that the increase is the result of the change-out of the charcoal filters, NRC said.

AN ASIDE ON NIGHTLIFE

Plagued with outages caused by squirrels, North States Paper Company has installed 30 plastic owls at four substations in hopes of warding off the squirrels. Owls are natural enemies of the rodents.

QUESTIONS ABOUT TIME SHEETS?

Non-Ed exempt employees who may have questions about their time sheets are asked to contact Joyce Peig at 944-4041, ext. 220.

141 027

REPLACEMENT COSTS (continued)

In announcing the replacement energy costs, GPU Chairman William G. Kuhns explained, "Our previous estimate of \$1.1 million per day for both units was based on replacement energy costs for a single day during which both units would be operating at full capacity. The current estimate of \$24 million per month, or \$800,000 per day, more accurately reflects normal operating levels of the two units in the longer term. The \$24 million per month figure also reflects the increased cost of oil which will be needed to replace the lost nuclear generation."

The approximate expected replacement energy costs for each of the three GPU operating companies is as follows: for Jersey Central Power & Light, the cost is \$10.0 million for each month when both TMI units are out and \$4.7 million per month once Unit 1 is returned to service; for Metropolitan Edison, these costs are \$10.0 million and \$3.9 million, respectively; and for Pennsylvania Electric, \$3.9 million and \$1.6 million, respectively. The variations in the cost of replacement energy among the three companies result from differences in the ownership of the two TMI units and differences in each Company's need to rely on oil-fired replacement energy.

"In view of the magnitude and major financial impact of this accident," Kuhns explained, "it is apparent that there will have to be a sharing of this burden among our customers, our investors and our employees. This sharing will be a prerequisite for GPU to continue providing adequate electric service to our customers in New Jersey and Pennsylvania."

Addressing the adequacy of power supply for GPU customers, Kuhns reported that there is now adequate capacity in the GPU System and in neighboring interconnected utilities to meet GPU customer requirements for the next few years.

"However," Kuhns explained, "as we get further into the 1980's, there could be electrical supply problems, unless we are able to resume our construction program. Major construction activity has recently been suspended to conserve cash resources. We are currently assessing our long-term power supply needs and alternatives."

"We plan to continue to keep our customers and regulatory bodies fully informed on these and related matters as the information becomes available," Kuhns concluded.

TRAILER CITY NEWS

If you have any items for publication, please drop them off in Trailer #1, or call Ext. 113, 114.

SIT-IN

If you're affected by a shortage of tables and chairs, take comfort in knowing that more are on the way.

PHOTOGRAPHS

We've had many requests from personnel working at Trailer City for photographs. We're of course not geared up to provide pictures but we do plan sometime in the future to put together a special report which will recap all the activities here. We expect that it'll be loaded with pictures.

SECURITY LADGES

These lades everyone receives when checking into Trailer City are part of an official record being compiled by the security staff. All personnel leaving to return home or to off-site work locations are urged to return the lades to security.

HARRISBURG ARPA WEATHER

Precipitation probability Monday is 30 percent, but it will be mostly cloudy and warm with a high of around 60 degrees. Part of that 30 percent was falling this morning. Monday night and Tuesday will be fair with lows in the upper 30s to low 40s and again a high in the mid 60s Tuesday. But keep your ponchos, rain pants and rubbers handy.

PUC SESSION

Oral arguments will be held tomorrow (Tuesday) in Harrisburg concerning Public Utility Commission consideration of Met-Ed rate matters. Further news is expected later this week.

TRAINING REQUIRED

Anyone requiring access to the Island is required to complete NRP training and secure a TLD badge. Further details on procedures are being compiled. For access to controlled areas of the plant, NRP training is required.

REPLACEMENT COSTS

General Public Utilities (GPI) Sunday announced its estimate that the cost of replacement energy for the two Three Mile Island units will average \$24 million per month, or about \$800,000 per day, for as long as both units are out of service. When TMI Unit No 1, which was not involved in the accident, is returned to service, the replacement energy cost will be reduced by about \$14 million monthly, to \$10 million per month for TMI-2 alone. It is not now possible to determine how long either of the two TMI units will continue to be out of service.

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141 029

ZOLLNER CAPTURES MASTERS PLAYOFF

Fuzzy Zoeller subdued Tom Watson and Ed Sneed with a birdie on the second extra hole to win a three-way sudden death playoff for the 43rd Masters title and it's \$50,000 prize. Finals scores follow:

Fuzzy Zoeller	70	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120
Tom Watson	71	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120	
Ed Sneed	72	73	74	75	76	77	78	79	80	81	82	83	84	85	86	87	88	89	90	91	92	93	94	95	96	97	98	99	100	101	102	103	104	105	106	107	108	109	110	111	112	113	114	115	116	117	118	119	120		