

WEDNESDAY, April 18, 1979

Issue #13

TRAILER CITY NEWS

FPC ORAL ARGUMENT ON RATE INCREASE

The severe financial strain on the Company as the result of the March 28, Three Mile Island nuclear accident was clearly explained yesterday before the Pennsylvania Public Utility Commission (PUC).

The Commission conducted oral arguments and is expected to reach a decision on Thursday on whether there will be a re-hearing on the \$49 million suspended rate increase that was to reflect Unit 2 investment in the Met-Ed rate base.

Met-Ed told the Commission that the many banks with which the Company deals have agreed to increase air lines of credit for short-term borrowing to help meet the situation. However, James B. Liberman, GPU's general counsel, said that unless there is assurance of new revenue, the Company could face bankruptcy.

GPU Chairman William G. Kuhns proposed to the Commission a \$16 million reduction of the \$49 million increase by reducing Met-Ed's return on equity. He said that this reduction to \$33 million annually, along with internal cost reduction measures, would reflect a sharing of the burden of the accident among investors, employees and the customers.

The Commission allowed the Company a \$49 million increase March 22, but, since the March 28 accident, has withheld implementation of the tariff pending further investigation.

The plan presented to the Commission stated that the Company would immediately implement rates reflected by the recent order, subject to refund, so that further lag in revenue flow could be avoided. The Company could then immediately file to reduce the rates by \$16 million in a separate rate action.

PLANT STATUS

Concentrations of radioactive iodine gas in some air samples downwind from Three Mile Island exceeded federal standards, the NRC reported, Tuesday. In three of five samples taken during a 24-hour period Monday at midnight, the iodine 131 registered 110 to 120 picocuries per cubic meter, exceeding the NRC's maximum permissible concentration of 100 picocuries per cubic meter in "unrestricted areas." NRC senior radiation biologist, Dr. Reginald Cotchy, said he "doesn't anticipate" any health effects from the iodine 131 emissions. "The probability of any measurable effect occurring is infinitely small," he said. Mild samples taken Tuesday at farms nearby Three Mile Island reveal a number less than 10-12 picocuries per liter of iodine 131, the minimum detectable level of the isotope.

141 031

GPU'S STOCK VOLUME STILL NEAR TOP

GPU's common stock volume during last week reached about 2.4 million shares, the second highest issue traded among the 2,123 on the New York Stock Exchange. GPU's volume the week before had been 3.5 million.

Yesterday, GPU's stock price closed at 13-5/8, the high for the day, on a volume of 329,400 shares. The stock opened at 13-1/2 and its low was 13-1/8.

CONVENTIONS PINCHING MOTEL SPACE

The motel room situation is approaching crisis proportions as a number of major, permanently-booked conventions head into this area. As mentioned yesterday, if you alone are occupying a two-bedded room, please plan to double up. Contact Communications at ext. 110 or call 944-6855.

BACK INTO THE POOL

Transportation is becoming short, too. If you have a company car that is not being fully used - perhaps for only one or two hours a day - please turn it into the motor pool. Your transportation will be arranged as needed. Honest.

TRAILER CITY ON THE MOVE

Plans are underway for the eventual transfer of Trailer City to Three Mile Island. Some moving already is completed, and the remainder will take some time while sequences are worked out that will minimize work disruptions. Those employees who have not gone through the Health Physics procedure will be requested to do so before the move. The procedure takes about two hours.

HARRISBURG AREA WEATHER

Wednesday will be partly sunny with highs in the mid-50s to near 60. Fair and chilly this evening with temperatures from 35 - 40 degrees. Thursday will be sunny and pleasant with highs near 70 degrees. Chances of rain are near zero through Wednesday evening.

LOST SUNGLASSES

A pair of sunglasses in a brown leather case was left in a shuttle van at about midnight Saturday (April 14). If found, please return to Peg Smith in trailer #16.

141 032

WE'RE APPRECIATED

The GPU Service Corporation's Communications Division in Parsippany received the following letter on April 17: the letter came from Mary S. James and "all TMI Families."

"To all Metropolitan Edison Company and GPU employees working on TMI Units 1 and 2:

"Our sincerest thanks to each and every one of you for the magnificent job you have done and for being there when the people of Pennsylvania needed you."

"We really care."

Signed,

Your Families

WORDS OF ENCOURAGEMENT

In response to an anti-nuclear letter in the Reading Times, a Reading resident stated, "Yes, nuclear power has lived up to its safety standards even in the wake of its worst accident in history."

"Let's all learn about nuclear power instead of blatantly attacking a form of energy with which most people evidently are not familiar. It seems the ones crying the loudest now will also be the ones crying the loudest when the electric bills rise if nuclear power were abandoned."

Another Reading area resident, writing in the same edition, stated, "...Right or wrong, Metropolitan Edison Co. has been very seriously hurt by this incident; of that there can be no question. There also can be no question that Metropolitan Edison Co. is an important element in our community, and anything that hurts such a part of this community hurts the whole community."

"It is 'we,' the community, who have suffered a great loss - in one form or another 'we' are the ones who will suffer with the company."

"...Isn't it about time that we forget the 'smart' attitude and attempt to find a constructive reaction to a serious affair for all of us?"

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