

Trailer City NEWS

SENATE HEARINGS TESTIMONY

WASHINGTON, D.C. - The accident to TMI's Unit No. 2 today was termed "a result of a complex combination of equipment malfunctions and human factors" according to Thomas Dieckamp, TMI President.

Dieckamp's testimony appeared in Washington before the Subcommittees on Nuclear Regulation of the Senate Environment and Public Works Committee.

At the same hearing, CPN Chairman William G. Kohns estimated that the uninsured current monthly costs of the accident were about \$12 million, \$24 million for replacement energy and \$8 million related fixed charges, apart from associated tax costs. He noted that the replacement energy costs would drop by about \$14 million when Three Mile Island Unit No. 1 is restored to service and that strenuous efforts were being made to reduce further the replacement energy costs.

Kohns referred to a National Economic Research Associates economic study whose preliminary results suggest a nationwide \$2 billion annual increase in capital financing costs for nuclear utilities if the costs of the accident were not shared.

Reviewing the accident, Dieckamp stated, "At the outset we would like to emphasize that we do not in any way wish to minimize the significance of this accident and we seek no excuse from our responsibilities as plant owners and operators. We strongly believe that it is important to understand the factors which contributed to this accident and to the ability of our company, government agencies and the population to cope with it."

He said the company was "in general agreement with the Nuclear Regulatory Commission testimony" on the sequence of events of the accident.

Referring to the accident as described as a "first of a kind" accident at a commercial nuclear reactor, Dieckamp said that as a result of the accident "all parties should be more aware of the dangers of this kind of situation and better prepared to cope in terms of leadership, manpower and material resources."

In his prepared testimony Dieckamp also made these points: "Control room operators were a qualified and competent group who 'performed their functions professionally in a period of extreme stress.'"

- Unit No. 2 will be brought to cold shut-down stage in two to three weeks.
- the relationship between the company and Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) personnel "is one of mutual respect and cooperation."
- Release of radiation as a result of the accident did not constitute a significant health hazard.
- The approved emergency plan "was effectively implemented."

ing the long term outlook for the damaged unit, Dieckamp said that it was too early to provide even a rough schedule or cost estimate for the repair and return to of IMI-2. "However, he added, "Experience with the clean up and recovery of other accidents suggests that the problem is technically manageable."

identified two major groups of uninsured costs, namely, (1) replacement power costs \$10 million for each month both IMI units are out of service and \$10 million per month IMI-1, which was not involved in the accident, is returned to service; and (2) fixed charges for IMI-2 (part from associated tax costs) of about \$3 million per month which includes interest on bonds, preferred stock dividends, depreciation and pension stock earnings requirements.

stated that if these costs were not shared by customers as well as investors and that consumers locally and throughout the nation would suffer, stating that at lenders, commercial banks and consumer advocates have recognized that capital outlays throughout the nation would be affected.

his testimony, Kuhns said, "All the economies achieved from application of new ideas, improved productivity and the like have been passed along to customers, as it should be." As examples, Kuhns specifically cited savings from GPU's two nuclear power plants, Oyster Creek and Three Mile Island. Because of the two, Kuhns explained, GPU's customers could realize savings of about \$150 million annually.

customers have received no part of these savings that Oyster Creek and Three Mile Island have produced. All of the benefits have gone to our customers."

of testimony by Mr. Dieckamp and Mr. Kuhns before the Senate subcommittee are set for review in Trailer #1.)

RUMORS --- SPEAK FROM FACTS

busy, difficult times, rumors about massive layoffs and speculation about layoffs are making matters worse. It is important that employees--particularly hourly employees--speak with facts. Spreading rumors is a disservice to everyone.

There have been many decisions made thus far--but none as to the level of reductions or the work force.

Some of the things that have been done:

Construction projects have been halted

Attendance and other TID outside contractor projects have been virtually halted except for a few necessary areas

Employee contributions have been frozen

Hiring has ceased and no filling of job vacancies

Some educational assistance grants have been suspended except for outstanding grants

Some contributions to 401(k) plans and to FICA's have been suspended as well as some other benefits except those required by regulation and travel and attendance at meetings has been suspended.

The Company and Spitzer Council have also discussed several things to stabilize the impact of budget reductions on the work force--postponement of the May 1 wage increase, shorter work week, and mandatory roster reporting. No decisions have been made on these discussions to date.

As we have stated and the multitude of different variables became clearer, more decisions will be forthcoming.

Unemployment, in the remote possibility it would occur, would appear at this time to have minimal impact upon the previous food.

As more information is available, we'll pass it along. But, until then, help stop the rumors by not speaking without first seeing the facts in writing.

FARE NO CAUSE FOR ALARM

There may be loud noises similar to that of a jet aircraft originating at TMI beginning April 24 and residents are being cautioned that the noises are only the result of the installation of new testing equipment.

Large fans have been recently installed as part of a new system to provide further assurance that air from the plant's ventilation system has been thoroughly filtered. When these fans are operated they are quite loud.

Met-Ed personnel on Monday hand-delivered notices to station area residents and notified state and local officials informing them of the possible noise disturbance and the cause.

ACTION DEFENDED

Met-Ed President Walter Greitz defended the Company's handling of the TMI accident and denied that Company spokesmen misled the public. "We tried at all times to tell the public as we saw it. The unfortunate thing is, we didn't know the total extent of the accident until several days later," he said. Greitz remarks were published in Sunday's Reading Eagle, and carried in wire stories around the country in today's papers.

WINDSWEPT AREA WEATHER

The morning haze you may have noticed on your way to the Island or Traller City should give way to a sunny afternoon. High temperatures Monday and Tuesday should be in the upper 60s or low 70s. Better bring some rain gear with you Tuesday. It'll be cloudy with a chance of showers.

RUNNING RECORDS

Company vehicle running records should still be reported, regardless of where the vehicle is based. Mileage figures should be filed with the garage where the vehicle is based, if the vehicle is returned to that location at the end of the day. If the vehicle is not returned to its base location, running records should be turned in to Paul Henry in the transportation section of Traller 31. Running records of all company vehicles in use should be submitted to Paul, extension 177, immediately. Let's give a little help!!

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IN WASHINGTON

Soviet Union's top power minister has admitted that several explosions involving a
blast and radiation leaks, have occurred at Soviet nuclear stations. But he stressed
the Soviets have no plans to curtail nuclear development.

REUTERS: TELETYPE TO THE SHIPS

to setup business briefly Sunday near FBI and Trailer City to lure tourists to
the "ground radiation" from a roadside stand. "Price: \$2. Get 'em while they're

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