

# **Audit of Three Mile Island's Cleanup Funds Filed**

## ***Cleanup Costs Increase from \$116.5 million \$831.5 million***

Contact: Eric Epstein

lechambon@comcast.net

(717)-541-1101

(Harrisburg, PA; October 1, 2010) - Eric Epstein, Chairman of TMI-Alert, Inc. filed a petition at the Nuclear Regulatory Commission seeking enforcement action in the form of a Demand for Information requiring FirstEnergy to provide the NRC with site-specific information and financial guarantees that demonstrate and verify the licensee has adequate funding in place to decommission and decontaminate Three Mile Island Unit-2, and that the proposed merger between FirstEnergy and Allegheny Power will not place additional financial pressures on FirstEnergy's ability to satisfy its decommissioning obligations in 2036.

Mr. Epstein said, "After 31 years of broken promises, faulty assumptions, and inaccurate projections, the NRC should hold FirstEnergy accountable and demand a site-specific funding plan at the nation's worst commercial nuclear accident."

According to the NRC, (1) FirstEnergy's Decommissioning Trust Fund for TMI-2 is grossly underfunded: "The current radiological decommissioning cost estimate is \$831.5 million. The current amount in the decommissioning trust fund is \$484.5 million, as of December 31, 2008." (2)

The initial estimate to decommission Three Miles Island was \$104.7 million. (3)

Mr. Epstein argued that the proposed merger with Allegheny Energy could endanger an already fragile funding protocol. Epstein added, "At a minimum, the proposed merger must be held in abeyance until FirstEnergy can demonstrate that is has adequate funding in place to decommission Three Mile Island Unit-2 in 2036 - 57 years after the Accident."

Epstein noted that the NRC reported the cost to decommission TMI-2 has increased by \$26.5 million in less than three years while the Decommissioning Trust Fund's assets have decreased by \$116.5 million during the same period.

Three Mile Island Unit-2 has been defueled, but the plant has not been decontaminated or decommissioned. At the time of the core-melt accident in March, 1979, there was no money set aside for decommissioning.

*Mr. Epstein chairman of Three Mile Island Alert , Inc. TMIA a safe-energy organization based in Harrisburg, Pennsylvania and founded in 1977. TMIA monitors Peach Bottom Susquehanna, and Three Mile Island nuclear generating stations.*

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1 Per 10 CFR 50.75(f)(1), licensees for shutdown reactors are required to report annually on the status of decommissioning funding by March 31 (in the following year).

2 NRC website: <http://www.nrc.gov/info-finder/decommissioning/power-reactor/three-mile-island-unit-2.html>.

3 On January 18, 1994, at the NRC's Advisory Panel meeting, GPU's President Robert E. Long stated that the Company had \$104.7 million on hand to decommission TMI-2. GPU's spokesperson, Mary Wells said, "We have a detailed plan in place to make sure that the money is going to be there."