

Mr. Gotchy,

This article was written for people like you/

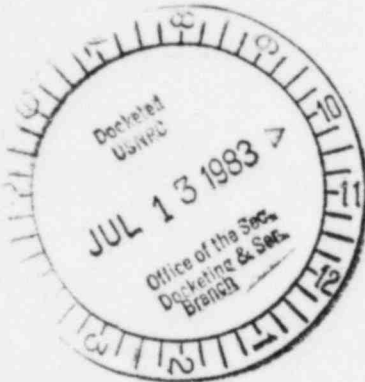
I am enclosing a brochure on Dr. Gofman's book, Radiation & Human Health.

Thus far nothing else seems to reach you.

It's a pity that you are so unaware of what many of us have discovered about Met Ed's operation including the many releases.

If one is going to sell one's soul, it's a pity that you can't make it worthwhile. NRC Staff sells so cheaply.

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## When scientists testify for hire

Of all the values that pervade science, one of the highest is objectivity, which I take to mean judgment uncompromised. This value leads the public to place greater trust in the pronouncements of scientists than of, say, lawyers or used car dealers.

But scientific objectivity is sometimes invoked more for appearance than for substance. Whenever science moves into the commercial world, scientists come face to face with Mammon and manufacturers. When profits are threatened by legislation, lawsuits, or bad publicity, many companies like to have their positions bolstered by academic scientists. A professor's utterances are far more persuasive than those of the corporate chemist who developed the suspect 2,4,6-super-oxo-kleptane, or whatever.

Many companies will recruit academic scientists whose opinions they like. They may hire them as consultants or sponsor their research. When there's a debate, the companies will make sure their favored scientists are heard. Often the financial tie remains undisclosed. Scientists whose positions oppose the company's may never be heard. I have followed nutrition and food additive debates for more than a decade and witnessed numerous instances in which a professor espoused one point of view on behalf of a corporate sponsor while ignoring or denying scientific opinions on the other side.

There is one academic, for example, who has long been a consultant to the sugar, breakfast cereal, and other food industries. Despite national epidemics of tooth decay and obesity, this professor has defended a doubling of our sugar intake. Another is popular with chemical companies because of how he interprets studies of animals exposed to chemicals. When some of the animals get cancer, he invokes statistical quibbles to suggest that the tumors really don't mean anything. Just recently, professors from three major institutions spoke at a press conference on caffeine, saying there was no conclusive evidence the chemical harmed humans. The affair was sponsored by the International Life Sciences Institute, a creature of the food and drug industries, including makers of coffees and soda pops. There is evidence linking caffeine to fibrocystic breast disease, birth defects in animals, and sleep and behavioral disorders in humans. The professors ignored these studies.

The food area is not unique. Nuclear power, air pollution, and other realms where public safety and industry profits collide are much the same. Whether academic scientists who speak on behalf of a corporation's goals deliberately slant their remarks is hard to say. But financial links to an industry generally go hand in hand with endorsements of the industry's products and practices.

The public is cheated by being given the appearance but not the substance of objective scientific analysis. Individuals and governments may make poor decisions based on one-sided information. The biggest loser in the long run, though, could be the scientific community itself, including the vast majority of scientists who do not testify for hire. The public supports research in the belief that scientists seek the truth, uncompromised by conflicts of interest. Disenchanted taxpayers might wish to retaliate.

Academics need not stop consulting for industry, and industry does deserve their advice. But the public can demand full disclosure: When scientists speak out on public issues, they should say explicitly whether they have links to affected companies. Such forthrightness would help maintain the integrity that is essential if science is to deserve its public trust.

—Michael F. Jacobson, executive director, Center for Science in the Public Interest, a Washington-based consumer advocacy group

**Blamed on Fallout**

HARRISBURG, PA., DECEMBER 26, 1976

## Isotopes Found In Area Again

BY JOHN M. BAER  
Staff Writer

Concentrations of radioactive isotopes well above normal background levels have been detected in the Susquehanna River near the Three Mile Island Nuclear Power Plant south of Harrisburg.

State and federal officials said the levels pose no threat to public safety.

The Metropolitan Edison Co. (Met Ed) of Reading, operators of the plant, reported the findings to the U.S. Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC) last week, and attributed the abnormal readings to fallout from two Chinese atomic bomb tests in September and November.

The levels were found in sediment from the riverbed at a site 1 1/2 miles south of the plant, according to a company spokesman.

State officials were not notified about the findings.

Although a press release from the company said levels detected are 10 times above background levels, two of the nine isotopes found were 30 to 34 times normal readings.

Robert C. Arnold, Met Ed's vice president for generation, told The Patriot that the press release, which was dated Dec. 23, contained "a poor choice of words," and said levels of cerium 141 were recorded at 34 times normal levels and lanthanum was found to be "about 30

times" higher than background readings.

Arnold said nine separate radioactive isotopes were detected, including iodine 131 and cobalt 58. He said the elements found provide no indication that they came from the power plant, adding that while the plant produces most of the isotopes detected, there would have been greater quantities of cobalt if there

## Active Isotopes Discovered

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had been a fuel leak at the site. NRC officials said the company is required to report any readings in sediment which exceed 10 times normal levels. While the company is not required to notify state officials of such findings, Arnold said Met Ed generally does so as a courtesy and added that the state was not told this time because of "an oversight."

An NRC spokesman said the company findings will be analyzed by the agency. He added he believes the sediment report is the first such report from a nuclear plant filed since the fallout incidents.

Margaret A. Reilly, the state's chief of environmental surveillance,

said state officials have not conducted any sediment tests since the fallout incidents.

Met Ed and the NRC indicated that high levels of radioactive isotopes can be expected for some time in areas of waterways where flow is less than rapid. The sediment in such areas, they said, collects materials which are washed downstream.

Reilly said it is unlikely that any aquatic life affected by the isotopes would pose a health threat if eaten.

Karl Abraham, an NRC spokesman, said the findings simply confirm the fact that radioactivity from the recent fallouts "is still with us, will be with us for a long time and there is nothing we can do about it."



*If they were releasing  
into the river, you can  
be sure there were atmospheric  
leaks as well.*